

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Development Management Monthly Statistical Report.</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Planning Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>26 August 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Information</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets
Outcome	Pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Planning

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The “Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee’ sets out the requirement to provide monthly updates on the number of planning applications received and decided
- 1.2 The Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework sets out the new reporting arrangements to the Department of Infrastructure. DfI’s Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) publishes the official statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. The Framework includes the three statutory planning indicators in addition to new non-statutory indicators.
- 1.3 This Monthly Statistical Report provides Members with unvalidated statistics in relation to how Council’s Planning Department and Committee are performing against the Framework indicators.

## 2.0 Details

2.1 [Website link 1](#) and [Website Link 2](#) provide a list of planning applications received and decided respectively by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for Q1 of 2020/21. Please note that Pre-Application Discussions; Certificates of Lawful Development – Proposed or Existing; Discharge of Conditions and Non-Material Changes, have been excluded from the reports to correspond with official validated statistics published by DFI.

2.2 *Indicator 1: average processing time taken to determine major applications*  
*Statutory Target – major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 30 weeks*

Table 1 below details the number of Major planning applications received and decided, as well as the average processing times. Please note that these figures are unvalidated statistics. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of major applications received was the same, however, the number of major applications decided has decreased by 7. This is due to the restriction in place due to Covid-19 when no Planning Committee meeting took place in the months of April and May. With Planning Committee meeting recommenced on 24 June 2020, one major decision issued in the month of June. This application was for amended access to Rigg Hill Wind Farm and required the submission of an Environmental Statement and amendments to access junction in order to make the proposed development acceptable.

**Table 1 Indicator 1: Processing Major applications**

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)				
2020/21	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 30 weeks
April	0	0	-	-
May	1	0	-	-
June	1	1	70.8	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70.8 weeks</b>	<b>0%</b>

Source: Unvalidated Statistics.

**2.3** *Indicator 2: average processing time taken to determine local applications*  
Statutory Target – local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 15 weeks

Table 2 below details the number of Local planning applications received and decided as well as the average processing times. Please note these figures are unvalidated statistics. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of applications received has decreased by 107 applications and the number of decisions issued/withdrawn has decreased by 151 applications. This is largely due to the restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19 with staff working from home with limited remote access and agents submitting application also unable to access their offices.

**Table 2 Indicator 2: Processing Local applications**

Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				
2020/21	Number received	Number decided/withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 15 weeks
April	58	37	21.6	32.4%
May	69	53	14.8	52.8%
June	70	62	18.6	37.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>18.8 Weeks</b>	<b>41.4%</b>

Source: Unvalidated Statistics; Excludes: Pre-Application Discussions; Proposal of Application Notices; Certificate of Lawful Development Proposed or Existing; Discharge of Conditions; Non-Material Change.

Although we did not meet the statutory target of 15 weeks for processing local applications, processing times has improved by 1.4 weeks when compared to the same period last year and with 3.4% more local applications being processed within the statutory target when compared to same period last year.

**2.4** *Indicator 3: proportion of enforcement cases progressed to the target conclusion within 39 weeks*  
Standard – 70% of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint

Table 3 below details the number of Enforcement cases opened and concluded as well as the percentage of cases concluded within the statutory target of 39 weeks. Please note these figures are unvalidated statistics. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of cases opened has decreased by 42 and the number of cases brought to conclusion has decreased by 60. Again this is largely as a result of the restrictions imposed due to Covid-19.

**Table 3 Indicator 3: Processing Enforcement Cases**

<b>Enforcement Cases Concluded (target of 39 weeks)</b>				
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Number opened</b>	<b>Number brought to conclusion</b>	<b>70% conclusion time (weeks)</b>	<b>% of cases concluded within 39 weeks</b>
April	13	10	38.4	70%
May	20	22	39	72.7%
June	29	8	40.5	62.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39.1 weeks</b>	<b>70%</b>

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

The statutory target for concluding 70% of enforcement cases within 39 weeks continues to be met by our Enforcement team with 70% of cases YTD concluded within the statutory target. However, of note is that the number of cases concluded within 39 weeks has decreased by 22% when compared to the same period last year. This is largely due to the restrictions on staff inspecting sites due to restrictions on travel at that time.

**2.5** *Indicator 4: percentage of applications determined under delegated powers*

Table 4 below details the total number of Local applications determined under delegated powers. Determined is taken as the date the decision issued and excludes withdrawn applications. DfI Development Management Practice Note 15 Councils Schemes of Delegation recommends that councils should aim to have 90-95% of applications dealt with under the scheme of delegation. To date 96.6% of applications determined were delegated under the scheme of delegation. The increase in the number of applications determined under delegated authority is due to no Planning Committee meeting taking place in the months of April and May due to restrictions imposed due to Covid-19.

**Table 4 Percentage of Local applications determined under delegated powers**

<b>Applications Determined</b>				
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Total Determined</b>	<b>Delegated Determined</b>	<b>Planning Committee Determined</b>	<b>% Delegated Determined</b>
April	36	36	0	100%
May	52	52	0	100%
June	59	54	5	91.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>96.6%</b>

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

**2.6** *Indicator 5: number of applications taken to Planning Committee and percentage of Committee decisions made against officer recommendation*

Table 5 provides details on the number of decisions that were determined by the Planning Committee at each monthly meeting and the percentage of decisions made against officer recommendation, including Major, Council and Local applications. This is taken from the date of the Planning Committee meeting. To note is that no

contentious delegated application reports were issued to members during this period, which therefore resulted in no referral requests. Also no previous referral request applications were taken to committee during this period. This was because June Planning Committee meeting was the undertaken as a 'virtual' meeting and applications where members of the public including agents requested to speak at the meeting were limited to ensure satisfactory operation of the IT system.

**Table 5 Percentage of decisions at Planning Committee against Officer Recommendation**

	Total Planning Committee Determined	Officer Recommendation Overturned	Requested Referred to PC Determined	Total no of Referrals overturned by PC
June	5	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

**2.7** *Indicator 6: percentage of appeals against refusals of planning permission that are dismissed*

Table 6 below details the number of appeal decisions issued since in Q1 of 2020/21 business year. Please note that these figures relating to planning application decisions only are unvalidated statistics extracted from internal management reports.

**Table 6 Appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC)**

Appeal Decisions	Q1 20/21	Total To Date
Upheld	1	1
Dismissed	2	2
Cumulative Total Appeal Decisions	3	3

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

The appeal upheld was the application for 10 semi-detached houses and 11 apartments on land at the former Castle Erin Hotel and Conference Centre, Castle Erin Road, Portrush. This was a non-determination hearing and the concerns related to noise concerns from the adjacent Barry's Amusements. However, the PAC upheld the appeal and granted planning permission of the proposed development.

**2.8** *Indicator 7: Number of claims for costs received by the PAC and number of claims awarded*

Table 7 provides the details of the number of application for claims for costs made by either third parties or Council to the PAC and the number of claims where the PAC have awarded costs. The award of costs claim by Council in January relates to an enforcement case.

**Table 7 Total number of costs received**

<b>2020/21</b>	<b>Claims for Costs by third parties</b>	<b>Cost awarded against Council</b>	<b>Claim for Costs by Council</b>	<b>Costs awarded to the Council</b>
April	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

- 2.9** Table 8 details the number of contentious applications which have been circulated to all Members. No contentious applications were circulated during this period.

**Table 8 Total number of referrals requested**

<b>2020/21</b>	<b>No of contentious applications</b>	<b>No of contentious applications referred</b>	<b>% Referred</b>
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>%</b>

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

### **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the update on the development management statistics.