

Publication of Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2016/17 Statistical Bulletin	25th January 2017
Planning Committee	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
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
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

1.0 Background

The Northern Ireland Planning Statistics is an official statistics publication issued by Analysis, Statistics & Research Team within Department for Infrastructure. The Second Quarter 2016/17 Statistical Bulletin was published on 15 December 2016 providing provisional planning statistics for this period. It also provides a summary of Council progress across the three statutory targets for major development applications, local development applications and enforcement cases as laid out in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

2.0 Details

2.1 [Website link 1](#) provides the link to the published bulletin.

Development Management Planning Applications

2.2 Table 1 below provides a summary of performance in relation to the statutory target for major development applications and local development applications for Q2 and provides a comparison of performance against all 11 Councils.

Table 1: Planning Applications - Q2 of 2016/17

2016/17	Major		Local		Total		Live	
Q2	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	1	2	329	339	330	341	628	86
Rank	9th	9th	2nd	4th	2nd	4th	5th	4th
Average Processing Times	114.4wks (target 30wks)		19.4wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	9th		8th					
Approval Rate	100%		90%		90%			

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Second Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

- 2.3 As is clear from Table 1 above, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council received the second highest number of local development applications out of the 11 Councils during Quarter 2, but received only 1 major application, compared to 3 applications in Q1. Besides validating these applications, staff were extremely busy during this period issuing decisions, issuing the fourth highest number of applications out of the 11 Councils.
- 2.4 However, performance against statutory targets remains an area for improvement and Members will recall that this has been taken into account in the recent review of the Scheme of Delegation which was implemented on 7th November 2016 and the agreement to recruit additional staff. It is anticipated that this should show improvements in performance against statutory targets in Q3 and Q4.
- 2.5 Table 2 below shows the year to date position at the end of Quarter 2 of 2016/17.

Table 2: Planning Applications - Year to Date End of Q2 2016/17

2016/17	Major		Local		Total		Live	
YtD	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	4	5	626	707	630	712	628	86
Rank	8th	8th	5th	4th	5th	4th	5th	4th
Average Processing Times	77.2wks (target 30wks)		19.6wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	8th		9th					
Approval Rate	100%		92.2%		92.3%			

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Second Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

- 2.6 The Planning Department continues to maintain its position in the top half of the performance table in terms of applications received and decided and live applications. Progress is also being made in relation to meeting the statutory performance target but as stated above, it will be Q3 and Q4 before the recent changes to the Scheme of Delegation and increased staff reap reward. However, as we work to reduce the number of applications in the system over 12months, this will inevitably have an impact on performance against targets especially in the major category where there are such small numbers of applications. Of note however, is of the 5 major application decided, all were approved.

Enforcement

- 2.7 Table 3 below shows statistics in relation to enforcement in Q2. As is evident, Q2 showed a significant increase in the number of enforcement cases opened and concluded when compared to Q1, 70% increase and 57% increase respectively. This was the highest number of cases opened and closed out of all 11 Councils over this period.

Table 3 Enforcement - Q2

2016/17	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
Q2			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	156	94	87.2%	341	1	0
1st	1st	1st	4th	3rd	3rd	5th

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Second Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

- 2.8 Finally Table 4 shows the enforcement statistics year to date to end of Q2, with Causeway Coast and Glens maintaining the highest number of cases opened out of all 11 Councils and 2 and highest number of prosecutions.

Table 6: Enforcement - Year to Date

2016/17	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
YtD			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	248	154	87%	341	5	1
Rank	1st	4th	4th	3rd	2nd	6th

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Second Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

Conclusion

- 2.9 In conclusion, performance within the Planning Department is steadily improving against statutory performance targets. However, of note is the increase in both the number of planning applications received and enforcement cases opened during Q2.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the update on the Northern Ireland Planning Statistics 2016/17 Second Quarterly Statistical Bulletin.