

# READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & SPORT

TO:	PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE		
DATE:	25 APRIL 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE - Quarter 4, 2017/18		
SERVICE:	PLANNING	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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### 1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the quarterly report for Q4 (January - March) of 2017/18. The report sets out the Council's current performance against government criteria for designation and corporate indicators where they vary from the government criteria.

### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The main measure used by the Secretary of State in assessing a local planning authority's performance in determining planning applications is the percentage of decisions on applications made:

- (a) within the statutory determination period; or
- (b) within such extended period as has been agreed in writing between the applicant and the local planning authority;

These measures are applied separately to major applications and to non-major applications. There are also quality measures that relate to appeal decisions which are reported in the Annual Monitoring Report.

#### Performance indicators and targets

- 4.1 The following table provides monitoring information against the relevant quarterly corporate indicators:

Table 1 RBC Planning Service Quarterly Performance Indicators for 2017/18

Description	Target	15-16	16-17	Q1 17-18	Q2 17-18	Q3 17-18	Q4 17-18
Percentage of major applications decided within: (i) statutory 13/16 weeks, or (ii) the extended period agreed with the applicant. (NB note that a risk of designation occurs where 40% or fewer of their decisions on major applications are made within the statutory determination period or such extended period as has been agreed in writing with the applicant).	60%	85% (17/20)	89% (42/47)	83% (5/6)	100% (5/5)	88% (7/8)	100% (10/10)
Percentage of minor applications decided within (i) statutory 8 weeks or (ii) the extended period agreed by the applicant.	65%	71% (143/ 201)	74% (166/ 223)	83% (45/ 54)	94% (61/ 65)	85% (57/ 67)	88% (42/ 48)
Percentage of other applications decided within statutory 8 weeks	80%	54% (366/ 676)	59% (457/ 769)	64% (94/ 147)	66% (129/ 196)	76% (147/ 194)	69% (110/ 161)
Percentage of other applications decided within (i) statutory 8 weeks or (ii) the extended period as agreed by applicant.	80%	73% (493/ 676)	85% (657/ 769)	97% (142/ 147)	95% (187/ 196)	95% (185/ 194)	74% (119/ 161)
Percentage of householder applications (not for prior approval) decided within (i) statutory 8 weeks or (ii) the extended period agreed by the applicant.	80%	75% (342/ 457)	62% (308/ 499)	98% (104/ 106)	96% (129/ 135)	95% (94/ 117)	75% (79/ 106)
Percentage of householder applications (not for prior approval) decided within statutory 8 weeks.	80%	55% (249/ 456)	86% (430/ 499)	66% (70/ 106)	69% (93/ 135)	72% (84/ 117)	96% (102/ 106)
Planning Enforcement: % of enforcement complaints resolved within appropriate deadline according to priority	60%	66% (178/ 269)	82% (244/ 299)	66% (35/ 53)	83% (70/ 84)	77% (40/52)	86% (55/64)
Appeal performance - % allowed as a total of all appeals (a lower % figure is better)	30%	27% (9/ 33)	20% (8/41)	33% (2/6)	13% (1/8)	10% (9/10)	33% (4/12)
Major application appeal performance - % allowed as a total of all appeals (NB note that a risk of designation occurs where more than 20% of major applications decisions are overturned on appeal. (a lower % figure is better)	20%	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/1)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)

**Comments on planning application performance and workload**

4.4 The key results for Quarter 4 of 2017/18 are as follows:

- A total of 331 planning applications were validated during Quarter 4 compared to a total of 302 in the same period during 2016/17. The total number of applications validated during Quarters 1-4 was 1276 compared to a total of 1266 in the same period during 2016/17, a very small increase.
- The Council's performance overall remains steady and generally well above the target levels.
- Enforcement performance remains above target;
- Performance on appeals remains good.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 5.1 Planning services contribute to producing a sustainable environment and economy within the Borough and to meeting the 2018 Corporate Plan objectives for "Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active."

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 6.1 Statutory consultation takes place on planning applications and appeals and this can influence the speed with which applications and appeals are decided. Information on development management performance is publicly available.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 7.2 In terms of the key equalities protected characteristics, it is considered that the development management performance set out in this report has no adverse impacts.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The collection and monitoring of performance indicators is a statutory requirement and a requirement of DCLG. In addition a number of the work related programmes referred to in this report are mandatory requirements including the determination of planning applications and the preparation of the development plan.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.