

Committee: Scrutiny 2
Date: 4 December 2002
Agenda Item No: 7(ii)
Title: Planning Services and Building Surveying – performance monitoring
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Summary

- 1 This report advises the Committee of the work of the Planning and Building Surveying Service for the period April - October 2002.

Best Value Performance Indicator	Target	6 months outturn	Comments
% of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks	60%	25%	The small number of major applications means that slight delays can have major effects on the performance target
% of minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks	65%	41%	
% of all other planning applications determined in 8 weeks	80%	68%	
% of planning applications delegated to Officers	90%	75%	Increased delegation approved by DC&L should improve this figure
% searches completed within 10 days	Local	100%	Local target met
% new houses built on previously developed land	60%	N/A	Data not available - calculated annually
Planning cost per head of population	Local	N/A	Data not available - calculated annually

In addition performance is measured against other local target indicators.

Key Targets for 2002-3

Development Control

Indicator	Local Target 2002/3	Performance April-Oct 02
% Householder applications determined in 8 weeks	85	75
% Other applications determined in 8 weeks	60	46
Overall % determined in 8 weeks	75	61
% major apps in 13 wks	45	25
% minor apps in 8 wks	60	41
% all other apps in 8 wks	70	68
% Appeals dismissed	70	73
% Enforcement cases resolved* in 4 months	80	83
% Searches completed in 10 days	100	100

* "resolved" means either closed or brought forward for enforcement, in which case the timescales are not predictable, and assumes a low level of staff vacancies

Local Plans/Conservation

Indicator	Local Target 2002/3	Performance April- Oct 02
Progress of Local Plan in line with project plan	2nd Deposit by October	On target
% New houses built on previously developed land	50-60	Data not available - calculated annually
Affordable houses achieved as % of new development overall	25	25% where achievable
% TP applications determined in 8 weeks	100	100
% Conservation Area notifications determined in 6 weeks	100	100

Building Surveying

Indicator	Local Target	Performance April –Oct 02	
% Applications considered in five weeks	100%	96%	
Value of work commenced	-	£18.78m	
Income	Will vary on a month by month basis	£ 226,609	
Budget		£ 193,620	
Breakeven		£ 188,090	
Market Share: Housing / Other	100%	55.85%	
Land Charge Search responses	Average of 1 day	Average of 1 day	
Planning Permissions checked within 10 days of commencement on site	100%	100%	
Variations notified in 2 days	100	100%	
Number of letters received and % answered in 10 days	100%	84	97.7%
Number of street naming & numbering consultations with relevant parties and % dealt with within 3 working days	100%	48	100%
Number of orders for nameplates issued and inspections of completed works within 5 working days.	100%	36	100%

Best Value Review of Planning Services

Progress on this was delayed by agreement of this Committee following a significant staffing/workload difficulty arising in May 2002. Work has progressed slowly and improvements have been made to the service continuously. The review will recommence in full consequent upon the move of the planning service to Saffron Walden

Other Specific Work

In addition to the above and normal day-to-day delivery of services the following areas of work are also being undertaken:

- Taking the Local Plan through its deposit stages and preparing for the local plan inquiry
- Progressing the planning application for the expansion of Stansted Airport to 25 mppa
- Continuous review and improvement of the development control service, e.g. the introduction of public speaking at DC&L meetings, increased delegation, improvements to the agenda, changes to working practices, customer surveys etc.,
- Preparing for the move to Saffron Walden
- Contributing to corporate initiatives, e.g. Community Strategy, LA21 and the Bridge End Gardens project
- Reviewing the incidence of flooding in the bad weather of October 2001 and preparing and implementing a project plan to reduce risk in future
- Contributing to the Council's response on the SERAS consultation
- Continuing to provide excellence in Building Surveying
- Supporting the Uttlesford Access Group
- Energy efficiency surveys

Recommendation: That the report be noted

Background Papers: BVPI's