

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Lead Officer: Tony Pomfret – Development Control Manager

To inform Members of Development Control Performance in 2008/09 against national Best Value Performance Indicators

Recommendation: That the report be noted.

Resource Implications: Nil

1.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1 **Speed of Determination of Planning Applications** – the following results were achieved:-

	4 th Quarter (Jan-March)	Cumulative (April-March)
PI 157 (a)		
Major planning applications dealt with < 13 weeks Target is 60% Top quartile is 80.71%	100% (2 out of 2)	85% (17 out of 20)
PI 157 (b)		
Minor planning applications dealt with < 8 weeks Target is 65% Top quartile is 83.66%	84.6% (22 out of 26)	84.4% (162 out of 192)
PI 157 (c)		
Other planning applications dealt with < 8 weeks Target is 80% Top quartile is 92.56%	100% (54 out of 54)	94% (289 out of 306)

1.1.1 It can be seen that all three national targets have been exceeded, both for the last quarter of 2008/09 and for the year as a whole.

- 1.1.2 Credit for this commendable achievement is largely due to the excellent team effort from all professional, technical and administrative support staff involved in the complex development control process and the good working relationships with Members , particularly the Planning Panel.
- 1.1.3 The recent appointment of an additional Senior Development Control Officer, Nick Hayhurst, together with the revised Planning Delegation Scheme should ensure that this high level of performance is maintained in 2009/10.
- 1.1.4 Timely determination of planning applications is particularly important during the current economic climate so as not to impede business aspirations. The quality of the decisions, however, must not be compromised and priorities for 2009/10 are to ensure that we work closely with Town and Parish Councils and other service users (applicants, agents, objectors, consultees, etc) to ensure that we are delivering a high quality service which fully meets the needs of our customers.
- 1.2 Percentage of Planning Appeals Allowed** – this is a local rather than a national performance indicator. In 2008/09, 60% (6 out of 10) of planning appeals determined have been allowed, against a target of 25%. Whilst this performance measure is disappointing, the statistical significance of such low numbers should be borne in mind.
- 1.2.1 It is also a factor that more appeals are likely to be successful as the policies in the Local Plan, which was adopted in June 2006, become less robust over time and in advance of the new Local Development Framework (LDF).

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Background Papers: **Supporting documentation is available for inspection in the Development Control office**