



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	19 November 2019
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarter 2 Performance Report 2019-20
Contact:	Cllr Graham Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure Author/Responsible Officer: James Doe, Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regeneration
Purpose of report:	To set out the performance outturn for the service for Quarter 2 of 2019-20
Recommendations	That the report is noted.
Corporate objectives:	All Corporate Objectives are relevant with this annual review of service performance.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> None arising from decisions on this report though the financial indicators for Planning fees and Local Land Charges report an under recovery of income against target levels.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> None arising from this report.
Risk implications	Risk register currently under review.
Community Impact	Not applicable for this report.

Assessment	
Health and safety Implications	Not applicable for this report.
Consultees:	Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director Housing and Regeneration Chris Taylor, Group Manager Strategic Planning and Regeneration Sara Whelan, Group Manager Development Management and Planning
Background papers:	Performance report (appendix 1)
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	None.

Executive Summary

1. This report presents the performance outturn for the Planning, Development and Regeneration service for the second quarter of the business year 2019-20. The full performance report is at Appendix 1.
2. Of 17 indicators, eight are running at green; four at red, two at amber and three are for information only.

Key Issues

3. The main exceptions to good performance are in the areas of income for Planning fees and Land Charges. The proportion of planning refusals being challenged through appeals remains high, and a high proportion of appeals have been allowed this quarter.

Income

4. Planning fees income (FIN 16). This remains below trajectory at the end of Q2, but the position is improving. In terms of receipts of fees, this is just under £99k short of target with half of the business year gone, equating to 83% of expected fees received. At Q1, with only three months of the year gone, the shortfall was £80k and the proportion of expected fees running at just under 73%.
5. As explained in the Q1 report to the Committee, the projected income for the rest of the financial year has been modelled, and currently Officers are still forecasting income to exceed the annual target, by around £75k.

6. Land Charges Income (FIN17). Income remains at 86% of expected receipts, up slightly from the 85% achieved by the end of Q1. Actual income was £16k short of trajectory, with market uncertainty continuing to impact on property transactions.

Planning Enforcement

7. Planning Enforcement cases visited (PE01-03). Overall, performance in the enforcement service has been strong, and has improved since Q1. Priority 1 and 3 visits ran at 100% within target times, with Priority 2 cases at 94%, up from 90% in Q1.

Planning Appeals

8. Planning appeals dismissed (DMP30). This indicator is now at red, with only 52% of appeals dismissed (in other words, won by the Council) against the target of 70%. This indicator was running at Amber in Q1, with 66% of appeals dismissed by Planning Inspectors.
9. Twelve appeals were dismissed in Q2 out of a total of 23 cases, though two of the total were not ruled on due to either withdrawal or being considered as null. Taking these two discontinued cases into account, nine appeals were therefore allowed by Planning Inspectors.
10. Three of these nine allowed appeals were against conditions attached to planning permissions. A further three related to works to domestic properties, one for agricultural development involving polytunnels and a barn at Bourne End, one for a conversion of a building to four residential units in Hemel Hempstead, and the last (sixth) related to an application for the installation of Solar Panels to a property at Hastoe.
11. The spread of cases is therefore quite wide, and it will be important to reflect on the issues raised by the Inspectors in these cases to help improve performance in the future.
12. Members will also note, for information, that more decisions are being challenged by the Council – in this quarter it was 50% of all applications that were refused. The number of appeals considered in Q2, at 23, was up considerably from the 15 cases in Q1.

Performance successes

13. Determination times for planning applications all remain comfortably above target and very good performance for major proposals was returned in Q2, with 14 out of 15 cases (93%) determined within time (DMP04). Validation performance (DMP08) remains strong at 76% of applications validated within three working days. Over £1million was collected in CIL receipts (SPR20).