

## AGENDA ITEM: 8

### SUMMARY



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	10 November 2015
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	<b>Quarter 2 2015-2016 Performance Report – Planning, Development and Regeneration</b>
Contact:	Cllr Graham Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration  James Doe, Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regeneration
Purpose of report:	To report on service performance for the second quarter of 2015/16.
Recommendations	That the report be noted.
Corporate objectives:	The report focuses on the service plan for the area and key performance indicators. All corporate objectives are therefore relevant.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u>  None arising directly from this report.
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u>  None arising directly from this report.
Risk Implications	Risk Assessment completed as part of the service plan.
Equalities Implications	None arising from this report.

Health And Safety Implications	None arising from this report.
Consultees:	<p>Cllr Graham Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration.</p> <p>Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Steve Clark, Interim Group Manager for Development Management and Planning</p> <p>Chris Taylor, Group Manager for Strategic Planning and Regeneration</p>
Background papers:	<p>Planning and Regeneration Service Plan 2013-2015</p> <p>Performance information held on the CorVu system.</p>

1. This is the second of four reports the Committee will receive this year providing information and analysis of the agreed performance measures for the Planning, Development and Regeneration Service.
2. The quarterly performance report from the CorVu system is attached at Appendix 1; with the updated Operational Risk Register at Appendix 2.

### **Performance**

3. Overall, performance is up from quarter 1 with an improvement in nine of the 17 indicators that are reported to the Committee each quarter. There are no indicators showing red for this quarter.
4. Workload in Development Management (DMP02) remains high at 641 applications this quarter and only marginally down on the 659 submissions received in Q1.
5. There has been an improvement in the speed of processing planning and related applications (DMP04,05,06) from Q1, as replacement staffing in the team has settled in and a backlog of older cases has largely cleared. The team achieved 100% in the processing of major planning applications (DMP04), and improvements in the turnaround of the 'minor' and 'other' categories (DMP05 and 06 respectively) to just below target at 61.25% and 76.58% respectively. These latter two indicators are showing as amber.
6. Last quarter it was reported that there had been a rise in the number and proportion of planning refusals being appealed against to the Planning Inspectorate (DMP03), being just over the target level of 30%. This has risen again to 38.24%. As reported last time, this is not an indicator that the Council can directly control, but it does illustrate the appetite for applicants to exercise their right to appeal and is a reflection in part on the quality and soundness of decision making. Historically this has not been an issue for Dacorum BC, as our appeal success rates are very good, but this is a measure that needs to be kept under review.

7. The validation of planning applications upon their receipt by the Council (DMP08) is performing relatively well but remains a little under the target of 75% being processed in 3 working days at 69%. This indicator is showing as amber.
8. Planning fee income (FIN16) is now running ahead of trajectory by nearly £58,000, an improvement from the slightly below the targeted profile of income trajectory of £8,500 in Q1. At this early stage in the year it is my view this is not a cause for concern.
9. For Building Control, performance remains strong at 100% of cases determined in 2 months (BC01), though this is a service subject to staff shortages and high levels of turnover. This is a result of a strong building industry at the current time and shortage of professionals in this part of the employment market. Income levels for Building Control (FIN15) are slightly under trajectory this quarter by a little under £6,000; this is a minor variance at the mid-way point through the year.
10. In Local Land Charges, casework (LC03) remains high at 672 searches received in the quarter, compared to 703 searches in Q1. Search fees income (FIN17) is now almost £13,000 in excess of budget profile. Despite high workloads, there has been a big improvement in average case turnaround times (LC04) from 13.2 days to 8.2 days.
11. For Planning Enforcement, performance remains high as usual (PE01, 02,03), with only marginal deviations from the 100% targets for priority 2 and 3 cases (the DBC Local Enforcement Plan refers, see ) due to more attention needing to be given to the top priority (priority 1) cases, which came in on target at 100% being visited within one working day.
12. The last indicator to report on is SPR05, the Number of New Homes Completed. This refers to all new housing, the majority of which will be delivered by the private sector; as such the Council cannot exercise direct control over performance but can influence it through its facilitation role, and of course through the Council house new build programme. This indicator is therefore reported for information only. In Q2, 47 new homes were completed. This rate of development is below the annual Core Strategy target of 430 units. Officers may need to report further to the Committee on development rates in the future.

### **Operational Risk Register**

13. The risk register has been updated and is at Appendix 2. There are no changes to the risk ratings. The risk register needs to be reviewed in terms of the risk descriptions to reflect new priorities and issues and this will be provided for Q3 onwards.