



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	2 November 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarter 2 Performance Report 2021-22
Contact:	Cllr Alan Anderson, 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 2021-22.
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	None arising from this report. Risks addressed through service level risk register.

Community Impact Assessment	Not applicable for this report.
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 Philip Stanley, Group Manager Development Management and Planning
Background papers:	Performance report (appendix 1)
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	None.

1. This report presents the performance outturn for the Planning, Development and Regeneration service for the second quarter (July-September) of the business year 2021-22. The full performance report is at Appendix 1. Members will note that the appendix report follows a new format following the Council's change to using the new InPhase performance management software from the previous Rocket system.
2. The performance report at appendix 1 shows a total of 32 indicators, twelve of which are performance measures; the remainder are for information and provide context to the performance outcomes for quarter 2.
3. Of the twelve performance measures, five are at red for this quarter, two at amber and five at green.

Income

4. Planning fees income (FIN 16). Strong performance on fee receipts continues, with income 15% ahead of target for this point in the business year, although the rate is slightly down from the 20% exceedance recorded at the end of Q1. Income is around £260k ahead of trajectory at receipts of £1.968m at the end of Q2.
5. Caseload of planning and related applications remains high, though slightly down on Q1 with 854 cases received compared to 908 previously.
6. Land Charges Income (FIN17). The strong start to the business year continues and at Q2, income is running at over 11% ahead of trajectory with receipts for land charge searches at £322,805. The tapered down relief on

stamp duty (the stamp duty “holiday”) remained for this quarter, but is now fully withdrawn.

7. Activity in Land Charges remains high, however. The performance measure for the average speed to process local searches (LC04) is only just above the target of ten days and therefore is at amber for Q2.
8. Trends in both planning and land charges income will continue to be monitored closely as activity here has a strong correlation to the local and national economic climate.

Development Management Performance

9. This quarter there were 8 major applications (DMP04) due for determination, up from just three in Q1. Five of these were determined on time, resulting in performance of 62.5% which is within target and therefore at green, down from the 100% performance previously.
10. Minor applications (DMP05) slipped back into the amber category at just over 67.5% determined within 8 weeks of receipt in Q2, just 2.5% short of the target of 70%. Caseload of minor proposals for the quarter was almost the same as in Q1, down by only 3 applications.
11. Performance the ‘others’ category remains firmly at green, and rose again in Q2 to 96% of applications determined within eight weeks of receipt from just under 90% in Q1. Caseload was up slightly at 332 applications compared to 318 in Q1. This category includes the smallest scale cases such as house extensions and other domestic development, where the service has put in place fast track arrangements for processing.
12. Members will note that this performance indicator does not appear on the performance report at Appendix 1, and the performance team has been requested to correct the report run for the next quarter.
13. Performance on the Council’s success rate in defending planning appeals in Q2 (DMP30) fell sharply to red at just 22% of cases dismissed by Planning Inspectors. Members will note from the last report to the Committee that the Council achieved an 80% success rate in Q1.
14. Whilst this may initially cause some concern, the outturn for Q2 has to be seen against the context of appeal caseload which also fell sharply from 21 cases in Q1 to just nine cases in Q2. Of these nine, seven were allowed and two dismissed. The Development Management Committee received a report on the details of cases at its meeting on 21 October and this can be seen at [Appeals update October 2021 FINAL.pdf \(dacorum.gov.uk\)](#). The reporting period is slightly different, but the Inspectors’ reasonings are explained in summary form.
15. Performance in the validation of planning applications (DMP08) has improved significantly at 77% of cases validated within three days of receipt, and back into the green category, up from 53% in Q1

Enforcement

16. The other indicators showing as red for Q1 relate to first visits to enforcement cases under Priorities 1, 2 and 3 in the Local Enforcement Plan (PE01, PE02 and PE03) which are running at 50%, 50% and 44% respectively.
17. The service continues to work to the twelve-month improvement plan, known as the 'Enforcement 400 Plan' to tackle the issue of working through the combination of backlog from the inability to carry out site visits during lockdown and restriction periods and rising workloads.
18. It is proposed to extend the additional enforcement officer post that was put in place earlier this year for a further twelve months, subject of course to approval by the Council through the 2022/23 budget process.
19. The Team Leader position which became vacant through Philip Stanley's promotion to Group Manager has been filled by Ed Arnold. The Assistant Team Leader is currently held on an interim position by Julian Thomas. Permanent recruitment to enforcement posts remains difficult, with the latest recruitment round yielding no suitable candidates. The Service's management is in the process of re-advertising the post again with a revised offer to the professional market.