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Strategic Planning and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Title of report:	Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarter 4 Performance Report 2022-23
Date:	13 June 2023
Report on behalf of:	Cllr Sheron Wilkie, Portfolio Holder for Place
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Performance Report
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	None

Report Author / Responsible Officer

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Corporate Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A clean, safe and enjoyable environment - Building strong and vibrant communities - Ensuring economic growth and prosperity - Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need - Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery - Climate and ecological emergency
Wards affected	All

Purpose of the report:	1. To set out the performance outturn for the service for Quarter 4 of 2022-23.
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	1. That the report is noted.
Period for post policy/project review:	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the performance outturn for the Planning, Development and Regeneration service for the fourth quarter (January - March) of the business year 2022-23. The full performance report is at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The performance report at Appendix 1 shows a total of 5 indicators. Of the revised Key Performance Indicators, two are departmental performance measures and three are measures that reflect local construction activity. Of the two departmental performance measures, one is green and one is red.

Planning Applications Determined Within Target

- 1.3 The percentage of all planning applications determined within target (DMP01) sits at 87%, against a target of 70%. This is a further improvement in performance over Q3, when the outturn figure was 80% within target. This represents sustained good performance from the team, particularly given the ongoing restrictions relating to the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and the number of vacancies within the Development Management team.

Enforcement Site Visits

- 1.4 The percentage of all planning enforcement priority site visits (PE04) remains at 79%, the same as last quarter, against a target of 100%. There are a number of reasons why performance remains at this level. We remain short of 1 Enforcement Officer, although a new starter is due to commence on 12th June, which will take us back to a full complement. In addition, we are seeking approval for a temporary resource to assist in addressing the current level of workload.
- 1.5 Triaging of new cases is being undertaken and the focus is being placed on the instances which are considered to be harmful, until capacity within the team has been built back up. In this quarter, the team served 6 Enforcement Notices, 1 Breach of Condition Notice and 1 Temporary Stop Notice. They have also had to defend 6 appeals against Enforcement Notices in this quarter. For comparison, there were only 3 Enforcement Notice appeals throughout the whole of the previous year, 2021-2022.

Affordable Housing

- 1.6 For indicator DO1 – the number of affordable housing starts in the period – there is no data on this for this period at present as we are reliant on external parties. This will be reported at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.7 For indicator DO2 – the number of affordable housing completions in the period – there is no data on this for this period as we are reliant on external parties. This will be reported at the earliest opportunity.

Retail Properties

- 1.8 For indicator CPE01 – the number of retail properties (vacancy rate) for the period – there is no data on this for the period as we are reliant on external parties. This will be reported at the earliest opportunity.

2. Options and alternatives considered

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 James Doe – Strategic Director (Place)
- 3.2 Philip Stanley - Interim Head of Development Management
- 3.3 Ronan Leydon – Team Manager, Strategic Planning

4. Financial and value for money implications:

Financial

- 4.1 None arising from decisions on this report though the financial indicators for Planning fees report an under recovery of income against target levels.

Value for Money

- 4.2 None arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

6. Risk implications:

- 6.1 None arising from this report. Risks addressed through service level risk register.

7. Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

- 7.1 Community Impact Assessment - Not applicable for this report.
- 7.2 Human Rights – There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

8. Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

9. Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

10. Conclusions:

10.1 Not applicable

11. Appendix 1 - Performance Report (attached separately)