



Strategic Planning and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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| Report for: | Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| Title of report: | Planning, Development and Regeneration Quarter 1 Performance Report 2023-24 |
| Date: | 6 September 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 |

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| Purpose of the report: | 1. To set out the performance outturn for the service for Quarter 1 of 2023-24. |
| 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 service for the first quarter (April - June) of the business year 2023-24. 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 76%, against a target of 70%. Whilst the percentage went down from Q4 last year, it remains above target and is a noticeable improvement on Q1 of last year, which was 69%. This represents sustained overall 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.
- 1.4 Major planning application performance remains at 100%.
- 1.5 As for Minors and Others, they performed in Q1 as follows, against a 70% target:

| MONTH | MINORS (%) | OTHERS (%) |
|------------|------------|------------|
| April 2023 | 72.22 | 83.93 |
| May 2023 | 68.75 | 82.05 |
| June 2023 | 71.43 | 75.68 |

- 1.6 Minors were either slightly above or slightly below target. Others (i.e. householders) are well above target, but with a downward trend. This is unsurprising, given the three Planning Officer vacancies that currently exist at that level.

Enforcement Site Visits

- 1.7 The percentage of all planning enforcement priority site visits (PE04) has fallen to 56%, against a target of 100%. There are a number of reasons why performance is at this level. The Enforcement team were affected by having one post vacant (out of a total of 3 within the team) during this quarter. In addition, the team have been focused in the previous quarter on trying to bring to a resolution older and / or more complex enforcement cases. This has resulted in a poor performance in terms of first site visits. It should be noted, however, that all cases will be visited and the appropriate action taken. Furthermore, it is hoped that with additional resources the team will be able to further bring down live caseload and therefore have more capacity to deal with new cases coming in and visiting them for the first time in a timely manner.

Affordable Housing

- 1.8 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.

- 1.9 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

- 1.10 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

Appendix 1 - Performance Report (attached separately)

