



AGENDA ITEM:

SUMMARY

Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	15 March 2016
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Quarter 3 2015-2016 Performance Report – Planning, Development and Regeneration
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 third 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:	Cllr Graham Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration. Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director for Housing and Regeneration Sara Whelan, Group Manager for Development Management and Planning Chris Taylor, Group Manager for Strategic Planning and Regeneration
Background papers:	Planning and Regeneration Service Plan 2013-2015 Performance information held on the CorVu system.

1. This is the third 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. This has been another relatively strong quarter for performance. As with Quarter 2, there is again an improvement in nine of the 17 indicators that are reported to the Committee each quarter. Ten indicators are reporting as green and four at amber; there are no indicators showing red for this quarter. The remaining three indicators are reported for information only.
4. Workload in Development Management (DMP02) remains high at 614 applications this quarter and only marginally down on the 641 submissions received in Q2 and the 659 in Q1.
5. Performance remains strong in the speed of processing planning and related applications (DMP04,05,06). Just under 86% of major applications were determined within time, against the 80% target (DMP04), and further improvements were achieved in the turnaround of the 'minor' and 'other' categories (DMP05 and 06 respectively) to just over 70% and just under 86% respectively. These latter two indicators have turned green from previously showing as amber in Q2.
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), to 38.24%. This has come down a little to 36.36% and remains at Amber. 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 now running at Green, up to 77% processed within three days from 69% in Q2.
8. Planning fee income (FIN16) is now running ahead of trajectory by nearly £133,000, an improvement from the above targeted profile of income trajectory of £58,000 in Q2.
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 around £2000; this is a minor variance in income trajectory and consequently shows as Amber.
10. In Local Land Charges, casework (LC03) remains high at 582 searches received in the quarter, but down by about 13% from Q2, as Q3 tends to be a quieter period. Search fees income (FIN17) is now almost £14,000 in excess of budget profile. Despite high workloads, there has been a big improvement in average case turnaround times (LC04) from 13.2 days in Q1 to 8.2 days in Q2 and now 6.4 days in Q3. .
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 <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/planning-development/planning-enforcement>) 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 Q3, 149 new homes were completed, up from 47 units in Q2. So far this year, there have been 295 completions out of the general annualised target of 430 per annum. .

Operational Risk Register

13. The risk register is at Appendix 2. There are no changes to the risk ratings.