



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	22 November 2016
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Quarter 2 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 second quarter of 2016/17, and to provide an update on the Operational Risk Register.
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	None arising from this report.

Implications	
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>Sara Whelan, Group Manager for Development Management and Planning</p> <p>Chris Taylor, Group Manager for Strategic Planning and Regeneration</p>
Background papers:	Performance information held on the CorVu system.

Introduction

1. The report provides the performance report for the second quarter of the current business year. The detailed performance information is at Appendix 1.
2. Performance on service delivery continues to be strong, with all non-financial indicators at green except one at Amber (major planning applications) and one at red (planning application validation). There has been some improvement on income targets which is reported on below.
3. The operational risk register is at Appendix 2. There is no change from Quarter 1.

Performance Indicators

4. Building Control. Performance is again strong, with 100% of all applications determined within 2 months (BC01). There has been a rise in the number of cases determined this quarter, up from 165 to 178.
5. Development Management. This has been again strong quarter. Performance on the 'minor' and 'other' categories has improved from quarter1, with determination rates within 8 weeks of receipt running at 83.3% and 93.5 % respectively (DMP 05 and 06).
6. Performance in major applications (DMP04) has dipped to just over 57% determined in 13 weeks. This indicator can be volatile as the number of major applications the Council receives is low – in this quarter the service had only 7 such applications to deal with compared to 13 in quarter 1. Members will recall that in quarter 1, performance was well above target at just over 90%. Overall, therefore the service is doing well in this critical area for development – so far this year, 80% of majors have been determined within 13 weeks, well above the target of 60%.
7. The number of planning applications that were received in quarter 2 (DMP02) was down on quarter 1 at 606 proposals compared to 766 in April-June.

8. Refusals of planning applications (DMP07) remains low at just under 5%.
9. The only process-based performance indicator at red this quarter is on the validation of planning applications within three working days (DMP08), which is at 49% compared to the 70% target. There have been some difficulties with the IT systems where plans uploaded to the Dacorum BC website have had to be re-posted/re-indexed. These problems are being rectified.
10. Planning Enforcement. Performance has remained high. The Council's approved Local Enforcement Plan sets out priorities for investigations into three categories. All Priority 1 cases were visited within 1 working day (PE01). Priority 2 cases (PE02) came in just under target at 92.2% for the target visiting time of 10 working days. For priority 3 cases (PE03) to be visited within 15 working days, the outcome was 97.3%. This has slipped slightly from quarter 1, largely due to one officer taking up a position in the planning casework team. This vacancy in the enforcement service is being filled.
11. Land Charges. This is a competitive service and workload and business remains very high, though the number of property searches received (LC01) was down at 483 searches from the 589 received in Q1. Performance has improved again at an average processing time of 5.18 days against the target of ten.
12. Strategic Planning and Regeneration. The house building market was active during Q2 with 111 new homes built (SPR05). This brings the total to date this business year to 275 units, at this stage just over half of the annual Core Strategy target of 430 units.
13. Finance. Members will have received a report on budget issues earlier on this agenda.
14. The main issue continues to be under-recovery of planning fees. This is due to a fall off in the number of major applications being submitted. Discussions with developers however indicate that some of these proposals will be received by the Council in Quarters 3 and 4 of this business year, so an improvement in the income trajectory is expected. For the time being, the income issue remains a risk, but will be monitored closely.
15. For building control fees, the income situation has improved with almost £296,000 received against the anticipated target at this stage of the year of £287,000.