

Publication of Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Third Quarterly 2016/17 Statistical Bulletin (Provisional Figures)	26th April 2017
Planning Committee	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets
Outcome	Pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Planning
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

1.0 Background

The Northern Ireland Planning Statistics is an official statistics publication issued by Analysis, Statistics & Research Team within Department for Infrastructure. The Third Quarterly 2016/17 Statistical Bulletin was published on 16 March 2017 providing provisional planning statistics for this period. It also provides a summary of Council progress across the three statutory targets for major development applications, local development applications and enforcement cases as laid out in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

2.0 Details

2.1 <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/> provides the link to the published bulletin and a summary is attached at Appendix 1.

Development Management Planning Applications

2.2 Table 1 below provides a summary of performance in relation to the statutory target for major development applications and local development applications for Q3 and provides a comparison of performance against all 11 Councils. Table 2 provides the year to date situation again with comparison against all 11 Councils.

Table 1: Planning Applications – Q3 of 2016/17

2016/17	Major		Local		Total		Live	
Q3	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	5	4	346	260	351	264	701	90
Rank	3 rd	5 th	5 th	6 th	5 th	6 th	5 th	4 th
Average Processing Times	50.2wks (target 30wks)		17.8wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	4 th		7 th					
Approval Rate	100%		91.9%		92%			

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

3.0 Table 2: Planning Applications - Year to Date End of Q3 2016/17

2016/17	Major		Local		Total		Live	
YtD	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	8	10	973	966	981	976	701	90
Rank	5 th	8 th	5 th	4 th	5 th	4 th	8 th	4 th
Average Processing Times	51.4wks (target 30wks)		19.2wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	2 nd		7 th					
Approval Rate	100%		92.1%		92.2%			

4.0 Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

4.1 As is clear from Table 1 above, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council received the third highest number of major development applications out of the 11 Councils during Quarter 3, an increase of 4 applications when compared to Q2, bringing it to a total of 8 major applications received year to date. Furthermore, of the 10 major applications issued to date, 100% have been approved; 3 major applications were withdrawn. The time taken to progress these major applications significantly reduced in Q3 resulting in a reduction in the average processing time to 51.4 weeks year to date, the 2nd fastest out of all 11 Councils.

4.2 In terms of local applications, the number received continued to rise in Q3, an increase of 16% when compared to that received in Q1 and a 5% increase on Q2. However, the number of local applications decided reduced in Q3 when compared to the previous quarters due largely to the time staff spent validating applications received and processing other types of applications such as Discharge of Conditions. Nevertheless, progress continues in terms of processing local applications with the time taken reduced by 1.6 weeks when compared to Q2, resulting in a year to date processing time of 19.2 weeks. This reduction is largely as a result of the reviewed Scheme of Delegation operational from 7th November 2016 which removed the necessity of publishing a weekly list of all delegated applications ready to issue with the exception of contentious applications.

4.3 However, performance against statutory targets remains an area for improvement and Members will recall that this has been taken into account with the agreement to recruit additional staff. These staff are now in place and it is anticipated that this should show improvements in performance against statutory targets in Q4.

4.4 Also of interest is the types of applications received. In Q3 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council received the highest number of commercial applications, 2nd highest number of industrial type applications and 3rd highest number of residential applications, indicating the high interest in the Borough from both investors and those wishing to live in the area.

Enforcement

- 4.5 Table 3 below shows statistics in relation to enforcement in Q3 and Table 4 shows the year to date performance. Enforcement performance remains high, easily meeting the statutory target of processing 70% of cases to conclusion within 39 weeks (92.8% processed within target in Q3). Furthermore, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council achieved the highest number of convictions in Q3 securing 4 convictions in Q3. Year to date the enforcement team has opened 322 cases, second highest out of all 11 Councils.

Table 3 Enforcement – Q3

2016/17	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
Q3			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	74	69	92.8%	347	1	4
1st	3 rd	5 th	2 nd	3 rd	5 th	1 st

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

Table 4: Enforcement - Year to Date

2016/17	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
YtD			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	322	223	88.8%	347	6	5
Rank	2 nd	5 th	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	2 nd

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2016/17 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

Conclusion

- 4.6 In conclusion, performance within the Planning Department is steadily improving against statutory performance targets. The increase in both the number of planning applications received has continued to increase in Q3, up 16% on Q1 and almost 10% when compared to Q3 of 2015/16. If this trend continues, staff resources will require to be reviewed.

5.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the update on the Northern Ireland Planning Statistics 2016/17 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin.