

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Chief Planning Control Officer

REPORT NUMBER: **G69**

TO: DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 8 August 2007

PLANNING PERFORMANCE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the number of planning applications currently being considered by the Planning Control Section and an indication of performance against Government targets.
- 1.2 It also contains information to show how much income has been received from planning application fees, and details of the provisional award of Planning Delivery Grant to support planning services in 2007/08.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the information contained within this report be noted.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Improved performance against Government targets would enhance the prospect of receiving a more favourable award of Planning Delivery Grant.

5. KEY INFORMATION

- 5.1 This quarterly report shows the performance of the Planning Control Service against BVPI 109: The Determination of Planning Applications.
- 5.2 Current Government targets require all local planning authorities to determine:
 - 60% of major applications (these include residential proposals for 10 or more dwellings or 1000 square metres of commercial floor space) within a period of 13 weeks;
 - 65% of minor residential and commercial applications (which include proposals for up to 9 dwellings) within a period of 8 weeks; and
 - 80% of other applications (which are mainly householder and other smaller applications) within a period of 8 weeks.

Applications Received and Determined

5.3 Table 1 provides an overview of the number of planning applications that were on hand at the beginning of the last four quarters, the number that were received during the quarter, withdrawn, on hand at the end of the quarter, and actually determined. It also provides details of the number of applications that were determined in accordance with the scheme of delegation expressed as a percentage of all decisions.

TABLE 1	01.07.06 to 30.09.06	01.10.06 to 31.12.06	01.01.07 to 31.03.07	01.04.07 to 30.06.07
Number of applications on hand at beginning of quarter.	394	353	305	409
Number of applications received during quarter	435	355	468	411
Number of applications withdrawn	44	23	25	21
Number of applications on hand at end of quarter.	353	305	409	388
Number of applications determined during quarter	432	380	339	411
Percentage of delegated decisions	86.5	87.6	84.4	89.3

Source: General Development Control PS1 Return

Performance Against Target

5.4 Table 2a shows the number of planning applications that were determined during the last four quarters in each of the three categories defined by BVPI 109. Table 2b shows how many of these planning applications were determined within the prescribed period as a percentage of all decisions within the relevant category.

TABLE 2A	01.07.06 to 30.09.06	01.10.06 to 31.12.06	01.01.07 to 31.03.07	01.04.07 to 30.06.07
Total number of MAJOR applications determined	6	11	6	6
Total number of MINOR applications determined	97	80	84	93
Total number of OTHER applications determined	313	283	245	305
Miscellaneous decisions not included above	16	6	4	5
Total number of applications determined during quarter	432	380	339	409

Source: General Development Control PS2 Return

TABLE 2B	01.07.06 to 30.09.04	01.10.06 to 31.12.06	01.01.07 to 31.03.07	01.04.07 to 30.06.07
Percentage of MAJOR applications determined on time	50.0	54.5	66.7	66.7
Percentage of MINOR applications determined on time	67.0	50.0	48.8	58.0
Percentage of OTHER applications determined on time	76.0	73.0	79.9	75.5

Source: General Development Control PS2 Return

Planning Fees

- 5.5 Table 3 provides details of the income received from fee generating applications over the last four quarters against the projected income for the quarter.

TABLE 3	01.07.06 to 30.09.06	01.10.06 to 31.12.06	01.01.07 to 31.03.07	01.04.07 to 30.06.07
Number of fee applications received	329	307	394	364
Fees received	150,790	115,040	89,175	107,009
Projected fee income	106,750	106,750	103,500	103,500
Out turn	44,040	8,290	(14,325)	3,509

Source: Departmental Records

Planning Delivery Grant

- 5.6 In July 2007 the Government published provisional figures for the award of Planning Delivery Grant for 2007/08. The award for Development Control has been made on the basis of the authority's performance in handling applications in the period 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007. The provisional allocation for Babergh District Council is £72,785, which includes £59,543 for plan making and sustainable development indicators, a sum of £5,180 for being in the Haven Gateway Growth Area, and £8,062 for e-planning.

6. **APPENDICES**

None.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None.

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