

## **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Chief Planning Control Officer

**REPORT NUMBER:** **H12**

**TO:** Development Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** 30 April 2008

### **PLANNING PERFORMANCE**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the number of planning applications and appeals currently being considered by the Planning Control Section and an indication of performance against Government indicators.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

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

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications anticipated.

#### **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 There are no significant risks anticipated.

#### **5. KEY INFORMATION**

- 5.1 This quarterly report shows the performance of the Planning Control Service against BVPI 109: The Determination of Planning Applications and BVPI 204: Planning Appeals.

- 5.2 Current Government performance indicators 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.

- 5.3 Local planning authorities are also required to monitor the number of appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse planning applications, as a percentage of the total number of appeals against the refusal of planning applications. This indicator seeks to establish whether local planning authorities are refusing more applications in order to meet development control performance targets. An acceptable threshold is deemed to be 30%.

5.4 It should be noted that from the beginning of the new financial year 2008/09, BVPI 109 has been replaced with a new National Indicator 157. This indicator has the same intent as BVPI 109 and will be used to calculate the proposed Planning and Housing Delivery Grant. Appeal performance will no longer be monitored as part of the new regime but it is intended to continue to review it as a locally set indicator.

**Applications Received and Determined**

5.5 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.

<b>TABLE 1</b>	<b>01.04.07 to 30.06.07</b>	<b>01.07.07 to 30.09.07</b>	<b>01.10.07 to 31.12.07</b>	<b>01.01.08 to 31.03.08</b>
Number of applications on hand at beginning of quarter.	409	397	381	386
Number of applications received during quarter	411	439	418	439
Number of applications withdrawn	21	44	36	35
Number of applications on hand at end of quarter.	388	389	379	383
Number of applications determined during quarter	411	403	384	407
Percentage of delegated decisions	89.3	92.1	92.7	89.2

Source: General Development Control PS1 Return

**Performance Against Target**

5.6 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.

<b>TABLE 2A</b>	<b>01.04.07 to 30.06.07</b>	<b>01.07.07 to 30.09.07</b>	<b>01.10.07 to 31.12.07</b>	<b>01.01.08 to 31.03.08</b>
Total number of <b>MAJOR</b> applications determined	6	15	13	25
Total number of <b>MINOR</b> applications determined	93	94	77	96
Total number of <b>OTHER</b> applications determined	305	292	288	278
Miscellaneous decisions not included above	5	2	6	3
Total number of applications determined during quarter	411	403	384	402

Source: General Development Control PS2 Return

<b>TABLE 2B</b>	<b>01.04.07 to 30.06.07</b>	<b>01.07.07 to 30.09.07</b>	<b>01.10.07 to 31.12.07</b>	<b>01.01.08 to 31.03.08</b>
Percentage of <b>MAJOR</b> applications determined on time	66.7	86.7	53.9	72.0
Percentage of <b>MINOR</b> applications determined on time	58.0	59.6	61.0	48.9
Percentage of <b>OTHER</b> applications determined on time	75.5	68.0	79.3	80.0

Source: General Development Control PS2 Return

5.7 For the financial year 2007/08 the average time taken to determine applications expressed as a percentage has been:

Major Applications	71.2%
Minor Applications	57.0%
Other Applications	75.6%

### **Planning Fees**

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

<b>TABLE 3</b>	<b>01.04.07 to 30.06.07</b>	<b>01.07.07 to 30.09.07</b>	<b>01.10.07 to 31.12.07</b>	<b>01.01.08 to 31.03.08</b>
Number of fee applications received	364	384	320	330
Fees received	107,009	88,090	91,780	115,190
Projected fee income	103,500	103,500	103,500	103,500
Out turn	3,509	(15,410)	(11,720)	11,690

Source: Departmental Records

- 5.9 As will be noted the income received from planning application fees during the last quarter has been £11,690 more than expected. The income received for the financial year 2007/08 amounts to £402,069 against an anticipated income of £414,000. This represents a shortfall of £11,931.

### **Appeals**

- 5.10 Table 4 provides details of the number of appeals allowed expressed as a percentage of the total number of appeals determined.

<b>TABLE 4</b>	<b>01.04.07 to 30.06.07</b>	<b>01.07.07 to 30.09.07</b>	<b>01.10.07 to 31.12.07</b>	<b>01.01.08 to 31.03.08</b>
Number of appeals allowed.	3	1	3	2
Total number of appeals determined.	9	8	17	9
Percentage of appeals allowed.	33.0	13.0	18.0	22.0

Source: Departmental Records

## 6. **APPENDICES**

- 6.1 None.

## 7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

- 7.1 None.

**CONTACT:** Nick Ward, Chief Planning Control Officer, **DIRECT LINE:** 01473 825851