

Report to: **Regeneration Services Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **17 September 2007**
Report of: **Head of Planning and Building Control**
Subject: **Planning and Building Control Quarterly Performance Report**
Ward: **All**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide information on the performance of the Planning and Building Control Services Unit.

2.0 Consultation

2.1 Consultation has taken place with appropriate staff of the Planning and Building Control Services Unit.

3.0 BVPI Performance

3.1 BVPI performance improvement during 2006/07 focused on BV 109 (determination of Planning Applications), and outturn figures for the year confirmed that all BVPI targets for the year were met. The first quarter results for 2007/8 indicates that the performance improvement trend has continued and service targets for Major and Minor applications have been exceeded.

3.2 Ambitious stretch targets have been set for 2007/8 in the 'Other Applications' category so as to achieve high quartile performance. Whilst significant performance improvements have already been made in the first quarter when compared to 2006/7 performance, the service has yet to exceed 92% performance which would achieve the high quartile performance. Weekly monitoring and management of applications will help the service to achieve further performance improvement and a Performance Improvement Plan is now in preparation to ensure that the improvement trend continues.

| BV 109 | BVPI Target | 2006/7 Outturn | 1 st Quarter | Service Target |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Major Applications | 60% (in 13 weeks) | 63.9% | 75% | 69% |
| Minor Applications | 65% (in 8 weeks) | 68.7% | 75% | 74% |
| Other Applications | 80% (in 8 weeks) | 80.8% | 89.8% | 92% |

3.2 All milestones for the production of the new Easington Development Framework have so far been met to date although preparation of the next stage in plan production – the 'Preferred Option' document may fall behind schedule, partially due to staffing problems and also because to the need to divert staff onto more pressing service priorities including the delivery of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment which will underpin plan production across the County.

4.0 Planning Delivery Grant

4.1 Achievement of all of the BV 109 targets described above has helped to increase the amount of Planning Delivery Grant received. £230,189 of grant has been achieved this year compared to £132,318 for the previous year. The increased income will be used to fund improved staffing levels (described below), software upgrades and

policy studies to support the development of the Easington Development Framework. year.

5.0 Staffing and Structures

5.1 In July, the Council agreed to use the Planning Delivery Grant accumulated to date to address a number of staffing and structural issues in the Service Unit. Appointments have since been made to reduce the number of planning application per case officer to the level recommended by the government and also to fill vacant posts in the Planning Policy team to provide the resources necessary to deliver the Easington Development Framework. Both services are now fully staffed. A new Engineering Manager has also been appointed but is yet to commence work.

5.2 The Land Charges function was transferred to the Planning and Building Control Unit as part of the changes agreed by Council in July and further work is now underway to implement changes to the Technical Support and Enforcement functions.

6.0 Implications

6.1 Policy Implications

It is not considered that there are any implications resulting from this report.

Legal Implications

It is not considered that there are any implications resulting from this report.

Financial Implications

The report notes the increased amount of Planning Delivery Grant achieved for 2007/8.

Risk Implications

A risk assessment has been carried out and all the necessary actions required to manage the identified risks either have been carried out or will be implemented.

Communications

Development Control staff meet on a regular basis and performance improvement is a key element of the agenda.

7.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities

BVPI performance issues have been highlighted in the current plan.

Equality and Diversity

It is not considered that there are any implications resulting from this report.

E-Government & Procurement

Planning Delivery Grant will be used to ensure that enhanced service levels relating to e-government can be maintained.

8.0 Recommendations

7.1 That members note the content of the report.

Background Papers

- 1 Previous quarterly report
- 2 Best Value Performance Plan
- 3 Service Plan
- 4 Corporate Plan