

Publication of Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Third Quarter 2017/18 Statistical Bulletin	23 rd May 2018
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 Quarter 2017/18 Statistical Bulletin was published on 22nd March 2018 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

[Website link 1](#) provides the link to the published bulletin and Appendix 1 provides an overview against the three statutory targets.

Development Management Planning Applications

2.1 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 1: Planning Applications – Q3 of 2017/18

2017/18	Major		Local		Total		Live	
Q3	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	6	0	327	260	333	260	849	105 (12.4%)
Rank	3 rd	11 th	5 th	6 th	5 th	6 th	2 nd	4 th (%)
Average Processing Times	N/Awks (target 30wks)		20.8wks (target 15wks)					
Rank			11 th					
Approval Rate	N/A		92.3%		92.3%		Rank 9 th	

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2017/18 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

2.2 As is clear from Table 1 above, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council received the fifth highest number of applications out of the 11 Councils during Quarter 3, and has the second highest number of live applications. This is also reflective of the length of time taken to process local applications being slowest out of all Councils in Q3.

2.3 Table 2 below shows the year to date position at the end of Quarter 3 of 2017/18.

Table 2: Planning Applications - Year to Date End of Q3 2017/18

2017/18	Major		Local		Total		Live	
YtD	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	14	5	983	761	997	766	849	105 (12.4%)
Rank	3 rd	10 th	5 th	6 th	5 th	6 th	2 nd	4 th (%)
Average Processing Times	67.4wks (target 30wks)		19.8wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	8 th		10 th					
Approval Rate	80.0%		94.9%		94.8%		Rank 5 th	

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2017/18 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

2.4 The Planning Department continues to maintain its position in the top half of the performance table in terms of applications received and decided. Of note is that even though we have the second highest number of live applications, the percentage of these over 12months in the system is the 4th highest out of the 11 Councils.

2.5 Although the time taken to progress applications exceeds the statutory target, this is mostly due to ongoing negotiations to resolve issues to achieve a satisfactory proposal that meets planning policies. This is reflected in the percentage of planning applications approved, the 5th highest at 94.8% year to date.

Enforcement

2.6 Table 3 below shows statistics in relation to enforcement in Q3. **Of note is that of the cases closed in Q3, 30.2% were as a result of no breach of planning control being identified.**

Table 3 Enforcement – Q3

2017/18	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
Q3			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	60	105	72.4%	335	1	0
Rank	7 th	3 rd	10 th	4 th	2 nd	-

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2017/18 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

2.7 Finally Table 4 shows the enforcement statistics year to date, with Causeway Coast and Glens succeeding in having the 2nd highest number of prosecutions out of the 11 Councils. Although we have the 5th highest number of cases opened year to date we are still meeting the target conclusion time of 70% within 39 weeks.

Table 6: Enforcement - Year to Date

2017/18	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
YtD			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	244	256	71.1%	335	9	2
Rank	5 th	4 th	8 th	4 th	2 nd	3 rd

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: 2017/18 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin

Conclusion

2.8 In conclusion, performance within the Planning Department is steady although live applications continue to increase. However, focus over the next business year will be on reducing the processing times for planning applications now that the additional staff are now in post.

3.0 **Recommendation**

3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the update on the Northern Ireland Planning Statistics 2017/18 Third Quarterly Statistical Bulletin.