

Title of Report:	Development Management Monthly Statistical Report.
Committee Report Submitted To:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 June 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council has agreed policies and procedures and decision making is consistent with them
Lead Officer	Head of Planning

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The “Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee’ sets out the requirement to provide monthly updates on the number of planning applications received and decided
- 1.2 The Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework sets out the reporting arrangements to the Department of Infrastructure. DfI’s Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) publishes the official statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. The Framework includes the three statutory planning indicators in addition to new non-statutory indicators.
- 1.3 This Monthly Statistical Report provides Members with unvalidated statistics in relation to how Council’s Planning Department and Committee are performing against the Framework indicators.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 A list of planning applications received and decided by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for April 2021 is available on the Council’s website at the link below:

<https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/planning/schedule-of-applications>

Please note that Pre-Application Discussions; Certificates of Lawful Development – Proposed or Existing; Discharge of Conditions and Non-Material Changes, have been excluded from the reports to correspond with official validated statistics published by DfI.

- 2.2 *Indicator 1: average processing time taken to determine major applications*
Statutory Target – major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 30 weeks

Table 1 below details the number of Major planning applications received and decided, as well as the average processing times. Please note that these figures are unvalidated statistics. No major applications were received in April. 1 Major application issued in April and was processed within the business plan target of 50 weeks.

Table 1 Indicator 1: Processing Major applications

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)				
2021/22	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 30 weeks
April	0	1	38.4	0%
TOTAL	0	1	38.4 weeks	0%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics.

- 2.3 *Indicator 2: average processing time taken to determine local applications*
Statutory Target – local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 15 weeks

Table 2 below details the number of Local planning applications received and decided as well as the average processing times. Please note these figures are unvalidated statistics.

Table 2 Indicator 2: Processing Local Applications

Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				
2021/22	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 15 weeks
April	115	108	18.9	38%
Total	115	108	18.9 Weeks	38%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics; Excludes: Pre-Application Discussions; Proposal of Application Notices; Certificate of Lawful Development Proposed or Existing; Discharge of Conditions; Non-Material Change.

The number of local applications received continues to remain high, at 4th highest number received in a month since November 2017. Although the average processing time is above the statutory target of 15 weeks, processing times for local applications continue to improve with a large volume of applications being determined. The average processing time for local applications is within the target of 19 weeks set out in the Planning Departments Business Plan.

2.4 *Indicator 3: proportion of enforcement cases progressed to the target conclusion within 39 weeks*

Standard – 70% of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint

Table 3 below details the number of Enforcement cases opened and concluded as well as the percentage of cases concluded within the statutory target of 39 weeks. Please note these figures are unvalidated statistics. Of note is that the number of enforcement cases opened is the 2nd highest since April 2018.

Table 3 Indicator 3: Processing Enforcement Cases

Enforcement Cases Concluded (target of 39 weeks)				
2021/22	Number opened	Number brought to conclusion	70% conclusion time (weeks)	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	36	16	25.8	87.5%
Total	36	16	25.8 weeks	87.5%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

The statutory target for concluding 70% of enforcement cases within 39 weeks has been met by our Enforcement team with 87.5% of cases YTD concluded within the statutory target.

2.5 *Indicator 4: percentage of applications determined under delegated powers*

Table 4 below details the total number of Local applications determined under delegated powers. Determined is taken as the date the decision issued and excludes withdrawn applications. DfI Development Management Practice Note 15 Councils Schemes of Delegation recommends that councils should aim to have 90-

95% of applications dealt with under the scheme of delegation. To date 96.26% of applications determined were delegated under the scheme of delegation.

Table 4 Percentage of Local applications determined under delegated powers

Applications Determined				
2021/22	Total Determined	Delegated Determined	Planning Committee Determined	% Delegated Determined
April	107	103	4	96.26%
Total	107	103	4	96.26%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

2.6 *Indicator 5: number of applications taken to Planning Committee and percentage of Committee decisions made against officer recommendation*

Table 5 provides details on the number of decisions that were determined by the Planning Committee at each monthly meeting and the percentage of decisions made against officer recommendation, including Major, Council and Local applications. This is taken from the date of the Planning Committee meeting. To note is that all referred local applications had the officers' recommendation overturned at Planning Committee which is a 100% overturn rate for referred applications and a 62.5% overturn rate in total.

Table 5 Percentage of decisions at Planning Committee against Officer Recommendation

2021/22	Total Planning Committee Determined	Officer Recommendation Overturned	Requested Referred to PC Determined	Total no of Referrals overturned by PC
April	8	5	2	2
Total	8	5	2	2

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

2.7 *Indicator 6: percentage of appeals against refusals of planning permission that are dismissed*

Table 6 below details the number of appeal decisions issued YTD of 2020/21 business year. Please note that these figures relating to planning appeal decisions only are unvalidated statistics extracted from internal management reports.

Table 6 Appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC)

Appeal Decisions	April 21/22	Total To Date
Upheld	0	0
Dismissed	0	0
Cumulative Total Appeal Decisions	0	0

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

No Planning Appeals decisions have issued by the PAC YTD.

2.8 Indicator 7: Number of claims for costs received by the PAC and number of claims awarded

Table 7 provides the details of the number of application for claims for costs made by either third parties or Council to the PAC and the number of claims where the PAC have awarded costs. Costs were partly awarded in this case due to the retrospective planning application relating to the enforcement notice being capable of being issued prior to the appeal hearing and therefore the requirement for the hearing would not have been necessary.

Table 7 Total number of costs received

2021/22	Claims for Costs by third parties	Cost awarded against Council	Claim for Costs by Council	Costs awarded to the Council
April	0	1 Partly Awarded	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

2.9 Table 8 details the number of contentious applications which have been circulated to all Members and the number of applications subsequently referred to the Planning Committee for determination.

Table 8 Total number of referrals requested

2020/21	No of contentious applications	No of contentious applications referred	% Referred
April	1	0	0%
Total	1	0	0%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Planning Committee note the update on the development management statistics.