



Title of Report:	Development Management Monthly Statistical Report.
Committee Report Submitted To:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	24 June 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Information

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

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 new 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 [Website link 1](#) and [Website Link](#) provide a list of planning applications received and decided respectively by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in the month of March 2020. 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. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of major applications received has decreased by 6, however, the number of major applications decided has increased by 8.

Table 1 Indicator 1: Processing Major applications

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)				
2019/20	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 30 weeks
April	0	5	78.8	20%
May	2	0	0.0	0.0%
June	0	3	70.2	33.3%
July	2	1	134.6	0%
August	4	0	0.0	0%
September	0	2	74.1	0%
October	2	4	69.2	25%
November	1	2	66.0	0%
December	1	0	0	0%
January	0	0	0	0%
February	0	2	74.7	0%

March	0	1	36.8	0%
TOTAL	12	20	74.5 weeks	15%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics.

Unfortunately, the postponement of the March Planning Committee meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic, impacted on the number of decisions that issued in March as a further 1 major application had the potential to issue subject to determination at that meeting.

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. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of applications received has decreased by 91 applications and the number of decisions issued/withdrawn has decreased by 57 applications.

Table 2 Indicator 2: Processing Local applications

Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				
2019/20	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 15 weeks
April	107	104	19.3	37.5%
May	102	121	21.8	40.5%
June	104	79	21.6	35.4%
July	86	97	19.8	40.2%
August	87	100	19.4	43.0%
September	77	117	17.4	42.7%
October	99	101	20	39.6%
November	95	119	19.2	42.9%
December	95	87	21.8	40.2%
January	76	86	16.3	50.0%
February	98	91	17.6	44.0%
March	64	76	28.8	31.6%
Total	1090	1178	20 weeks	40.8%

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

Although we did not meet the statutory target of 15 weeks for processing local applications, processing times has improved by 1.6 weeks when compared to the same period last year and with 4% more local applications being processed within the statutory target when compared to same period last year. Furthermore, the number of applications decided/withdrawn is greater than the number of applications received resulting in a reduction in the number of live applications in the system.

Unfortunately, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in March impacted on the processing times for that month with staff unable to issue decisions from 24 March 2020. As a result the average processing times for March was much higher than would have been anticipated, impacting not only on the monthly but also the yearly average processing times.

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. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of cases opened has increased by 54 and the number of cases brought to conclusion has decreased by 15.

Table 3 Indicator 3: Processing Enforcement Cases

Enforcement Cases Concluded (target of 39 weeks)				
2019/20	Number opened	Number brought to conclusion	70% conclusion time (weeks)	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	22	37	21.4	100%
May	31	19	35.4	89.5%
June	50	44	13.8	86.4%
July	34	24	22.8	75%
August	26	24	29.6	79.2%
September	28	15	36.3	73.3%
October	29	27	30.2	92.6%
November	19	28	21.1	85.7%
December	26	24	35.1	83.3%
January	33	26	31.7	88.5%
February	36	30	30.9	90.0%
March	13	17	19.0	100%
Total	347	315	28 weeks	87.6%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

The statutory target for concluding 70% of enforcement cases within 39 weeks continues to be exceeded by our Enforcement team with 87.6% of cases YTD concluded within the statutory target. An improvement of 7.3% when compared to the same period last year. Furthermore, the length of time taken to conclude 70% of cases has reduced by 5.9 weeks taking just 28 weeks to conclude.

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 92.99% of applications determined were delegated under the scheme of delegation.

Table 4 Percentage of Local applications determined under delegated powers

Applications Determined				
2019/20	Total Determined	Delegated Determined	Planning Committee Determined	% Delegated Determined
April	104	90	14	86.54
May (no meeting)	121	119	2	98.35
June	78	72	6	92.31
July (no meeting)	94	90	4	95.74
August	83	82	1	98.8
September	116	100	16	86.21
October	101	94	7	93.07
November	113	103	10	91.15%
December	81	74	7	91.36
January	81	74	7	91.36%
February	85	83	2	97.65
March	70	67	3	95.71%
Total	1127	1048	79	92.99%

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 applications which have been overturned are on applications referred to Committee by Elected Members.

Table 5 Percentage of decisions at Planning Committee against Officer Recommendation

	Total Planning Committee Determined	Officer Recommendation Overturned	Requested Referred to PC Determined	Total no of Referrals overturned by PC
April	16	3	7	3
May	No meeting	-	-	-
June	11	1	1	1
July	No meeting	-	-	-
August	13	3	3	3

Sept	6	0	1	0
Oct	10	2	4	2
November	12	1	5	1
December	5	0	2	0
January	9	1	4	1
February	7	1	2	1
March	No meeting	-	-	-
Total	89	12 (13.48%)	29	12 (41.38%)

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 since 1 April 2019. Please note that these figures relating to planning application decisions only are unvalidated statistics extracted from internal management reports.

Table 6 Appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC)

Appeal Decisions	Q1 19/20	Q2 19/20	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Total To Date
Upheld	2 and 2 partial	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	7 plus 2 partial
Dismissed	1 and 2 partial	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	8 plus 2 partial
Cumulative Total Appeal Decisions	5	7	0	1	0	1	2	1	17

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

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. The award of costs claim by Council in January relates to an enforcement case.

Table 7 Total number of costs received

2019/20	Claims for Costs by third parties	Cost awarded against Council	Claim for Costs by Council	Costs awarded to the Council
April	1	0	1	0
May	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	2
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0

Sept	0	0	0	0
October	0	0	0	0
November	2	0	2	0
December	0	0	0	0
January	0	0	1	0
February	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0
Total	3	0	5	2

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

- 2.9** Table 8 details the number of contentious applications which have been circulated to all Members in the months April – March and the number which have referred to the Planning Committee for determination. To date 47.37% of contentious applications have been referred to Planning Committee for determination.

Table 8 Total number of referrals requested

2019/20	No of contentious applications	No of contentious applications referred	% Referred
April	7	6	85.7
May	13	8	61.5
June	19	10	52.6
July	11	7	63.6
August	7	1	14.3
September	9	5	55.56
October	14	6	42.85
November	7	6	85.71
December	4	4	100
January	11	3	27.27
February	19	4	21.05
March	12	3	25
Total	133	63	47.37%

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.