

<b>Publication of Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2017/18 Statistical Bulletin</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> January 2018</b>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets
<b>Outcome</b>	Pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Head of Planning
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	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 Second Quarter 2017/18 Statistical Bulletin was published on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 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

2.1 [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

2.2 Table 1 below provides a summary of performance in relation to the statutory target for major development applications and local development applications for Q2 and provides a comparison of performance against all 11 Councils.

**Table 1: Planning Applications - Q2 of 2017/18**

2017/18	Major		Local		Total		Live	
Q2	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
<b>Planning Applications</b>	6	2	317	247	323	249	797	91 (11.4%)
<b>Rank</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> (%)
<b>Average Processing Times</b>	120.8wks (target 30wks)		18.8wks (target 15wks)					
<b>Rank</b>	8 <sup>th</sup>		9 <sup>th</sup>					
<b>Approval Rate</b>	100%		96.8%		96.8%		Rank 3 <sup>rd</sup>	

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

- 2.3** As is clear from Table 1 above, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council received the highest number of major development applications out of the 11 Councils during Quarter 2, and received the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of local development applications.
- 2.4** Performance against statutory targets remains an area for improvement and progress has been made in relation to the time to process local applications, improving from 21weeks in Q1 to 18.8weeks in Q2. With the ongoing recruitment of additional staff it is anticipated that this should show improvements in performance against statutory targets in Q3 and more noticeably in Q4 when staff will have been recruited and in post.
- 2.5** Table 2 below shows the year to date position at the end of Quarter 2 of 2017/18.

**Table 2: Planning Applications - Year to Date End of Q2 2017/18**

<b>2017/18</b>	<b>Major</b>		<b>Local</b>		<b>Total</b>		<b>Live</b>	
<b>YtD</b>	<b>Rec'd</b>	<b>Dec'd</b>	<b>Rec'd</b>	<b>Dec'd</b>	<b>Rec'd</b>	<b>Dec'd</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Over 12mths</b>
<b>Planning Applications</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>91 (11.4%)</b>
<b>Rank</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> (%)</b>
<b>Average Processing Times</b>	<b>68.0wks (target 30wks)</b>		<b>20.0wks (target 15wks)</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>					
<b>Approval Rate</b>	<b>80.0%</b>		<b>96.2%</b>		<b>96.0%</b>		<b>Rank 5<sup>th</sup></b>	

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

- 2.6** The Planning Department continues to maintain its position in the top half of the performance table in terms of applications received and live applications. Progress is also being made in relation to meeting the statutory performance target but the knock-on effect of the high volume of applications received since the beginning of this business year has had an impact on the issuing of decisions. However, as we work to reduce the number of applications in the system over 12months, this will inevitably have an impact on performance against targets especially in the major category where there are such small numbers of applications.
- 2.7** 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 increase in the number of planning applications approved, raising to 96% year to date.

Enforcement

- 2.8** Table 3 below shows statistics in relation to enforcement in Q2. The high number of enforcement cases opened continued from Q1 into Q2. Of note is that of the cases

closed in Q2, 30.2% were as a result of no breach of planning control being identified.

**Table 3 Enforcement - Q2**

2017/18	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
Q2			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	103	71	63.4%	374	5	2
Rank	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>

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

- 2.9 Finally Table 4 shows the enforcement statistics year to date, with Causeway Coast and Glens succeeding in having the 2nd highest number of prosecutions and convictions out of the 11 Councils. Unfortunately we have just missed the target conclusion time of 70% within 39 weeks but the aim will be to achieve this target by end of this business year.

**Table 6: Enforcement - Year to Date**

2017/18	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
YtD			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	184	150	69.3%	374	7	2
Rank	5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

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

Conclusion

- 2.10 In conclusion, performance within the Planning Department is steadily improving against statutory performance targets although live applications continue to increase. However, with the ongoing recruitment of additional staff, this improvement should be visible in Q4 performance statistics.

**3.0 Recommendation**

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

**Table 1: Planning Applications - Q1**

2017/18	Major		Local		Total		Live	
Q1	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	2	3	341	253	343	256	750	78 (10.4%)
Rank	8 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> (%)
Average Processing Times	68.0wks (target 30wks)		21.0wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	6 <sup>th</sup>		10 <sup>th</sup>					
Approval Rate	66.7%		95.7%		95.3%		Rank 7 <sup>th</sup>	

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

**Table 2: Planning Applications - Q2**

2017/18	Major		Local		Total		Live	
Q2	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	6	2	317	247	323	249	797	91 (11.4%)
Rank	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> (%)
Average Processing Times	120.8wks (target 30wks)		18.8wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	8 <sup>th</sup>		9 <sup>th</sup>					
Approval Rate	100%		96.8%		96.8%		Rank 3 <sup>rd</sup>	

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

**Table 3: Planning Applications - Year to Date**

2017/18	Major		Local		Total		Live	
YtD	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Rec'd	Dec'd	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	8	5	658	500	666	505	797	91 (11.4%)
Rank	1 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> (%)
Average Processing Times	68.0wks (target 30wks)		20.0wks (target 15wks)					
Rank	9 <sup>th</sup>		10 <sup>th</sup>					
Approval Rate	80.0%		96.2%		96.0%		Rank 5 <sup>th</sup>	

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

**Table 4: Enforcement - Q1**

2017/18	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
Q1			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	81	79	74.7%	334	2	0
Rank	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-

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

**Table 5: Enforcement - Q2**

2017/18	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
Q2			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	103	71	63.4%	374	5	2
Rank	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>

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

**Table 6: Enforcement - Year to Date**

2017/18	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Live	Court Action	
YtD			70% within 39wks		Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	184	150	69.3%	374	7	2
Rank	5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

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