



Update on Development Management & Enforcement Statistics: • Period 01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019	23 October 2019
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	Denise Dickson
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

FOR NOTING

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 which came into effect on 1st April 2019. DfI’s Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) will continue to publish the official statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. The first Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework 2018/19 Annual Statistical Bulletin was released on 19 September 2019. The Framework includes the three statutory planning indicators in addition to new non-statutory indicators.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 Website link 1 <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-planning-monitoring-framework-201819> provides a link to the full statistical bulletin.
- 2.2 The Statistical Bulletin provides details on performance across the three statutory targets along with a suite of additional indicators that are intended to provide a more comprehensive assessment of planning activity. 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.

Table 1 below details the performance against each Indicator and how this compares to all 11 Council’s performance.

Table 1 Performance

Indicator	Description	2018/19	Rank out of 11 Councils
Indicator 1	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine major applications	49.6 weeks (NI average 59wks)	6 th fastest
Indicator 1.1	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine major applications (excluding withdrawn applications)	46.6 weeks (NI average 57.9wks)	6 th fastest
Indicator 2	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine local applications	21.6 weeks (NI average 14.8wks)	11 th fastest
Indicator 2.1	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine local applications (excluding withdrawn applications)	20.8 weeks (NI average 14.6wks)	11 th fastest
Indicator 3	Proportion of enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks	80.1% (NI average 81%)	6 th highest
Indicator 4	Percentage of applications determined under delegated	93.2% (NI average 91.5%)	5 th highest
Indicator 5	Number of applications decided by Planning Committee Percentage of Committee decisions made against officer recommendation	93 (NI Total 1084) 30.1% (NI average 11.9%)	6 th highest 2 nd highest
Indicator 6	Number of appeals against refusals of planning permission that are dismissed	Not reported on	
Indicator 7	Number of claims for costs received by the Planning Appeals Commission Number of claims awarded	Not reported on	

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework 2018/19 Annual Statistical Bulletin.

Although we did not meet the statutory target for processing major applications, of note is that two applications were progressed within the 30 week target and one application just missed meeting the target at 37.2 weeks. The average processing time (median application that determines the average processing time) was between the next two applications at 70.2 weeks and 78.8 weeks resulting in the average processing time of 74.5 weeks. The two applications that took the longest time to process were for large scale housing developments which resulted in numerous

amendments to achieve a quality residential environment. One application required 9 consultations with Dfl Roads and the other 8 consultations with DFI Roads, 8 with Rivers Agency on flooding and drainage issues and 7 consultations with NIEA to remedy issues relating to protected species. Nevertheless, this is a vast improvement in processing times when compared to the same period last year when the average processing time was 282.5 weeks slower.

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3.0 Recommendation

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