

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

13th April 2010

**Monthly progress report on
performance against NI157 targets for
determining planning applications**

| OPEN | |
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| APPENDICES: | None |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with a monthly progress report on performance against national indicators (NI 157, formerly BV 109).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the report be noted**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At Full Council in May 2006 it was agreed as part of the Recovery Plan that a report on the performance against best value performance indicators (BVPI 109, now NI 157) be reported to the Planning (Development Control) Committee on a monthly basis. The first of the series of monthly reports was reported to the Planning (Development Control) Committee on 13th June 2006.

- 3.2 The national targets for determining planning applications are as follows:

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|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| NI 157 a (Major applications) | - | 60% within 13 weeks. |
| NI 157 b (Minor applications) | - | 65% within 8 weeks. |
| NI 157 c (other applications) | - | 80% within 8 weeks. |

3.3 In addition to these national targets there are Local targets set out within the Business Plan for 2008/09. These are as follows:

- Major applications - 65% within 13 weeks.
- Minor applications - 80% within 8 weeks.
- Other applications - 90% within 8 weeks.

4. PERFORMANCE

4.1 The trajectories showing annual performance to the period ending 31st December 2009 were attached to the monthly progress report at the February 2010 Committee meeting.

Major applications

4.2 The following table shows the quarterly performance figures for major applications for the period from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2009 (performance figures predating 1st January 2008 have been reported to previous Planning Committee meetings, and are available on request). It also shows the performance at the time of compiling the report within the 4th Quarter of 2009/10 although the relevant period does not end until 31st March 2010 and as such these figures will be subject to further change.

4.3 As previously advised, due to the continued low number of new major applications that have been received over recent months, performance in this area has suffered due to the number of older, more complex, major applications which have reached final determination and which have already gone beyond 13 weeks. Whilst every effort will continue to be made to manage these applications effectively, it is feared that performance will be likely to be affected in future quarters.

| Quarter | No. determined | No. determined within 13 weeks | % determined within 13 weeks |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 January – 31 March 2008 | 7 | 6 | 85.71% |
| 1 April – 30 June 2008 | 14 | 11 | 78.57% |
| 1 July – 30 September 2008 | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| 1 October – 31 December 2008 | 5 | 4 | 80% |
| 1 January – 31 March 2009 | 4 | 4 | 100% |
| 1 April – 30 June 2009 | 3 | 2 | 66.67% |

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| 1 July – 30 September 2009 | 5 | 2 | 40% |
| 1 October – 31 December 2009 | 9 | 8 | 88.89% |
| 1 January – 31 March 2010 (figures taken 23 March 2010) | 4 | 2 | 50% |

Minor applications

- 4.4 The following table shows the quarterly performance figures for minor applications for the period from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2009 (performance figures predating 1st January 2008 have been reported to previous Planning Committee meetings, and are available on request). It also shows the performance at the time of compiling the report within the 4th Quarter of 2009/10 although the relevant period does not end until 31st March 2010 and, as such, these figures will be subject to further change. Performance within this category has consistently met the national targets, but after exceeding the local target during the 1st Quarter of 2009/10 it slipped back below the local target during the 2nd Quarter. This trend continued into the 3rd Quarter, and upon close inspection, the actual number of minor applications being received has tended to tail off over recent quarters, which in turn has increased the challenge of meeting the performance targets.

| Quarter | No. determined | No. determined within 8 weeks | % determined within 8 weeks |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 January – 31 March 2008 | 68 | 60 | 88.24% |
| 1 April – 30 June 2008 | 69 | 52 | 75.36% |
| 1 July – 30 September 2008 | 57 | 43 | 75.44% (as corrected) |
| 1 October – 31 December 2008 | 55 | 42 | 76.36% |
| 1 January – 31 March 2009 | 41 | 31 | 75.61% |
| 1 April – 30 June 2009 | 56 | 47 | 83.93% |
| 1 July – 30 September 2009 | 40 | 31 | 77.50% |
| 1 October – 31 December 2009 | 50 | 37 | 74% |

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| 1 January – 31 March 2010 (figures taken 23 March 2010) | 32 | 23 | 71.88% |
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Other applications

- 4.5 The following table shows the quarterly performance figures for other applications for the period from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2009 (performance figures predating 1st January 2008 have been reported to previous Planning Committee meetings, and are available on request). It also shows the performance at the time of compiling the report within the 4th Quarter of 2009/10 although the relevant period does not end until 31st March 2010 and, as such, these figures will be subject to further change.

| Quarter | No. determined | No. determined within 8 weeks | % determined within 8 weeks |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 January – 31 March 2008 | 172 | 142 | 82.56% |
| 1 April – 30 June 2008 | 185 | 170 | 91.89% |
| 1 July – 30 September 2008 | 162 | 144 | 88.89% |
| 1 October – 31 December 2008 | 113 | 100 | 88.5% |
| 1 January – 31 March 2009 | 99 | 89 | 89.9% |
| 1 April – 30 June 2009 | 129 | 114 | 88.37% |
| 1 July – 30 September 2009 | 135 | 115 | 85.19% |
| 1 October – 31 December 2009 | 94 | 80 | 85.11% |
| 1 January – 31 March 2010 (figures taken 23 March 2010) | 77 | 67 | 87.01% |

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal or policy implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are risk management issues if performance continues to fail to meet the national targets.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Members are advised of continued concerns in respect of the performance against major applications targets, due to the low number of new major applications being received which would offset the older, more complex, major applications which are nearing determination. Similarly, performance against minor applications has suffered, and every effort is being made, insofar as is possible, to manage new applications effectively to ensure that performance in this area shows an improvement during future quarters.
- 8.2 The Council has no control over the number and timing of applications being submitted for determination, but undoubtedly the current economic downturn is having an impact upon the number of new applications, in all categories, which have been received over recent months.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Report on Recovery Plan (Full Council) – May 2006
- Monthly progress reports – Planning (DC) Committee (June 2006 – May 2009)
- DCLG : Planning Performance Statistics – Planning (DC) Committee (August 2006 – May 2009)
- Monthly progress reports – Planning Committee (June 2009 – March 2010)
- DCLG : Planning Performance Statistics – Planning Committee (August 2009 – November 2009)