

APPENDIX 1

Development Management Statistics

Table 1: Speed of Decision Making on Planning Applications 2011 to 2013 *

* Measured against the Government's targets to determine:

60% of major applications within 13 weeks, or 16 weeks if Environmental Assessment is required

65% of minor applications within 8 weeks

80% of other applications within 8 weeks

Year	2011				2012				2013			
Quarter	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Major Applications (% decided within target time)	43	88	57	62	43	67	55	50	50	43	56	71
Minor Applications (% decided within target time)	65	70	69	77	64	58	64	56	58	73	66	63
Other Applications (% decided within target time)	62	68	69	66	76	66	60	45	50	67	71	72

Commentary:

Over the three year period the Government's targets have only been met on individual occasions and not often. The target for Other applications has not been reached at all. In any quarter an improvement in one category of application has often been accompanied by a decline in another.

Table 2: Planning Application Caseload 2011 to 2013

Application Type	2011		2012		2013	
	Received	Decisions	Received	Decisions	Received	Decisions
Major Development	39	28	41	32	55	48
Minor Development	267	238	231	219	277	209
Other Development	759	697	687	591	659	588
Total	1065	963	959	842	991	845

Commentary:

Total number of applications received and decisions made reduced by around 100 in 2012 but showed signs of upturn in 2013. The decline has occurred in the Other Development category, which relates to the smallest scale developments such as householder, shopfronts, signs and listed building consent. Most significantly, there has been a large increase in the number major applications which are the most complex and time-consuming to deal with. They can only be dealt with by Principal and experienced Senior Planning Officers.

Table 3: Development Management Staff Resources (Effective FTE)*

Year	2011	2012	2013 (and current)
Principal Level	3.4	2.4	2.8
Senior Level	2.6	2.75	2.6
Planning Officer	1.4	1.4	0.8
Total	7.8	6.55	6.2

* The Table does not include officers who are on maternity leave as they are not available to process applications

Commentary:

There has been a decrease in the number of available staff over the three year period. This is essentially a result of not replacing, or fully replacing, staff who have resigned, retired or gone on maternity leave, due to the pressure on the Council at the time to reduce its budget for the service.

