

APPENDIX Q

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 29 JUNE 2010

Title:

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PERFORMANCE TARGETS

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Adam Taylor-Smith
[Wards Affected:All**

Summary and purpose:

To obtain the Executive's view on Performance Targets for determining planning applications.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Planning decisions are key to protecting Waverley's unique environment and delivering subsidised affordable housing and improved leisure facilities.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are none directly associated with this report.

Climate Change Implications:

There are no climate change implications arising specifically from this report

Resource/Value for Money implications:

Focus on performance targets is integral to delivering value for money to the customers and ensuring efficient management of the development control function.

Legal Implications:

There are none arising from this report.

Background

1. An ambition of Waverley's Corporate Plan 2008-2011 is to be among the 25% best performing councils in England for the quality of its planning service. This is reflected in the targets for determination of planning applications¹, which sought to meet this target by 2010/2011 as follows:

¹ Major applications determined within 13 weeks and minor / others within 8 weeks

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	Target 2008/2009	Actual 2008/2009	Target 2009/2010	Actual 2009/2010	Target 2010/2011 ⁱ	Alt Target 2010/2011	National Target
Majors	60%	46.67%	70%	79.17%	82%	88.89%	60%
Minors	65%	41.69%	75%	79.82%	85%	86.46%	65%
Others	80%	70.97%	90%	95.01%	95%	93.46%	80%

2. The target for 2010/2011 (column 5) was based on 25% top quartile performance in 2007/2008. Top Quartile performance nationally has subsequently increased (based on performance for quarter 4 2008/09) and is set out in Column 6.
3. The table shows that performance has improved with targets exceeded on 2009/2010. This was due to the measures set in the Development Control Improvement Plan endorsed by the Executive in December 2008. This included a number of actions to increase customer satisfaction with a much-improved culture of joint working with Councillors.
4. A review of the Council's targets for deciding planning applications is now considered appropriate. Any new target should support the following:
 - meet customer desire for the efficient handling of applications. Speed of decision is a key part of customer satisfaction with the service particularly for smaller applications and proposals by local businesses.
 - Ensure the continued delivery of high quality development that meets the Council's priorities for protecting the environment while delivering more affordable houses and enhancing leisure provision
 - Provide some flexibility to allow for those exceptional circumstances where there is advantage to applications being undetermined for a longer period particularly where the scheme is important to deliver corporate objectives.
5. Following discussion with the Portfolio Holder it is recommended that the targets for 2010/2011 be revised as follows:

Majors - 75%.

Minors – 80%

Others - 90%

The above targets will still require effective management of planning applications, with a continued focus on pre application advice. They are still higher than the Government's targets. However they are considered to provide a better fit with the priorities for the service set out above.

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to agree the revised targets for determining planning applications set out above.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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ⁱ Previous Corporate Plan top quartile figures