

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO AND DECISION OF PLANNING COMMITTEE XXX ON 2 FEBRUARY 2021

**SUBJECT:** Performance in Planning

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Neil Crowther

**DATE:** January 2022

**EXTN:** 01903 737839

**AREA:** Place

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report outlines the performance in Planning against the Corporate Targets.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

For noting.

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

1.1 The report to Policy & Finance Committee on 9 December 2021 outlined the performance of the Planning Department against the Corporate Targets for Q2. Planning has the following Service Delivery Indicators

- SDP1 - Major applications determined in 13 weeks – target 805
- SDP2 - Minor applications determined in 8 weeks – target 90%
- SDP3 - Other applications determined in 8 weeks – target 90%

1.2 The following text is extracted from that reported to Policy & Finance Committee.

1.3 **SDP1 – Performance 92%** - The Council uses ‘extensions of time’ agreements with applicants to ensure that decisions are made within agreed time limits. In reporting performance, government guidance allows for these agreements to be used so that decisions are issued within time. When taking the use of these agreements into consideration the Council's performance was 22 out of 24 or 92%. When not taking these agreements into consideration and just providing raw data on timescales, the Council's performance on these applications was 13 out of 24 or 54% determined in 13 weeks. The Group Head of Planning carried out a full performance management review exercise in mid 2020 and has a target of getting much closer to the 80% target without using EoT's.

1.4 **SDP2 – Performance 78%** - The Council uses ‘extensions of time’ agreements with applicants to ensure that decisions are made within agreed time limits. In reporting

performance, government guidance allows for these agreements to be used so that decisions are issued within time. When taking the use of these agreements into consideration the Council's performance was 89 out of 114 or 78%. When not taking these agreements into consideration and just providing raw data on timescales, the Council's performance on these applications was 56 out of 114 or 49% determined in 8 weeks. This performance is below the target set. There have been some staff absences in Q2 that affected performance but it is clear that too many decisions were made without securing EoT's. The Group Head of Planning carried out a full performance management review exercise in mid 2020 and the aim is to get much closer to 90% without using EoT's.

1.5 **SDP3 – Performance 90%** - The Council uses 'extensions of time' agreements with applicants to ensure that decisions are made within agreed time limits. In reporting performance, government guidance allows for these agreements to be used so that decisions are issued within time. When taking the use of these agreements into consideration the Council's performance was 453 out of 504 or 90%. When not taking these agreements into consideration and just providing raw data on timescales, the Council's performance on these applications was 386 out of 504 or 77% determined in 8 weeks. This performance meets the target set. We have been very good with dealing with the smaller applications and performance is always good on this indicator. We have some very good junior Planning Officers who perform very well.

1.6 Performance will again be reported to Planning Committee at the end of Q4 with the full year performance.

**2. PROPOSAL(S):**

n/a

**3. OPTIONS:**

n/a

**4. CONSULTATION:**

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		X
Relevant District Ward Councillors		X
Other groups/persons (please specify)		

5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal		X
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		X
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		X
Sustainability		X

Asset Management/Property/Land		X
Technology		X
Other (please explain)		X

**6. IMPLICATIONS:**  
none

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**  
n/a

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**  
Policy & Finance Agenda Papers 9 December 2021.