

Planning Policy Quarter 4 20/21 Performance Report

Planning Policy Committee Thursday, 24 June 2021

Report of: Executive Leadership Team

Purpose: For information

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

Executive summary:

- The appendices to this report contain data on the Committee's key performance indicators and risks for Quarter 4 2020/21, to enable the Committee to monitor how the Council is delivering the services for which it is responsible.
 - The report includes the Council's new scoring risk matrix, and Appendix B has been revised to transfer the more operational risks to a new internal Officer register.
 - The last year has been very challenging for both sides of the Planning Directorate, Development Management (DM) and Strategy (Planning Policy). This is namely due to capacity and resourcing, the impacts of which are reflected in the performance charts and risk register. However, work to address these issues is ongoing.
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This report supports the Council's priority of: Building a better Council

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Recommendation to Committee:

That the Quarter 4 2020/21 performance and risks for the Planning Policy Committee be noted.

Reason for recommendation:

To support the Committee to monitor and manage its performance and risks.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Since April 2020 performance and risk reports have been presented to each policy committee at the end of each quarter. The reports include a covering report and an appendix with individual performance charts and commentary for each performance indicator, and the committee's risk register.
- 1.2. A Quarter 3 report could not be produced due to capacity constraints and an unexpected absence at a senior level, hence this report is the first and latest since Quarter 2 2020/21.

2. Notes on performance and risk data

- 2.1. See Appendix A and Appendix B for the Planning Policy Quarter 4 (2020/21) performance data and risk register respectively.
- 2.2. Wherever possible the most recent data has been included in the appendices, regardless of whether it technically falls into the reported quarter. However, due to the committee report timelines, there may be occasions where data is not available in time for the committee report. In these cases, the data will be provided in the next scheduled report.
- 2.3. As part of the Council's risk management improvement work a new scoring matrix is in operation, see below. In addition, risks that are mostly operational in nature have been removed from the committee risk register, leaving those that are of more strategic interest to the members of this committee.

Likelihood	Very Likely	4	4	8	12	16
	Likely	3	3	6	9	12
	Possible	2	2	4	6	8
	Unlikely	1	1	2	3	4
			1	2	3	4
			Low	Medium	High	Very High
			Impact			

3. Quarter 4 headlines

3.1. Performance

- 3.1.1. The planning (development management) team has faced significant resourcing issues over the past year, whilst also experiencing changes at the senior management level and IT support systems. Consequently, performance has dropped over several performance indicators. A Planning Advisory Service (PAS) peer-review has been conducted which will offer valuable insights into how to take the service forward, and other options to support resourcing in Planning are also being considered.
- 3.1.2. In addition, processes for extracting performance indicator data are still in development. Earlier in the 2020/21 year, the Chief Planning Officer began a review into the Council's performance data extraction and reporting processes, as we migrated to a new software system. This work is ongoing and is being progressed by the Head of Planning, IT and a Case Services team, which aims to increase data reliability and explore potential efficiency savings related to our statutory government reporting. For example, indicator PL1 – processing of Major applications, requires review as the reporting system does not effectively align with the statutory timeframe for determination. Subsequently the data reported in Appendix A may be subject to change.
- 3.1.3. The Planning (Strategy) team also face resourcing issues which will need to be fully evaluated once the Council has determined how it wishes to progress with its Local Plan, following correspondence from the Planning Inspector received in December 2021 (ID16). Work is ongoing to inform the Council's decision and a review of the risk and performance relating to the Plan will need to be revised to reflect the implications of the chose way forward. In the interim, the team's capacity is fully occupied by other statutory functions such as neighbourhood planning, as well as infrastructure matters.

3.2. Risk

- 3.2.1. The risk register has been reviewed and the risks that are more operational in nature have been removed and will be monitored by Officers internally. However, this does not preclude these risks from being escalated back to the committee register in the future, or new risks being added. There are now nine risks with a red rating, many of which relate to the capacity issues identified above and in the appendices. Work to address these issues is ongoing and will be assisted by the recommendations from the PAS report, when the final version is issued.
- 3.2.2. See Appendix B for the risk register.

4. Key implications

4.1. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

- 4.1.1. Costings for projects are individually costed as projects come forward and monitored throughout the life of the project. It is possible that the impact of Covid-19 will add additional costs to projects and delay the speed of implementation.
- 4.1.2. The key risks, their likelihood, impact and mitigation are identified in the Risk appendix.

4.2. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

- 4.2.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report, but the report does provide Members with an overview of the achievement of targets in the past quarter and highlights risk management considerations where appropriate.

4.3. Other corporate implications

- 4.3.1. Not applicable.

4.4. Equality

- 4.4.1. This report contains no proposals that would disadvantage any particular minority groups.

4.5. Climate change

- 4.5.1. This report contains no proposals that would impact on the Council's commitment to climate change.

5. Appendices

- 5.1. Appendix 'A' – Performance Charts
- 5.2. Appendix 'B' – Planning Policy Risk Register

6. Background papers

- 6.1. None.

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