

# Planning Policy Quarter 1 21/22 Performance Report

## Planning Policy Committee Thursday, 23 September 2021

Report of: Chief Executive

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Purpose: For information

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Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

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### Executive summary:

- The appendices to this report contain data on the Committee's key performance indicators and risks for Quarter 1 2021/22, to enable the Committee to monitor how the Council is delivering the services for which it is responsible.
- Improvements to performance data collection remain ongoing. Given this, the performance charts have been removed as they do not represent comparable data. Therefore text updates have been provided in Appendix A.
- There are several red risks in the committee risk register, which on one hand reflect the current picture regarding the strategic elements of planning policy (e.g. Local Plan), and on the other, the drivers for the Council's improvement works that are being scoped for Development Management.

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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 1 2021/22 performance and risks for the Planning Policy Committee be noted.

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### Reason for recommendation:

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

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## 1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Performance and risk reports are 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. As mentioned in the last performance report, processes for extracting performance indicator data are still in development, as we migrate to a new software system. This work is ongoing and will now be captured within the project to improve the development management service, following a PAS review. Subsequently the data reported in Appendix A may be subject to change.
- 1.3. At the last meeting of this committee,<sup>1</sup> the Council outlined its plans to improve its development management service, following the PAS review, which includes performance and risk management within its scope.

## 2. Notes on performance and risk data

- 2.1. See Appendix A and Appendix B for the Quarter 1 (2021/22) performance information 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. The Council uses the following risk management scoring matrix:

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

<sup>1</sup> Meeting details available online:

<https://tandridge.moderngov.co.uk/ie/ListDocuments.aspx?CId=148&MId=1079&Ver=4> [Last accessed 03/09/21].

### **3. Quarter headlines**

#### **3.1. Performance**

3.1.1. As part of the Planning improvement works, and system reporting updates, performance data in graph form has not been available for this Quarter. The data collection methods are being reviewed at present, current information and that provided in the future will likely use different methods to those used for previous reports. Therefore the data provided for this quarter in graph form would not be comparable with that presented in the past reports. Hence as these works are still ongoing at present, text updates have been provided in Appendix A.

3.1.2. See Appendix A for more details.

#### **3.2. Risk**

3.2.1. There are 11 risks in the register with a red rating:

- Lack of five year housing land supply, including gypsy and traveller land.
- Local plan is found unsound by the Inspector.
- Lack of capacity in Planning Department negatively impacts performance and delivery of service, such as determining applications in statutory timeframes and managing complaints and FOIs
- Failure to determine a Planning application within the statutory period.
- Significant increase in number of Complaints and FOIs in Planning.
- Challenges regarding capacity of M25 J6 and the need to agree and deliver a medium-long term mitigation scheme.
- Consultations by Gatwick Airport Limited in relation to its application for Development Consent Order for second (northern) runway.
- Local Plan needs further evidence, topic papers or main modifications prior to considering it sound, dependent on how Council chooses to progress the plan following receipt of Inspector's letter.
- Lack of capacity in Strategy team delays progress in planning policy workstreams.
- Budget constraints in defending Public Inquiry appeals
- Inability to explore and exploit potential efficiency gains of new IT systems due to lack of capacity.

- 3.2.2. Several of the risks above relate to the Council's Local Plan, which remains in examination. The Plan has been further delayed due to ongoing complexities of M25 J6 and the transport modelling. As councillors will be aware, the modelling is necessary to enable the Council to respond to the Inspector and his concerns regarding the capacity of the junction.
- 3.2.3. The Council recently contacted the Inspector to advise him of the delays and to offer a without prejudice alternative approach to progressing Plan, for the benefit of the examination and the status of the Plan. We await his response. Members of the Planning Policy Committee are being kept up to date.
- 3.2.4. See Appendix B for further details.

## **4. Key implications**

### **4.1. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer**

There are no direct finance implications arising from this report. However, there are 11 risks with a red rating which represents significant risk to the Council and could lead to additional resources and cost implications if they come to pass. These risks will need to be monitored closely ensuring they are mitigated to the largest extent possible.

The impact of any additional cost pressures will be shown in the monthly budget monitoring reports. It is still possible that the impact of Covid-19 will add additional costs to projects and delay the speed of implementation.

The key risks, their likelihood, impact and mitigation are identified in the Risk Register at Appendix B with each risk allocated to a risk owner.

### **4.2. Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The monitoring process enables the Committee to remain aware of issues and risks. There is no statutory duty to report regularly on the Council's performance. However, under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 (as amended) a best value authority has a statutory duty to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Regular reports on Council performance help to demonstrate best value and compliance with the statutory duty.

Local planning authorities' performance is assessed on the speed and quality of their decisions on major and non-major applications. Where an authority is designated as underperforming, applicants have had the option of submitting their applications for major and non-major development (and connected applications) directly to the Planning Inspectorate (which acts on behalf of the Secretary of State) for determination. Failure to meet the specified Government targets could lead to the Council being so designated.

### **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

5.2. Appendix 'B' - Risk Register

## **6. Background papers**

6.1. None.

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