

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION
CABINET BOARD**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING – N. PEARCE AND
THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION – S. BRENNAN**

31ST JULY 2015

SECTION C – MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY REGENERATION PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS FOR QUARTER 4 OF 2014/15**

Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the actual performance achieved for the fourth quarter of the current financial year i.e. 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Appendices

Quarterly Performance Management Data 2014-2015 – Quarter 4 Performance (1st April 2014– 31st March 2015) – APPENDIX 1

List of Background Papers:

The Neath Port Talbot Corporate Plan - 2014/2017 “Rising to the Challenge”;

Policy & Resources Committee report date 30th July 2010 – Securing continuous improvement and scrutiny work programme.

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Quarterly Performance Management Data 2014-2015 – Quarter 4 Performance (1st April 2014– 31st March 2015)

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Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and performance key

Section 1: Key points and summary of performance.

In relation to the performance results available at the end of the 4th quarter 2014-2015:-

60% of indicators improved or achieved maximum performance compared to 71% for last year (see table below). The main reason for the change is mainly due to two of the economic development indicators having seeing a planned drop in output (although they exceeded their Corporate Improvement Plan targets for the year). Whilst planning overall had mixed performance for 2014/15, they had 3 more measures improving compared to last year.

It should be noted that as there are only 20 comparable indicators (17 last year), a drop in performance across a small number of indicators can have a significant effect on overall performance.

Service Area	Improved or Maximum Performance	Maintained Performance	Marginally declined - within 5%	Performance declined by 5% or more	No Comparable data	Number of Performance Indicators
1. Planning & Regulatory Services – Planning	4 (1)	0 (0)	1(3)	3(1)	1(4)	9
2. Planning & Regulatory Services – Building Control	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (0)	(0)	(0)	2
3. Economic Development	1 (3)	0 (0)	(0)	2 (0)	(0)	3
4. Asset Management	6 (6)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	7
Total Number of Performance Indicators	12 (12)	0 (0)	3 (4)	5 (1)	1 (4)	21
Overall performance Percentage (of comparable measures)	60% (71%)	0% (0%)	15% (23%)	25% (6%)		

NB - Quarter 4, 2013-2014 position in brackets.

* - Achieving either 100% or 0% (where lower performance figure is better) performance, where there is no scope for improvement for the relevant performance indicator.

Economic Development

All three measures exceeded their targets as set in the Corporate Improvement Plan for 2014/15.

A growing confidence in the local business community, resulting in an increase in number of enquiries that the Business Development team handled throughout 2014/15 compared to the previous year. The availability of Enhanced Local Needs Support has also had a positive impact on the number of business enquiries in addition to the Business Development team continuing to be fully engaged with businesses leading to the requirement to deal with enquiries covering a wide range of issues and topics.

In terms of the number of jobs created and the number of new business start-up enquiries, during the year we saw a planned lower output compared to the previous year. An explanation for a drop in output for both these measures is found under indicators 13 and 14.

Planning

Planning has seen mixed performance during the period. Improvements include determining all major and other planning applications during the year within 8 weeks and reducing the average time taken for making a decision on applications. Some of the indicators saw a drop in performance which includes minor planning and householder planning applications determined within 8 weeks.

Although not a measure in itself, overall the performance of the team in determining planning applications within the statutory 8 weeks has fallen this year from 78.5% to 76.8%, which is indicative both of the complexity of applications and appeals the team has had to deal with, and the recent pressures on staff resources. Nevertheless, despite these challenging times, officers remain committed to the delivery of a quality planning service, and will continue to ensure that Officers encourage and engage in 'front-loaded' negotiations, through the successful chargeable pre-application service. This was introduced in 2014 and is effective in reducing delays for developers later in the process.

Building Control

100% of building control 'full plan' applications were checked within 15 working days .This has been achieved at the same time that there has been a reduction in the number of experienced staff employed within the Building Control Section as a result of contributions to the Councils Forward Financial Plan. The number of full plan applications approved first time dropped marginally but continues with a high performance level of 96.6%.

Corporate Health & Asset Management

Six of seven buildings categories have improved since last year. There has been slight improvement in condition of buildings that are good and satisfactory. The percentage of buildings in category C (Poor), and the percentage of urgent and essential works has continued to drop, resulting from the further reduction of poor / bad category buildings owned or leased by NPT.

Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and Performance key

2014-2015 – Quarter 4 Performance (1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015)

Note: The following references are included in the table. Explanations for these are as follows:

(NSI) National Strategic Indicators (NSIs) - are used to measure the performance of local authorities at a national level and focus on key strategic priorities. Local authorities are under a legal duty to collect & report on these measures.

(PAM) Public Accountability Measures - consist of a small set of “outcome focussed” indicators, selected initially from within the existing Performance Measurement Framework. They will reflect those aspects of local authority work which local authorities agree are considered to be important in terms of public accountability. For example, recycling, educational attainment, sustainable development, etc. This information is required and reported nationally, validated, and published annually.

(SID) Service Improvement Data - can be used by local authority services and their regulators as they plan, deliver and improve services.

All Wales The data shown in this column is the figure calculated using the base data supplied by all authorities for 2013/2014 i.e. an overall performance indicator value for Wales.

(L) Local Performance Indicator set by the Council.

	Performance Key
😊	Maximum Performance
↑	Performance has improved
↔	Performance has been maintained
v	Performance is within 5% of previous years performance
↓	Performance has declined by 5% or more on previous year's performance - Where performance has declined by 5% or more for the period in comparison to the previous year, an explanation is provided directly below the relevant performance indicator.
—	No comparable data (data not suitable for comparison / no data available for comparison)
■	No All Wales data available for comparison.

No	PI Reference	PI Description	2012/13 Actual	All Wales 2013/14	Quarter 4 2013/14 (Full Year)	Quarter 4 2014/15 (Full Year)	Direction of Improvement
1. Planning and Regulatory Services – Planning							
1	PLA/002 (SID)	The percentage of applications for development determined during the year that were approved.	96.6%		95.5%	96.4%	↑
2	PLA/004d (SID)	The percentage of all other planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	83.5%	70.3%	73.9%	79%	↑
3	PLA/M002 (Local)	Average time taken from receipt of application to date decision is issued - days	N/a New		87.6 days	82.7 days	↑
4	PLA/M004 (Local)	The percentage of major planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	N/a New		23.1%	30.4%	↑
5	PLA/M001 (Local)	Average time taken from receipt of application to validation of application -days	N/a New		30.1 days	30.6 days	▼
6	PLA/004b (SID)	The percentage of minor planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	75.5%	63.3%	71.3%	63.5%	↓
	Performance has dropped from 71.3% to 63.5%, which remains a consequence of the complexity of the type of application determined and pressures on staff resources, but continues to be partly balanced by the increase in performance for “all other” planning applications – PLA/004 (d) – which increased from 73.9% to 79%.						

1. Planning and Regulatory Services – Planning - continued

No	PI Reference	PI Description	2012/13 Actual	All Wales 2013/14	Quarter 4 (Full Year) 2013/14	Quarter 4 (Full Year) 2014/15	Direction of Improvement
7	PLA/004c (SID)	The percentage of householder planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	98.0%	86.3%	94%	87.4%	↓
	<p>Performance remains high at close to 88% but falls short of the high standards set in recent years (94% overall during 2013-14). Two relatively poor quarters (Quarter 1 and Quarter 4) have affected these cumulative figures, and it is acknowledged that there is a need to 'go back to basics' and focus more on performance measurement.</p> <p>Although not a measure in itself, overall the performance of the team in determining planning applications within the statutory 8 weeks has fallen this year from 78.5% to 76.8%, which is indicative both of the complexity of applications and appeals the team has had to deal with, and the recent pressures on staff resources. Nevertheless, despite these challenging times, officers remain committed to the delivery of a quality planning service, and will continue to ensure that Officers encourage and engage in 'front-loaded' negotiations, through the successful chargeable pre-application service. This was introduced in 2014 and is effective in reducing delays for developers later in the process.</p>						
8	PLA/006(b) (NSI)	The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all additional housing units provided during the year.	27%	37% *. See note	69%	42%	↓
	<p>This Authority fully utilises its Social Housing Grant programme and has taken advantage of other innovative funding opportunities to deliver affordable housing and where the opportunity has arisen secured affordable housing through the Planning System.</p> <p>The variation in data between 2014-15 and 2013-14 for this indicator is affected by external market forces which can dictate our ability to secure affordable housing through the planning system, availability of grant funding and variations of onsite productivity (schemes can take many months/years from initiation to development to completion and it could be that in one year we have schemes on site and the next year we have schemes completed). These factors are outside the control of the local authority.</p> <p>Information for this indicator is pre-populated with data from the Affordable Housing data collection return (to the Welsh Government) for the year ending 31 March 2014 representing total affordable housing units provided in the local authority area; pre-populated with data from the Newbuild data collection return (to the Welsh Government) for the year ending 31 March 2014 representing the total number of properties newly completed in the local authority area, including those inspected by both the local authority building control department and also the National House Building Council (NHBC).</p>						

* note – National Strategic Indicator (NSI) 2013/14 –NPT position 5th of 22 Authorities across Wales.

1. Planning and Regulatory Services – Planning - continued

No	PI Reference	PI Description	2012/13 Actual	All Wales 2013/14	Quarter 4 (Full Year) 2013/14	Quarter 4 (Full Year) 2014/15	Direction of Improvement
9	PLA/M003 (Local)	Percentage of applications where the quality of the development has been improved (following negotiation by the case officer either at pre-application stage or during the course of the application).	N/a		36%	29.3%	—
	<p>The percentage figure has dropped in comparison with the same quarter last year. This figure is largely dependent on the nature of applications that are received during any quarter and, as a consequence, is subject to minor fluctuations throughout the year. The cumulative figure was 29% of applications requiring the intervention of Officers to improve proposals to make them more acceptable. This reduction in the overall number of applications requiring improvement can be attributed to the fact that the Department received a greater number of applications which were acceptable upon submission, and as such did not require negotiation.</p> <p>This measure will be deleted from the planning data set reported to scrutiny for 2015-2016. Whilst it is important as an indicator for the Planning Section to understand, as a comparative year on year indicator it is not appropriate.</p>						

2. Planning and Regulatory Services – Building Control

10	BCT/004 (SID)	Percentage of Building Control 'full plan' applications checked within 15 working days during the year.	96.1%	93.6%	98.1%	100%	😊
11	BCT/007 (SID)	The percentage of 'full plan' applications approved first time.	97%	97%	99%	96.6%	v

No	PI Reference	PI Description	2012/13 Actual	All Wales 2013/14	Quarter 4 2013/14 (Full Year)	Quarter 4 2014/15 (Full Year)	Direction of Improvement
3. Economic Development							
12	L(ED) 3 (Local)	Number of business enquiries resulting in advice, information or financial support being given to existing companies through Business Services.	651		682	686	↑
13	L(ED) 1 (Local)	Number of jobs created as a result of financial support by the Local Authority.	137		255	187	↓
	It was anticipated that there would be lower output for 2014/15 which was reflected in the Corporate Improvement Plan target for the year of 145 (which was exceeded). Whilst businesses would seek funding to make investments, there remained uncertainty about the economic recovery and how this would impact on job creation. Secondly, changes to European Regulations requiring the Loan Fund to be registered with the Financial Conduct Authority meant that this fund would not be available for at least part of the year. The Loan was not available for the first six months of 2014/15 and this had an impact on the outputs achieved for this indicator. In addition, during the year, the Business Team has also administered an additional fund, Enhanced Local Needs Support which has contributed to the number of jobs created.						
14	L(ED) 2 (Local)	Number of new business start-up enquiries assisted through Business Services	349		429	361	↓
	It was anticipated that there would be lower output for 2014/15 which was reflected in the Corporate Improvement Plan target for the year of 150 (which was exceeded). the Business Development team has had a great deal of success in setting up monthly Enterprise Clubs to fill a gap in the support market for individuals thinking about starting a business with Job Centre Plus being the key source of referrals. However, Job Centre Plus now invites business advisors from the Centre for Business to provide advice and this has resulted in a decrease in the number of enquiries for support. However, the changes to the welfare system have resulted in more individuals enquiring about self-employment so this should impact on outputs reported for this indicator in 2015/16.						

No	PI Reference	PI Description	2012/13 Actual	All Wales 2013/14	Quarter 4 2013/14 (Full Year)	Quarter 4 2014/15 (Full Year)	Direction of Improvement
4. Corporate Health – Asset Management							
15	CAM/001ai (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: A – Good	7.1%	16.4%	7.15%	7.21%	↑
16	CAM/001aii (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: B – Satisfactory	35.0%	57.3%	41.17%	43.33%	↑
17	CAM/001aiii (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: C – Poor	46.2%	22.8%	42.23%	39.79%	↑
18	CAM//001bi (SID)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 1 – Urgent work	19.4%	8.4%	15.16%	15.11%	↑
19	CAM/001bii (SID)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 2 – Essential work	59.9%	52.0%	60.61%	56.72%	↑
20	CAM/001biii (SID)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 3 – Desirable work	20.7%	39.5%	24.23%	28.17%	↑
21	CAM/001aiv (SID)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: D – Bad	11.7%	3.6%	9.45%	9.67%	v