



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND APRIL 2013

**SUBJECT: WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
QUARTERLY SURVEY (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012)**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on development control matters, as requested at the Performance Management meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 9th December 2010.
- 1.2 The report was presented to the Planning Committee on 13th March 2013.

2. THE REPORT

- 2.1 Welsh Assembly Government publishes reports on the development control performance of Local Planning Authorities. The data for Caerphilly compared to the Wales average is outlined below.
- 2.2 Percentage of planning applications determined within eight weeks of receipt:

Oct - Dec 2011 (CCBC/Wales)	Jan - Mar 2012 (CCBC/Wales)	Apr - Jun 2012 (CCBC/Wales)	Jul - Sep 2012 (CCBC/Wales)	Oct - Dec 2012 (CCBC/Wales)
73/71	71/70	71/73	72/69	72/71

The overall performance continues to be just above the national average with Caerphilly thirteenth out of 25 authorities in the quarter up to December 2012.

- 2.3 The number of applications received, and percentage of planning applications determined within eight weeks of receipt in relation to application type:

	Oct - Dec 2011 (CCBC/Wales)	Jan - Mar 2012 (CCBC/Wales)	Apr – Jun 2012 (CCBC/Wales)	Jul - Sep 2012 (CCBC/Wales)	Oct - Dec 2012 (CCBC/Wales)
No. of applications received	203	238	204	196	184
Minor %	61/64	45/60	55/65	55/60	61/60
H/holder %	91/82	90/82	89/83	85/80	90/84

The number of applications submitted in the last quarter followed the recent downward trend, which reflects the current state of the economy. The performance in terms of the percentage of minor applications determined within eight weeks fluctuated, but for householder applications it continued to be above the Welsh average.

2.4 Details are set out below of the performance of the enforcement team during the October to December quarter of last year, in dealing with unauthorised development. The performance indicators below attempt to mirror the development control process by imposing two main measures on the enforcement system: the percentage of cases where it is decided within eight weeks what type of action should be taken, and the percentage of cases that are resolved within twelve weeks. There has been a break in the frequency of these reports to Planning Committee and so the most recent figures are compared with the quarter last reported to Committee, being January to March of last year.

ENFORCEMENT TEAM - FOURTH QUARTER 01/10/2012 - 31/12/2012 () Denotes previous quarter figure	
ENFORCEMENT CASES	
Number of new cases opened	100 (124)
Number and percentage of cases where a course of action has been determined within 8 weeks	105 - 84% (83 - 86%)
Number and percentage of cases where a course of action has been determined, not within 8 weeks	21 - 16% (13 - 14%)
Number of cases closed	101 (88)
Number and percentage of cases resolved within 12 weeks	52 - 52% (42 - 47%)
Number and percentage of cases resolved, not within 12 weeks	49 - 48% (46 - 53%)
Number of cases open at the end of the quarter	466 (437)
NOTICES	
Number of Enforcement Notices issued / Breach of Condition Notices	8 (5)
Number of Section 215 Notices issued	1 (1)
Number of Planning Contravention Notices issued / Requisition for Information	14 / 16 (22 in total)
PLANNING APPLICATIONS	
Number of planning applications received as a result of investigation	17 (15)
Number of planning applications determined	10 (0)
Number of applications where conditions have been discharged	56 (14)
Number of pre-application enquiries	10 (4)
Number of permitted development enquiries	12 (9)
Number of expediency reports prepared	17 (18)
Enforcement / Planning Appeals	1/1 (2 in total)
Witness Statements / Prosecutions	6/1 (6/2)

2.5 The table includes numerical information that the Local Planning Authority cannot influence, such as the number of complaints received, and performance information such as the speed at which cases are resolved, which can be influenced.

3. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no specific equality implications arising as a result of this report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

6. CONSULTATIONS

6.1 None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That Members note the content of the report.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To inform Members of development control matters, as requested at the Performance Management meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 9th December 2010.

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Consultees: David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)