



Report to: Place and Economic Development Committee, 14th March 2022

Report of: Corporate Director- Planning and Governance

Subject: PROPOSED COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE SCORECARD FOR 2022/23

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Place and Economic Development Committee approve the proposed content of the Committee Performance Scorecard for 2022/23

2. Background

2.1 The City Council's Performance Scorecards provide a one-page overview of priority activities and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each committee. These are supported by more detailed reports providing brief narrative updates for projects and activities and a visual representation of PIs in the form of run graphs or charts as applicable. These are reported to Committees on a quarterly basis.

2.2 The content of the Performance Scorecards for the Place and Economic Development Committee has been reviewed by the senior officers and Members as part of the Council's service planning processes for 2022/23 to ensure that it remains relevant and continue to reflect 'what matters most' under the functions of the Committee.

2.3 The proposed content of the Place and Economic Development Committee Performance Scorecard for 2022/23 is attached as **Appendix 1** which includes details of 2021/22 scorecard content which will be removed.

2.4 The current key projects and activities and performance indicators (PIs) have been refreshed, taking account of the completion of current projects and the commencement of new activities. Proposed targets have been developed based on a principle of performance improvement where this is realistic.

3. Changes to note from previous year

3.1 Following changes in the management of the Planning Service, a renewed focus is being given to planning performance targets, particular in respect of development management (planning applications). This is an important area of scrutiny not only to monitor customer satisfaction but also because the Council's planning function can be subject to intervention by the Secretary of State should specified performance targets not be met.

3.2 The performance measures included on the scorecard will be underpinned by a detailed performance management framework that will be implemented by the relevant Service Manager to improve customer service and include an ongoing review of processes, project management of applications for major development and to ensure that extension of time agreements between applicants and the authority are only used when necessary.

- 3.3 In addition, the Council's Internal Audit Service will be undertaking an audit this year on the Planning Service, focussing on firstly, the customer experience, and secondly, the control measures in place to ensure performance targets are tracked, report and delivered against.
- 3.4 The targets set out in this coming year's scorecard mirror the national targets that the Council must track. These will be further explained at the Committee meeting, set out below is a summary of the key principles.
- 3.5 The Secretary of State has published key performance criteria in a document called "Improving Planning Performance - Criteria for Designation" (last updated 2020). If the Secretary of State considers that there are respects in which the Council is not adequately performing the function of determining planning applications, then they can take steps to intervene in the management of local planning applications, a process called "designation" or "special measures".
- 3.6 The performance of local planning authorities in determining major and non-major development is assessed separately, meaning that an authority could be designated/ put into special measures on the basis of its performance in determining applications for major development, applications for non-major development, or both. The assessment for each of these two categories of development is carried out against two separate measures of performance:
- The speed with which applications are dealt with measured by the proportion of applications that are dealt with within the statutory time or an agreed extended period; and
 - The quality of decisions made by local planning authorities measured by the proportion of decisions on applications that are subsequently overturned at appeal.
- 3.7 Therefore, the performance of local planning authorities is assessed separately against:
- The speed of determining applications for major development
 - The quality of decisions made by the authority on applications for major development;
 - The speed of determining applications for non-major development;
 - The quality of decisions made by the authority on applications for non-major development.
- 3.8 Speed of Decisions

The measure used is the percentage of decisions on applications made:

(a) within the statutory determination period; or

(b) within such extended period as has been agreed in writing between the applicant and the local planning authority.

The designation thresholds below which a local planning authority is eligible for designation are:

(a) For applications for major development: less than 60 per cent of an authority's decisions made within the statutory determination period or such extended period as has been agreed in writing with the applicant;

(b) For applications for non-major development: less than 70 per cent of an authority's decisions made within the statutory determination period or such extended period as has been agreed in writing with the applicant.

3.9 Quality of Decisions

The measure used is the percentage of the total number of decisions made by the authority on applications that are then subsequently overturned at appeal, once nine months have elapsed following the end of the assessment period. The nine months specified in the measure enables appeals to pass through the system and be decided for the majority of decisions on planning applications made during the assessment period.

Ward(s):	All
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Background Papers:	None