

BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	
Report to	Chair & Members of Planning Regulatory & General Licensing Committee
Report Subject	Quarterly Performance Information Quarter 4: January to March 2021
Report Author	Service Manager Development & Estates
Directorate	Regeneration and Community Services
Date of Meeting	January 6th 2022
Key Words	Performance Management Speed and quality of decision making Welsh Government Performance Monitoring

1.0 Background	
1.1	Every local planning authority in Wales is required to collect performance information regarding the speed and quality of decision making on all types of planning and related applications. This is submitted to Welsh Government on a quarterly basis.
1.2	This report considers the most recent data published by WG. The information relates to the final quarter of the last financial year i.e. <u>January to March 2021</u>
1.3	It was published on the Welsh Government website on 5 th October 2021.
2.0 Options for Consideration	
2.1	I have included 3 tables to illustrate current performance.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fig 1 - ranks the 25 LPA's in order of speed of determining all applications "on time". This is defined as within the 8-week target period or longer time that may be agreed with the applicant.2. Fig 2 – ranks the LPA's in Wales and in respect of the average time (in days) taken to determine all applications.3. Fig 3. – shows decisions taken by Planning Committee that are contrary to the recommendation of its officers.
3.0	Performance Information
3.1	<u>Fig 1</u> : this Council decided 91% of all applications in time. This compares to a Welsh average of 80%.
3.2	The trend over the previous 4 quarters is 93%, 89%, 87%. 90% and now 91%.
3.3	<u>Fig 2</u> : on average it takes 81 days from registration to decision for this Council to decide each planning application.
3.4	<u>Fig 3</u> : 25% of Planning Committee decisions were contrary to officer recommendation compared to an all Wales average of 7%.
4.0	Consideration
4.1	The data in this quarter is strongly influenced by covid and staffing issues. The returns therefore have to be viewed in that context. They are not necessarily representative of our normal service provision or indeed any other Local Planning Authority.
4.2	Officers will use the tables in this report and other background data to identify areas where service can be improved during the early part of 2022 as we now have a new structure in place in the Development Management team.
5.0	Recommendation
5.1	That the report be noted.

Fig. 1

Welsh Government Quarterly DM Survey: Q4 2020/2021
Percentage of Planning Applications Determined “On Time”
(Ranked in Order of Performance)

Welsh Local Planning Authority		Percentage of All Applications Determined On Time
		% Decided in Time
1	Merthyr Tydfil	100
2	Swansea	99
3	Neath Port Talbot	97
	Brecon Beacons NP	97
5	Caerphilly	95
6	Vale of Glamorgan	92
7	Blaenau Gwent	91
	Torfaen	91
9	Conwy	89
	Ceredigion	89
11	Monmouthshire	88
12	Powys	87
13	Pembs Coast NP	83
14	Rhondda Cynon Taff	82
	Denbighshire	82
16	Cardiff	81
17	Isle of Anglesey	78
18	Flintshire	77
19	Newport	70
20	Wrexham	65
21	Snowdonia NP	64
22	Pembrokeshire	61
	Bridgend	61
24	Carmarthenshire	47
25	Gwynedd	40
WALES AVERAGE		80%

Fig. 2

Welsh Government Quarterly DM Survey: Q4 2020/2021
Average Time to Decide Applications in Days
(Ranked in Order of Performance)

Welsh Local Planning Authority		Average No. of Days Taken to Decide An Application
1	Merthyr Tydfil	51
2	Rhondda Cynon Taff	65
3	Swansea	66
4	Conwy	71
5	Bridgend	72
6	Neath Port Talbot	78
7	Cardiff	80
8	Blaenau Gwent	81
9	Vale of Glamorgan	84
10	Denbighshire	86
11	Snowdonia NP	91
12	Caerphilly	93
	Isle of Anglesey	93
14	Gwynedd	94
15	Pembrokeshire	96
16	Brecon Beacons NP	99
17	Newport	101
	Pembs Coast NP	101
19	Ceredigion	102
20	Torfaen	111
21	Monmouthshire	114
22	Wrexham	120
23	Flintshire	129
24	Powys	134
25	Carmarthenshire	195
WALES AVERAGE		96 Days

Fig 3.

Welsh Government Quarterly DM Survey: Q4 2020/2021
Decisions Contrary to Officer Recommendation
(Ranked in Order of Performance)

Welsh Local Planning Authority		% Planning Committee Decisions Contrary to Officer Recommendation
1	Brecon Beacons NP	0
	Caerphilly	0
	Cardiff	0
	Flintshire	0
	Gwynedd	0
	Merthyr	0
	Monmouthshire	0
	Neath Port Talbot	0
	Pembs Coast NP	0
	Pembrokeshire	0
	Snowdonia NP	0
	Swansea	0
	Torfaen	0
	Rhondda Cynon Taff	4
	Newport	6
	Wrexham	6
	Carmarthenshire	8
18	Vale of Glamorgan	9
19	Powys	11
20	Bridgend	12
21	Conwy	14
22	Isle of Anglesey	25
	Blaenau Gwent	25
24	Ceredigion	33
25	Denbighshire	33
Wales Average		7%
