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<tr><td colspan="2">BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</td></tr>
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Report to	Chair & Members of Planning Committee
Report Subject	Quarterly Performance Information
Report Author	Service Manager Development & Estates
Directorate	Regeneration and Community Services
Date of Meeting	March 2024
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 Welsh Government publishes this data on its website. It is a useful source of comparative information where the Council can not only scrutinise its own performance, but benchmark the data against the 24 other Local Planning authorities (22 unitary authorities and 3 National Parks)

1.3 It is usual practise to present a report to Planning Committee to update Members on the most recent performance in the form of a league table. This report deals with Quarter 2 of 2023/24 i.e. July to September 2023.

2.0 Content of the Report

2.1 This report will examine three indictors:

2.2   i. Applications determined in time - This is defined as within the 8-week target period or longer time that may be agreed with the applicant/agent.

  ii. Time Taken – the average time (in days) taken to determine all applications.

  iii. Quality of decision making – decisions taken by Planning Committee that are contrary to the recommendation of its officers.

3.0 Performance Information

3.1 The latest data WG has published was on 15th December 2023 and covered Quarter 2, this being July to September 2023.

3.2 i. BG decided **97%** of applications "in time". This compared to an all-Wales average of 86%.

3.3 The trend for BGCBC over the preceding quarters was 95%, 90%, 97% and now 97% again. This is consistently above the all-Wales average in each quarter respectively which was typically in the low to mid 80 percentile range.

3.4 ii. On average, it took **105 days** to decide each application against an all-Wales average of 110 days.

3.5 In the preceding quarters to this one, the returns were 73, 84, 95 and now 105 days. In each of the quarters, this was well above the Wales average which fluctuated between 102 days at best and 123 days at worst.

3.6 iii. **0%** of applications in this quarter decided by Planning Committee were contrary to officer recommendation. The Wales average was 7%.

3.7 This compares to returns of 17%, 0%, 0% and 0% in the previous 4 quarters. With the exception of the 17% return, all of these were better than the all-Wales average.

4.0 Evaluation of Performance and Conclusions

4.1 Members should recognise that these performance figures represent a snapshot of performance for the given quarter and in this case are 6 months old. There was a delay in publishing the figures and the data could not be brought to Members attention until now. February 2024 Planning Committee received the data for the quarter before this one reported at the March 2024 meeting.

4.2 The performance tables confirm our performance is relatively stable in terms of trends over the past year and given capacity (particularly given the DNS workload) is satisfactory. Nevertheless, we continue to identify areas where we can improve.

4.3 The return for the average number of days to decide each application is showing a negative upward trend but the reason for this (due to a seconded planning officer) has previously been reported to Planning Committee.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 No decision is required.

5.2 Planning Committee is invited to scrutinise the performance returns and officers will address any issues or questions at the meeting.

Table 1

WG Quarterly DM Survey: Q1 23/24
July to September 2023
Percentage of Planning Applications Determined "On Time"
(Ranked in Order of Performance)

	Welsh Local Planning Authority	Percentage of All Applications Determined On Time
1	Caerphilly	98
	Pembrokeshire	98
3	**Blaenau Gwent**	**97**
4=	Neath Port Talbot	96
	Swansea	96
6	Vale of Glamorgan	95
7	Isle of Anglesey	94
8	Torfaen	92
9=	Brecon Beacons/Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	91
	Monmouthshire	91
11=	Denbighshire	88
	Newport	88
13	Carmarthenshire	87
14=	Gwynedd	85
	Powys	85
16	Ceredigion	84
17	Conwy	83
18=	Merthyr Tydfil	82
	Rhondda Cynon Taff	82
20	Wrexham	78
21	Cardiff	75
22	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	73
23	Bridgend	65
24	Snowdonia National Park Authority	50
25	Flintshire	--
WALES AVERAGE		**86 %**

Table 2

WG Quarterly DM Survey: Q1 23/24
July to September 2023
Average Time to Decide Applications in Days
(Ranked in Order of Performance)

	Welsh Local Planning Authority	Average No. of Days Taken to Decide Each Application
1	Merthyr Tydfil	65
2	Caerphilly	66
3	Rhondda Cynon Taff	74
4	Isle of Anglesey	81
5	Newport	83
6	Bridgend	84
7	Swansea	90
8	Pembrokeshire	91
9	Conwy	92
10	Cardiff	94
11	Gwynedd	96
12	Neath Port Talbot	98
13	Monmouthshire	100
14	Denbighshire	103
15	**Blaenau Gwent**	**105**
16	Vale of Glamorgan	106
17	Snowdonia National Park Authority	114
18	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	123
19	Carmarthenshire	141
20	Powys	154
21	Torfaen	158
22	Ceredigion	166
23	Brecon Beacons/Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	173
24	Wrexham	179
25	Flintshire	--
	WALES AVERAGE	**110 Days**

Table 3

WG Quarterly DM Survey: Q1 23/24
July to September 2023
Decisions Contrary to Officer Recommendation
(Ranked in Order of Performance)

	Welsh Local Planning Authority	% of Planning Committee Decisions Contrary to Officer Recommendation
1=	**Blaenau Gwent**	**0**
	Bridgend	0
	Brecon Beacons/Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	0
	Caerphilly	0
	Cardiff	0
	Denbighshire	0
	Gwynedd	0
	Merthyr Tydfil	0
	Monmouthshire	0
	Neath Port Talbot	0
	Newport	0
	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	0
	Powys	0
	Snowdonia National Park Authority	0
	Swansea	0
	Torfaen	0
	Vale of Glamorgan	0
	Wrexham	0
19	Isle of Anglesey	6
20	Carmarthenshire	7
21	Rhondda Cynon Taff	12
22	Pembrokeshire	15
23	Ceredigion	27
24	Conwy	33
25	Flintshire	--
	Wales Average	**7 %**

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