

# Carlisle City Council

Report to:-	Development Control Committee		
Date of Meeting:-	31st January 2003	Agenda Item No:-	
<b>Public</b>	<b>Operational</b>	<b>Delegated: Yes</b>	
<b>Accompanying Comments and Statements</b>			
	<b>Required</b>	<b>Included</b>	
Environmental Impact Statement:	No	No	
Corporate Management Team Comments:	No	No	
City Treasurers Comments:	No	No	
City Solicitor & Secretary Comments:	No	No	
Head of Personnel Services Comments:	No	No	
Title:-	Development Control Statistics: July-September 2002		
Report of:-	Head of Planning Services		
Report reference:-	P.04/03		

## Summary:-

The Report outlines the comparative performance of the City Council in determining planning applications during the third quarter of 2002.

## Recommendation:-

That the Report be received and noted.

**A Eales**

Head Of Planning Services

**Contact Officer:** Alan Taylor

**Ext:** 7171

**To the Chairman and Members of the P.04/03**

## **Development Control Committee**

### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 In keeping with recent trends the latest Statistical Release reveals that the number of applications for planning permission and other related consents continues to exceed the comparative period for the previous year. During the third quarter of 2002 district planning authorities in England and Wales received 160,000 applications, the largest number received since 1989 and 10% higher than in the corresponding period of 2001.

1.2 Similarly, the number of decisions made in the quarter (151,000) is the largest for this period since 1989 and is 7% higher than a year earlier. That overall increase in numbers of decisions is largely due to an increase in decisions relating to householder applications which account for over half of all decisions, although the number of applications relating to new dwellings also makes a significant contribution accounting for 10% of the total decisions.

1.3 The speed of decisions during the quarter is, despite the increase in overall number of decisions made, identical to the period from July-September 2001 with 65% of all decisions being made within 8 weeks of receipt of application. The quickest decisions were made by authorities within the South East (69% within 8 weeks) followed by the North West (68 within 8 weeks). The slowest performing region was Yorkshire and the Humber (59% within 8 weeks).

1.4 The City Council's performance for the quarter is disappointing with only 61% of the decisions taken during that period being made within 8 weeks of receipt. That is a fall of 4% compared to the previous quarter but is, more significantly, well below the comparable quarter of 2001 when 75% of decisions made were taken within 8 weeks. Carlisle was then the second best performing District in Cumbria, but in fact has now dropped to bottom place in the county. Paradoxically, however, the City Council had the third highest level of delegation of decisions in the quarter (83%) of all of the Cumbrian Authorities (only Eden with 95% and Allerdale with 94% have more delegation) so delays in determination are not attributable, in the main, to the Committee cycle.

## **To the Chairman and Members of the P.04/03**

### **Development Control Committee**

1.5 It is true that the City Council continues to deal with a significantly higher number of applications than most Cumbrian Districts, comparable only to South Lakeland in that respect. Similarly, the City Council operates a policy of negotiation with applicants rather than the "rejection and start again" approach which some planning authorities are known to employ to present their statistics in a more favourable light. Both of these are factors but, again, do not explain the down turn in performance since these have always affected our performance yet it has hitherto been good.

1.6 Officers have assessed the matter and some changes in the administration of the delegation arrangements have, in recent weeks, been introduced to reflect the new organisational structure that the City Council has adopted since

early December. It is hoped that this will result in a more streamlined approach to both the processing cycle itself and the monitoring/following up of outstanding applications where applicants or their agents are dilatory in responding to requests for more information/revised plans. Furthermore the statistics are for the period prior to the commencement of work of the two Development Control Officers appointed. Future statistics should show an improvement.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 That the Report be received and noted.

**A Eales**

Head Of Planning Services

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