

## Introduction

This report provides statistical information about the performance of CNPA Planning Service and summary highlights of activity on a quarterly basis. The report covers all parts of the Service including Development Planning, Development Management, Enforcement and Service Improvement. Areas where performance is improving are highlighted in green and where performance is either falling or below national standards highlighted in red. It is important to note that the average figures for Development Management statistics in any quarter or year are based relatively few planning cases so can be skewed by exceptional or legacy cases.

## Development Planning

<b>Table 1. Development Plan</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>Q1</b>
Development Plan Scheme on Track	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age of Plan (years):				
Cairngorms National Park Local Plan	2	3	4	
Perth & Kinross Eastern Area Local Plan	14	15	16	
Perth & Kinross Highland Area Local Plan	12	13	14	

## Summary Highlights

1. Development Plan Scheme (including the timetable for LDP and LDP2) remains on track and was reviewed and published on website during the quarter.
2. LDP Examination is progressing well. A Hearing was held on 3 June at Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore, considering the Reporters' outstanding questions on land supply issues. The Department for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) estimate that CNPA should have their report by the end of September 2014.

## Development Management

<b>Table 2. All developments</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>13/14</b>				<b>14/15</b>
	<b>Year</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>
Applications called in		71	15	17	21	18	9
Determined	49	54	14	15	11	14	22
Withdrawn		5	3	1	1	0	3
Pre-app advice supplied (%)							45%
Active cases at end of Quarter (No.)							

<b>Table 3. Major developments</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>13/14</b>				<b>14/15</b>
	<b>Year</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q1</b>
Approved	1	1				1	3
Refused		1	-				
Number under 4 months	1	1(50%)	-				1
Number over 4 months		1(50%)	-			1	2
Time from call-in to decision notice		131.5				251 <sup>1</sup>	244.1 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An Camas Mòr: Delayed due to ongoing legal challenge to Local Plan

Table 3. Major developments	12/13	13/14	13/14				14/15
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Number meeting nearest target Committee <sup>1</sup>	0	0	-			0	1
Average time for decision notice (days)	190	251	-			251	1446 <sup>2</sup>
Decision notices issued within 7 days (%)	0	0	-			0	0

Table 4. Local developments	12/13	13/14	13/14				14/15
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Approved (No. and %)	(94.1%)	48 (92%)	14 100%	14 100%	9 (83%)	11 (85%)	18 100%
Refused (No. and %)		4 (8%)	0	0	2 (18%)	2 (15%)	0
Average time from call-in to decision notice (weeks)	18.3	19.4	26.5	19.2	13	14.8	14.7
Number under 2 months (National Target 80%)	4 (9%)	8 (15%)	2	2	2	2	1
Average time under 2 months (weeks)	7.2		6.5	8.3	0	6.1	6.7
Number over 2 months	43 (91%)	42 (85%)	12	12	9	11	17
Average time over 2 months (weeks)	19.3		32.2	21.6	14.6	16.5	23.4
Proportion meeting 'first possible Committee' <sup>3</sup> (%)		44%	43%	29%	73%	38%	55%
Average time for decision notice (days)		82.8	172.3	60.2	23.1	64.5	13.9
Decision notices issued within 7 days (%)		35%	7%	27%	27%	79%	67%

Table 5. Legacy Cases <sup>4</sup>	13/14				14/15
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Live	17	14	13	11	7
Determined	4	3	1	2	4
Approved	4	3	1	2	4
Refused					
<b>Post Committee</b>					
Cases reviewed on 4 months				2	0
Review cases resolved and granted				1	
Review cases refused					

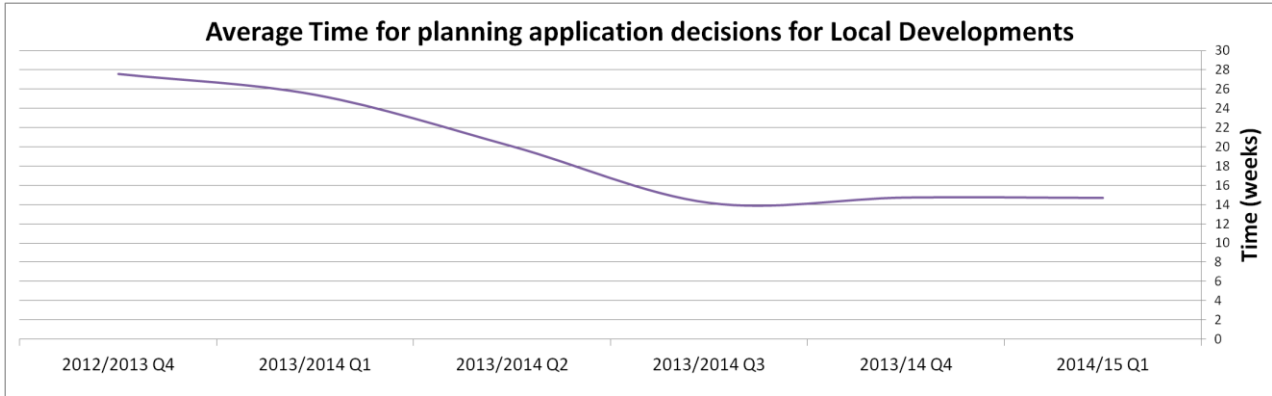
## Summary Highlights

1. Development management decision timescales continue to vary significantly quarter to quarter, but the timescales for the last three quarters were all less than the average for last year (2013/14).
2. During quarter 1 of 2014/15, we determined more applications than were called in. We called in more than we determined in each quarter of 2013/14.

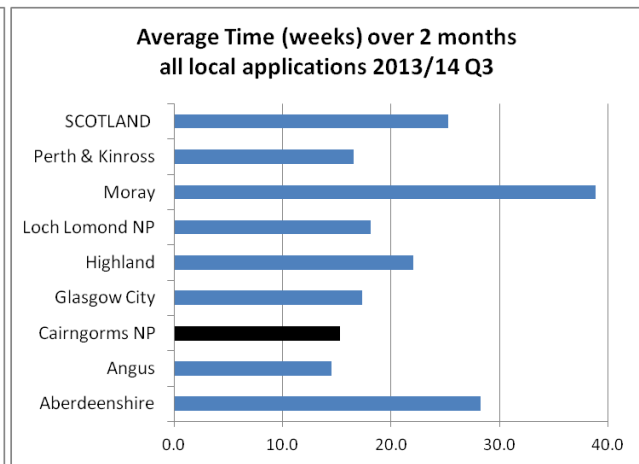
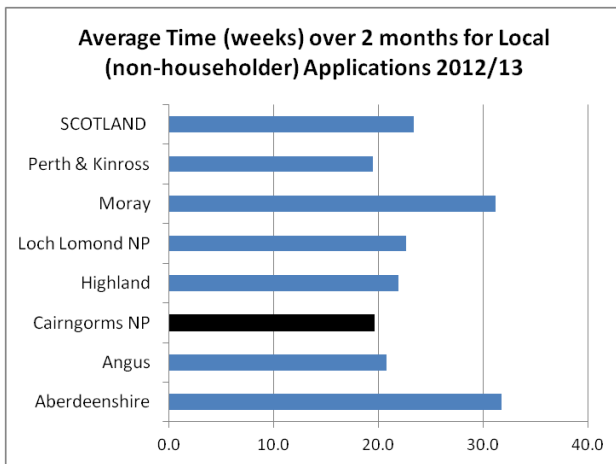
<sup>2</sup> Includes two legacy cases of 360 weeks each. The applications were called in 2007, determined 2008, and decision notices issued in 2014 following conclusion of S75 legal agreement.

<sup>3</sup> As the CNPA does not delegate planning decisions to planning officers, the proportion of applications meeting 'first possible Committee' is a good indicator of the fastest time that an application can be taken to planning committee for determination by the CNPA. Committee meetings happen once a month, planning applications can be submitted and registered on any working day.

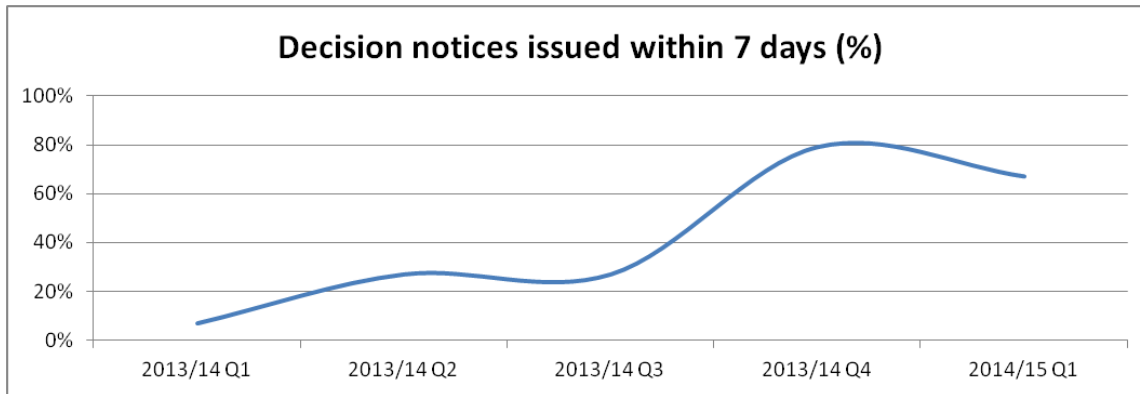
<sup>4</sup> For this report, our definition of a legacy case is one that has taken more than a year to determine.



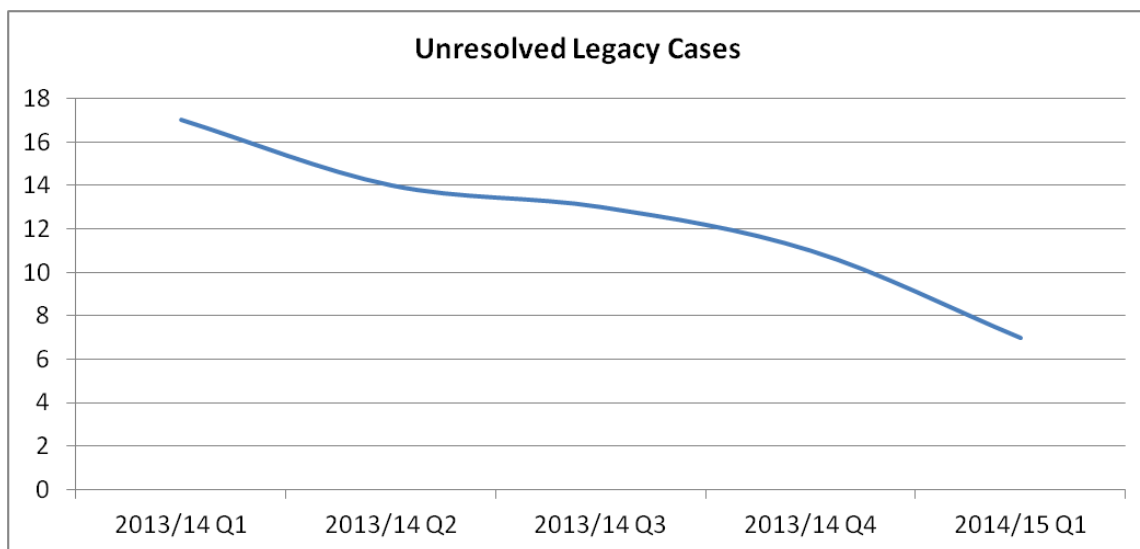
- The CNPA continues to struggle to determine and release decision notices for local applications within 2 months. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, the applications called in by the CNPA are the more complicated and significant, requiring more work to process in any planning authority. Second, Planning Committee dates, depending on when an application is called in, can add almost four weeks in the worst case scenario. Few applications can be determined in less than six weeks so, from a pragmatic point of view, staff are introducing a “first possible Committee” target as a way of measuring against the fastest potential time that applications can be determined by the CNPA.
- However, our timescales for determination of applications are consistent with applications determined by planning committee in other planning authorities. The Scottish Government have not yet published data for all planning authorities for 2013/14 but we can compare ourselves for the year 2012/13 and for Quarter 3 of 2013/14 in the graphs below.



- The other part of Development Management processing where improvements are reducing timescales for planning decisions is in the speed of issuing decision notices following planning committee. The planning service is now processing decision notices with seven days of the committee determination in the majority of cases.



6. The planning team are working hard to resolve legacy cases and table 5 shows the reduction in numbers of legacy cases still to be determined or where decision notices have not been issued. The resolution of these cases clearly adds time to decision making timescales, but we expect to have removed all the outstanding legacy cases by the end of September 2014 (Quarter 2 of this year).



## Enforcement

Table 6. Enforcement	12/13	13/14	13/14				14/15
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Breaches identified/resolved	42/28	23/19	7/6	6/4	7/6	3/3	2/7
Notices served					1		
Time since Charter reviewed (months)	7	18					

## Summary Highlights

I. Little formal enforcement activity to report in last 6 months but successful informal resolution of breaches. More formal enforcement activity likely in this quarter to end of September 2014.

## Service Improvement Update

<b>Table 7. Service Improvement Priorities 2014/15</b>		<b>Comment</b>
1	Complete move of Planning Staff to Grantown on Spey.	Scheduled to be complete by October 2014
2	Feedback with Community Council/Association Planning Representatives Network (PRN) to improve engagement in LDP2	Planned for early 2015
3	Establish partner coordination group to deliver LDP Action Programme/use the monitoring reports to demo value of development	Planned for late 2014
4	Establish procedure advice notes across planning service (DM, LDP, Enf, Committee Procedures)	First advice notes published, more programmed throughout year
5	Implement new call-in categories across Park and deliver a more consistent pre-application service with 5 councils	Call in categories established and new pre-app procedures being developed
6	Offer processing agreements on all applications likely to be called in or called in by the CNPA	Processing agreements now offered on all applications called in by CNPA
7	Establish Customer Service Charter for Planning Service	Customer Service Charter in development
8	Review the delivery of planning gain service for the CNPA to establish most efficient service for all parties involved	Planning gain service review started May 2014
9	Review internal procedures and processes to improve efficiency and speed of decisions	Introduction of 'first target committee' for determinations; reviewing internal specialist advice procedures; continue to work to 7 day turnaround target for decision notices.
10	Simplify and improve the customer focus of the CNPA planning web pages incl. quicker routes to applications and open consultations.	First changes to simplify pages June 2014. Additional improvements throughout year and as part of CNPA website redevelopment.
11	Review Enforcement Charter and investigate greater integration of enforcement between CNPA and 5 Councils.	Review of Charter for September 2014
12	Establish plan for Enforcement Officer role from July 2015.	Not yet commenced
13	Undertake skills audit of planning team and establish a prioritised training/enhancement plan	Training in specialist advice requirements planned for September 2014
14	Review options for CNPA member involvement in pre-application discussions.	Committee Paper programmed for September 2014

CNPA, July 2014