
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: **PLANNING SERVICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

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Purpose

To inform the Planning Committee of the statistical performance of the CNPA planning service and highlight changes or improvements in its delivery.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- i. Note the generally improving performance of the CNPA Planning Service demonstrated by the planning service performance report in Annex I.**

Background

1. The CNPA planning service and Management Team have started to use quarterly performance reports as we examine planning service performance more closely and implement improvements and changes to the service. It has been agreed with Planning Committee Convenor and Vice Convenor that an information paper based on the quarterly reporting will be taken to planning committee every six months. The information papers will supplement the full the reporting of the planning service activities that is within the Planning Performance Framework (PPF) report that we submit to Scottish Government and which the Committee will be asked to approve in September 2014.

Key points

2. The report in Annex I 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. Members will be aware that statistical performance is only one measure of the quality of service, and that the

CNPA deals only with the planning applications within the Park that are of general significance to the aims of the Park.

3. Key points from the report include:

- Local Development Plan (LDP) Scheme is on track and Reporter's report on the Examination of the proposed LDP expected by end of September 2014.
- CNPA determined more applications than it called in quarter one of 2014/15.
- The timescales for issue of decision notices for major applications are slow. Most of the major applications decided in the past year were legacy cases where committee determinations were made months or years ago and conclusion of legal agreements or other issues with the consent delayed its issue. The procedures for review of legal agreements post-Committee determination should prevent the CNPA building up such cases in future.
- The number of legacy cases still to be decided is falling and we expect all decisions to be issued by end of September 2014.
- The timescales for completing determinations and decision notices for local developments (most "called in" applications) fell over 2013/14 and legacy cases are excluded, remain low at c15 weeks. The Planning Service has introduced a 'first possible committee' target for applications as a way of targeting quick decisions and will use this in processing agreements that are now offered on all applications.
- The CNPA's average time for processing applications where they take more than two months (most applications that go to a planning committee in any planning authority) is within the normal range when compared to other planning authorities and figures across Scotland.
- Informal enforcement activity has been leading to successful resolution of breaches in planning permissions.
- CNPA planning service improvement priorities for 2014/15 have been incorporated to unit plan and will be delivered over the year.

Next reports

4. The Planning Committee will be asked to approve CNPA's Planning Performance Framework report for Scottish Government in September 2014 and will be given another Planning Service Performance Update in January/February 2015.

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