

AGENDA ITEM 8

APPENDIX I

PLANNING SERVICE PERFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORT

Planning Service Performance Quarterly Report 2014/15 Q3&4 (October 2014 – March 2015)

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 on relatively few planning cases so can be skewed by exceptional or legacy cases.

The Q3 report was delayed as staff time was focussed on progressing the Local Development Plan for adoption.

Development Planning

Table 1. Development Plan	12/13	13/14	14/15	Q4
Development Plan Scheme on Track	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age of Plan (years):				0
Cairngorms National Park LDP				
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

- Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan was adopted by CNPA Board 27 March 2015.

Development Management

Table 2. All developments	12/13	13/14				14/15				
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Applications called in		71	15	17	21	18	9	16	10	5
Determined	49	54	14	15	11	14	22	15	8	18
Withdrawn		5	3	1	1	0	3	3	1	1
Pre-app advice supplied (%)							45%	47%	12%	72%
Active cases at end of Quarter (No.)								28	21	7

Table 3. Major developments	12/13	13/14				14/15				
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Approved	1	1				1	3	1		1
Refused		1	-						1	3
Number under 4 months	1	1(50%)	-				1			1
Number over 4 months		1(50%)	-			1	2	1	1	3
Time from call-in to decision notice (wks)		131.5				251	244.1	21	84.3	58.5
Number meeting nearest target Committee	0	0	-			0	1	0	0	0
Average time for decision notice (days)	190	251	-			251	1446	59	12	69.8

Table 3. Major developments	12/13	13/14	13/14				14/15			
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Decision notices issued within 7 days (%)	0	0	-			0	0	0	0	0

Table 4. Local developments	12/13	13/14	13/14				14/15			
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Approved (No. and %)	(94.1%)	48 (92%)	14 100%	14 100%	9 (83%)	11 (85%)	18 100%	12 86%	7 100%	11 79%
Refused (No. and %)		4 (8%)	0	0	2 (18%)	2 (15%)	0	2 14%	0	3 21%
Average time from call-in to decision notice (wks)	18.3	19.4	26.5	19.2	13	14.8	22.5	14.8	20.7	21.6
Average time of official stats (wks)			25.4	20.1	14.2	15.7	18.7	19.8	23.1	33.3
Average time with Processing Agreement (wks)							8.0	9.0	12.3	16.8
Number of Processing Agreements							1	1	1	10
Number under 2 months (National Target 80%)	4 (9%)	8 (15%)	2	2	2	2	1	3	0	1
Average time under 2 months (wks)	7.2		6.5	8.3	0	6.1	6.7	6.6		6.0
Number over 2 months	43 (91%)	42 (85%)	12	12	9	11	17	11	7	13
Average time over 2 months (wks)	19.3		32.2	21.6	14.6	16.5	23.4	17	20.7	22.7
Proportion meeting 'first possible Committee' ¹ (%)		44%	43%	29%	73%	38%	55%	36%	43%	50%
Average time for decision notice (days)		82.8	172.3	60.2	23.1	64.5	13.9	13.1	69.7	32.6
Decision notices issued within 7 days (%)		35%	7%	27%	27%	79%	67%	71%	85%	14%

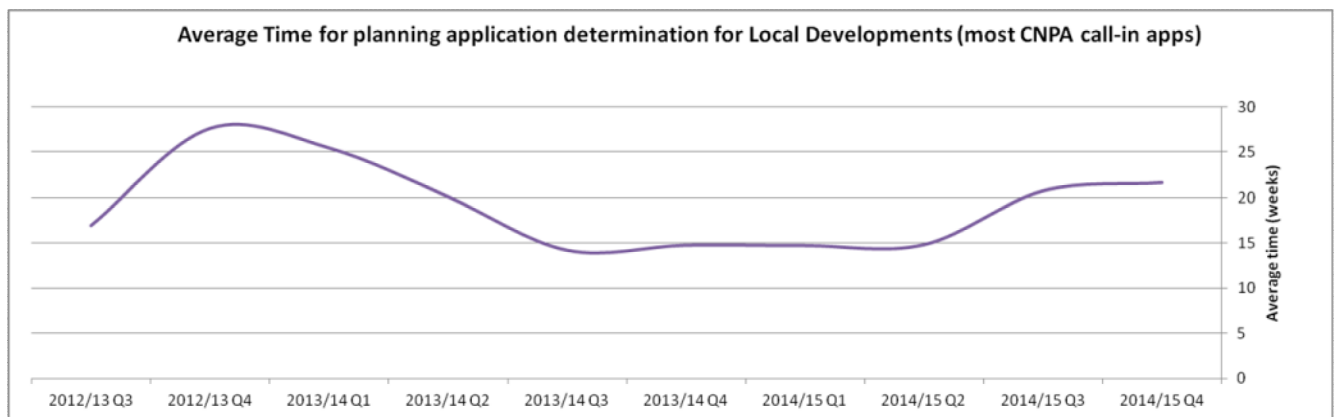
Table 5. Legacy Cases ²	13/14				14/15			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Live	17	14	13	11	7	3	3	2
Determined	4	3	1	2	4	0	1	2
Approved	4	3	1	2	4			
Refused							1	2
Post Committee								
Cases reviewed on 4 months				2	0	0	0	0
Review cases resolved and granted				1				
Review cases refused								

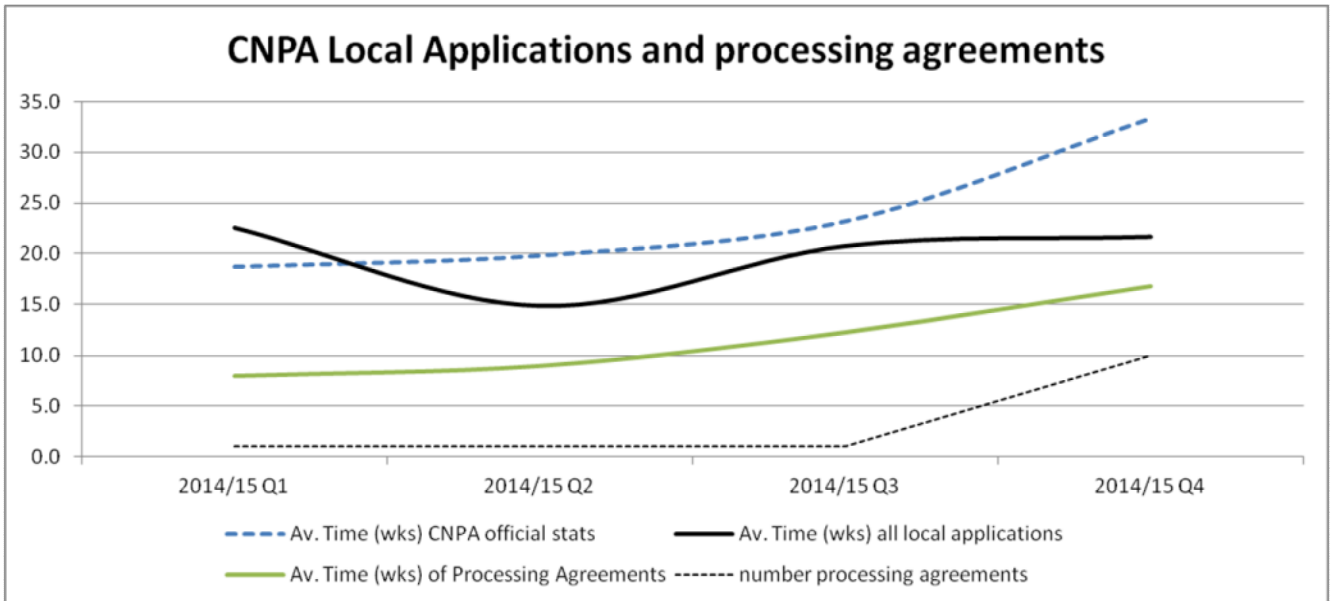
¹ As the CNPA does not delegate planning decisions to planning officers, the proportion of applications meeting 'first possible Committee' is a good indicator of the fastest time that an application can be taken to planning committee for determination by the CNPA. Committee meetings happen once a month, planning applications can be submitted and registered on any working day.

² For this report, our definition of a legacy case is one that has taken more than a year to determine.

Summary Highlights

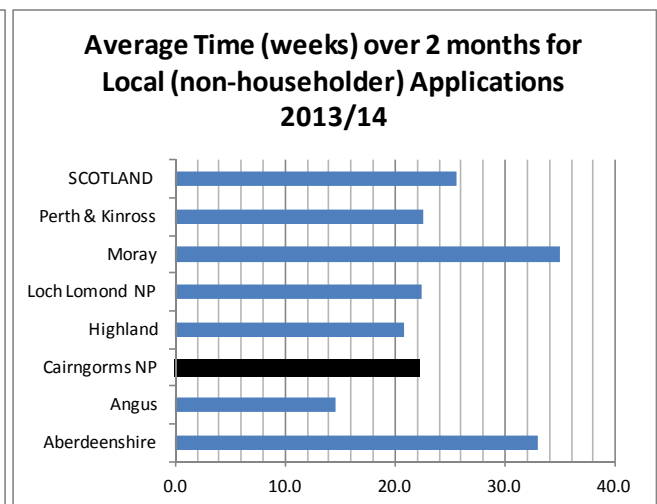
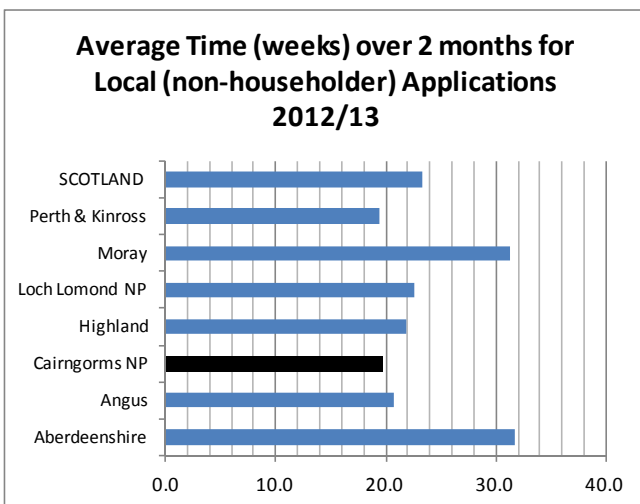
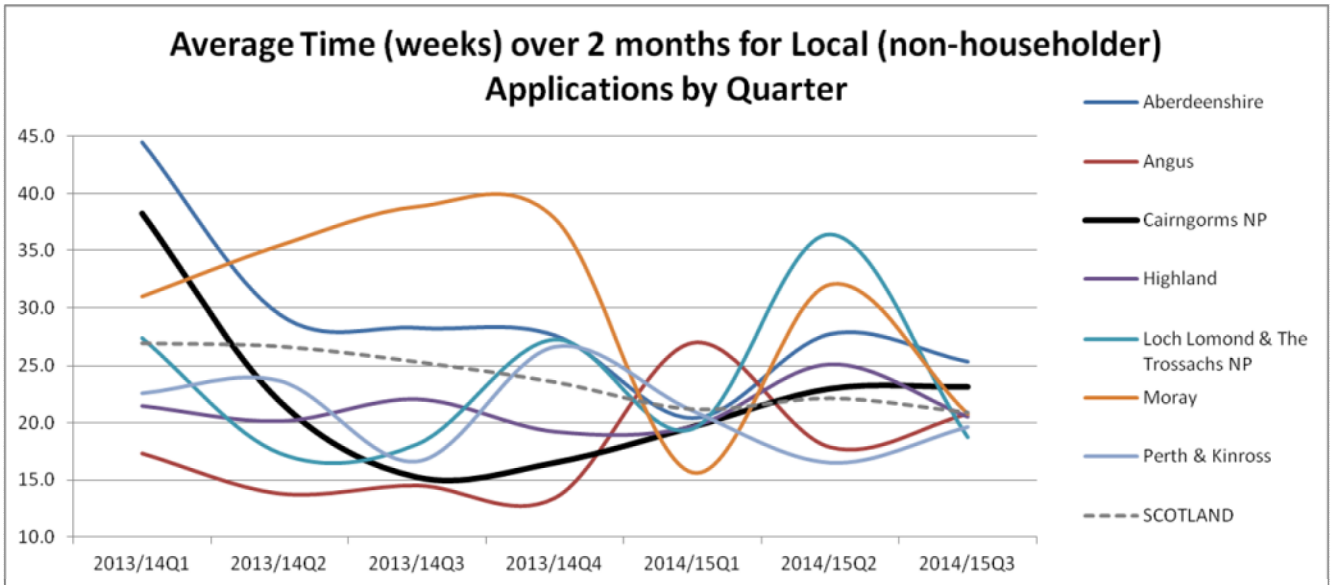
1. Q4 of 2014/15 saw the last of the CNPA's legacy cases determined. The two oldest applications currently being processed were called in November 2014. One has stalled post-committee approval and one has been delayed by lack of information.
2. Development management decision timescales continue to vary from quarter to quarter. Quarters 3 and 4 of 2014/15 saw average timescales for determination rise. This was partly because of moving some legacy and other longer standing applications to determination. The effect of processing agreements (those applications are removed from the official Scottish Government calculations) on the CNPA's official statistics is very marked in Q4, where 10 applications had processing agreements. The good news is that they show that processing agreements lead to shorter timescales for determination than applications without processing agreements as all but one were completed within the agreed timescales.
3. Whilst only those applications of significance to the aims of the National Park continue to be called-in, there has been a trend over the last 2 quarters for fewer applications (of all types) being received overall. Whilst the number of applications called-in has similarly declined over this period, we have been busy clearing the backlog (including legacy cases) and so the number of applications determined over this same period has actually increased.



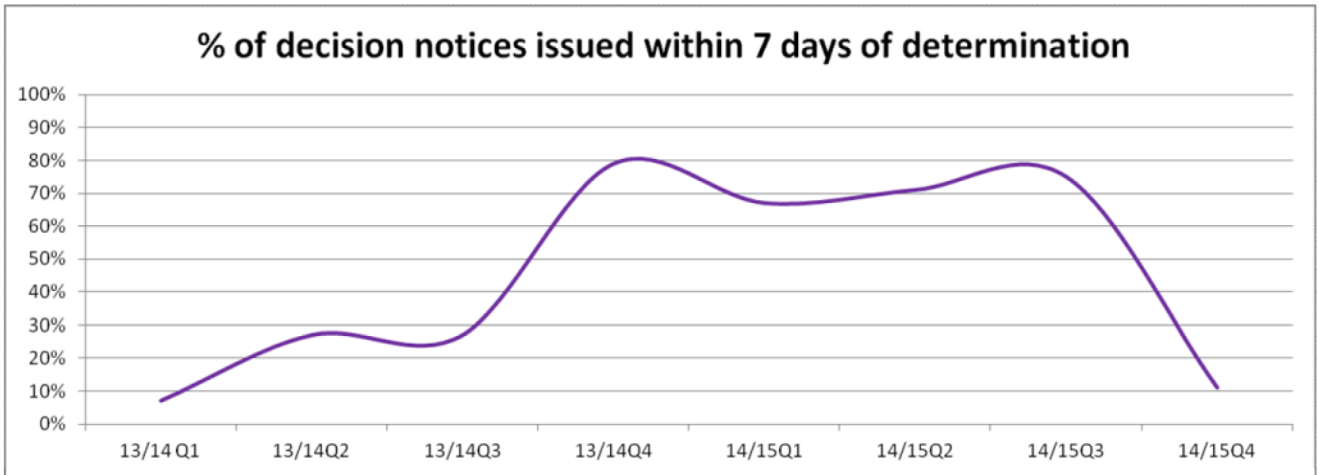


4. The CNPA continues to struggle to determine and release decision notices for local applications within 2 months. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, the applications called in by the CNPA are usually the more complicated and significant, requiring more work to process than in other planning authorities. 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 have introduced a “first possible Committee” target as a way of measuring against the fastest potential time that applications can be determined by the CNPA.

5. However, our timescales for determination of applications are consistent with applications determined by planning committees in other planning authorities. The graphs below show CNPA timescales compared to other planning authorities and the Scottish average. The CNPA compares well in most quarters and in the years 2012/13 and 2013/14. These figures are based on the published Scottish Government official statistics.



6. The planning service has worked hard during the past year to issue most decision notices within a week of the Planning Committee decision. The final quarter of 2014/15 saw this performance fall dramatically due to a large number of decisions made at the final Planning Committee of 2014 on 18 December. Some of those decision notices were issued the following week but a number were delayed until the offices reopened in January 2015. There was then a period of staff illness and holiday, with no available trained cover to enable decision notices to be issued whilst the responsible people were on holiday. This has been investigated by the Head of Planning and a contingency plan introduced that also requires staff training that again is now in hand. The target for staff remains issue of decision notices in the week following the Planning Committee decision.



Enforcement

Table 6. Enforcement	12/13		13/14		13/14		14/15		14/15	
	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Breaches identified/resolved	42/28	23/19	7/6	6/4	7/6	3/3	2/7	6/6	10/9	4/4
Notices served					1			2	1	
Time since Charter reviewed (months)	7	18								

Summary Highlights

- I. Continued successful informal resolution of breaches.