



Report of Chief Planning Officer

Report to Joint Plans Panel

Date: 26 July 2018

Subject: 2017-18 annual planning performance report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	☐ Yes	☒ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	☐ Yes	☒ No

Summary of main issues

1. This report covers planning performance and activity for the period 2017-18.
2. It has been another busy and challenging year, with application numbers rising again for the sixth successive year. For the first time since the economic downturn in 2008 application numbers have reached over 5,000. The service is carrying a number of vacancies across all levels of the organisation, which has had an impact on performance in some areas, but timescales for the determination of planning application still remains above the statutory level.
3. The service is looking forward to the recruitment of additional planners which has been made possible because of the national 20% increase in planning fees.
4. Inevitably there are areas where the service can improve and training and changes in processes will help to facilitate improvement going forward into 2018-19, particularly in working with members and developers to facilitate expeditious and high quality decision making in Leeds and in improving the customer experience.

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to note the report and to receive a further performance report in six months' time.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. This is a cover report to the main planning services annual report, which is attached.

2. Main issues

- 2.1. The annual planning services performance report covers the main areas of key activity for the service- timescales in determining applications, workloads, plans panel decision making and compliance activity. In addition the performance reports looks at performance on the quality of decision making through an examination of appeals and complaints activity.
- 2.2. A look back on the year to describe some successes is also covered as well as challenges and service improvements for the year ahead.

3. Corporate Considerations

3.1. Consultation and Engagement

- 3.1.1. This report is presented for information and comment

3.2. Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 3.2.1. There are no Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration issues.

3.3. Council policies and City Priorities

- 3.3.1. The effective and expedient determination of planning applications contributes to the overall prosperity of the City and plays a key part in the regeneration and growth agenda.

3.4. Resources and value for money

- 3.4.1. There are no specific implications arising from this report. However, measures are taken to ensure that the service is delivered within budget.

3.5. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 3.5.1. No identified issues.

3.6. Risk Management

- 3.6.1. There are no risks identified in this report.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. Members are recommended to note the report and to receive a further performance report in six months' time.