

Report of Chief Planning**Report to Joint Plans Panel****Date: 11 July 2019****Subject: End of year 2018-19 development management performance report**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	☐ Yes ☒ No
Has consultation been carried out?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Will the decision be open 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**1. Main issues**

- 1.1 This report covers planning performance and activity for the period April 2018-March 2019.
- 1.2 Despite the number of planning application falling this year in comparison with the position reported at the end of 2017-18, it has been another busy and challenging year.
- 1.3 Performance levels for determining planning applications in time or within the agreed timescale is lower than the position reported for the previous year, largely due to a challenging staffing situation, with a number of long term sicknesses and five planning officers leaving the authority. However, performance still remains high and well above the Government's national targets.
- 1.4 The 20% uplift in planning application fees has allowed the service to make a number of new external appointments, increasing the staffing establishment for the first time in a number of years which will help the service to continue to deliver a high quality planning service going forward.
- 1.5 The service is committed to continuous improvement and has carried out a number of activities in 2018-19 working with members and developers to facilitate

expeditious and high quality decision making in Leeds and in improving the customer experience.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The development management service contributes to all of the Council's Best City Priorities either directly or indirectly through the delivery of high quality homes and through sustainable place making to deliver safe, strong communities. Its work in delivering planning permissions for social housing and assisted living accommodation as well as delivering permissions for new schools, supports the Council to meet its ambitions. Through working with other Council services, development management also facilitates, through the legal agreement process, employment opportunities for local people. The planning process is closely tied with the health and wellbeing agenda and through the implementation of the policies in the Core Strategy, contributes to providing healthy environments for the residents of Leeds and its visitors to have access to and to enjoy.

3. Resource Implications

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

Recommendations

- a) Members are recommended 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 development management annual report for 2018-19 which is attached.

2. Background information

- 2.1. A performance report describing the activity of the development management service is presented to the Joint Plans Panel twice a year, at the end of quarter 2 and then at the end of the year. The attached report provides information about activity levels, performance and service improvement work the service has undertaken in the reporting period.

2. Main issues

- 2.1 This 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 report looks at the performance of 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 for the service and service improvements for the year ahead.

3. Corporate considerations

3.1 Consultation and engagement

3.1.1 This information is presented for information and comment

3.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

3.2.1 There are no specific issues arising from this report

3.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

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.

Climate Emergency

3.3.2 There are no specific issues arising from this report

3.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

3.4.1 The development management service is delivered with the constraints of the 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. Conclusions

4.1 The annual report shows that it has been a challenge year for the service but it is now well placed, through the appointment of additional staff, to continue to deliver high quality services.

5. Recommendations

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

6. Background documents¹

6.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.