

**Development Control Performance  
Quarters July – September and October – December 2004****RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To note the report.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 This report is based on the contents of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's statistical report on planning applications and decisions relating to Derby for the periods July to September 2004 and October to December 2004.

**July – September 2004**

- 2.2 Our overall performance for that quarter was **79%**, which was **2** percentage points better than in the previous quarter.
- 2.3 The national average was **78%**, **5** percentage points higher than in the same period a year before. Derby's performance was, therefore, **1** percentage point better than the national average.
- 2.4 Our performance level for dealing with householder applications, at **87%** within eight weeks, was **2** percentage points lower than in the previous quarter.
- 2.5 We received **548** applications, **23** fewer than in the previous quarter.
- 2.6 We made **529** decisions, which was **17** fewer than during April to June 2004.
- 2.7 Of all the decisions made, **89%** were made under delegated powers; this was just under the Government's target of **90%** and was **4** percentage points lower than in the previous quarter. On average, planning authorities nationally delegated **90%** of decisions to officers.
- 2.8 In terms of our performance in dealing with major, minor and other applications, the following table shows how well we did during July to September 2004:

Type	Government Target	Performance in Quarter
Major	<b>60%</b> in 13 weeks	<b>55%</b>
Minor	<b>65%</b> in 8 weeks	<b>65%</b>
Other	<b>80%</b> in 8 weeks	<b>88%</b>

Members will note that we met Government targets for minor and other applications, but not for major applications. We performed much better on major applications than in the previous quarter (**14%**), slightly worse on minors (**66%**) and better on others (**85%**).

#### **October – December 2004**

- 2.9 Our overall performance for October – December 2004 was **62%** within eight weeks. This was **17** percentage points lower than in the previous quarter.
- 2.10 The national average was **77%**, **6** percentage points higher than in the same period a year before. Derby's performance was, therefore, **15** percentage points lower than the national average.
- 2.11 The performance level for dealing with householder applications, at **74%** within eight weeks, was **13** percentage points worse than in the previous quarter.
- 2.12 We received **464** applications, **84** fewer than in the previous quarter.
- 2.13 The number of decisions made was **519**, which was **10** fewer than during July to September.
- 2.14 Of all the decisions made, **89%** were made under delegated powers; this was just under the **90%** Government target and was the same as in the previous quarter.
- 2.15 During October to December 2004 our performance levels in dealing with major, minor and other types of applications were as shown in the table below:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Government Target</b>	<b>Performance in Quarter</b>
Major	<b>60%</b> in 13 weeks	<b>48%</b>
Minor	<b>65%</b> in 8 weeks	<b>43%</b>
Other	<b>80%</b> in 8 weeks	<b>71%</b>

- 2.16 Members will note that we did not meet Government targets for any category of application during that quarter.
- 2.17 As far as **major applications** are concerned, there has been a long term trend of difficulty in meeting the Government target. To address this, last year we introduced a new charter for dealing with these applications: this explains what service applicants can expect from us and how they can help us in dealing more efficiently with their applications. One of the measures we have introduced is to ask them to agree to the heads of terms of a legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, when appropriate, before registering applications, so that the 13 week target period is not elapsing whilst we spend time agreeing such terms. We have also put other measures in place to try and improve performance.

- 2.18 The significant drop in performance in dealing with **minor** and **other** applications between Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 was probably as a result of the exceptional efforts that were made in Quarter 2 to improve performance overall. The consequence of this is that older cases which, by the end of the second quarter, had gone over eight weeks were determined in the third quarter, thereby depressing that quarter's performance for these categories of application.
- 2.19 One of Development Control's Business Plan Actions for 2004/5 was to recruit two new Planning Officers and one Planning Support Officer. The final successful outcome was that a former Trainee Planning Officer was appointed as a Planning Officer, a further new Planning Officer was appointed, as was a new Trainee to replace the member of staff who was promoted. The new post of Planning Support Officer was also filled in order to relieve planning officers of tasks that were otherwise likely to be affecting performance levels.
- 2.20 We are hopeful that, subject to the time and effort involved in training the new staff, this will allow us, in the fullness of time, to achieve previously attained performance levels.

### **Cumulative performance to end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter**

- 2.21 For the last financial year we set some different local targets in relation to some of the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) that apply to the Development Control Service, although the percentage determined under delegation was no longer a BVPI. The following table shows how, up to the end of the third quarter, we performed against the local targets.

<b>BVPI or Local Indicator</b>	<b>Local target for 2004/5</b>	<b>Performance to end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter</b>
109a (major)	<b>55%</b>	<b>42%</b>
109b (minor)	<b>67%</b>	<b>58%</b>
109c (others)	<b>81%</b>	<b>81%</b>
% age delegated	<b>90%</b>	<b>90%</b>
L1 (% age overall in 8 weeks)	<b>76%</b>	<b>72%</b>
L2 (average time taken)	<b>9 weeks</b>	<b>10.1 weeks</b>
L3 (% age of householder applications in 8 weeks)	<b>85%</b>	<b>84%</b>

This shows that, at that time, we met our own local targets only in relation to 'other' applications and delegation.

2.22 The charts in Appendix 2 show the following:

Chart 1 – Overall performance since 1990.

Chart 2 – Statistical distribution of national performance levels for the three categories of planning applications with this Authority's performances superimposed.

Chart 3 – Total number of applications received.

Chart 4 – Total number of decisions, split to show those that took less than and more than eight weeks.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Stewart Todd Tel. No. 255942 e-mail: <a href="mailto:stewart.todd@derby.gov.uk">stewart.todd@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers:</b>	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Statistics of Planning Applications July - September and October - December 2004.
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 - Charts

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
---------------------

**Financial**

1.1 None.

**Legal**

2.1 None.

**Personnel**

3.1 None.

**Equalities impact**

4.1 None.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

5.1 Our performance levels in dealing with planning applications have implications for a prosperous, vibrant and successful economy (objective) and for improving customer service (priority).