



Planning Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 2 March 2017

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Planning Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Cllr Ian Perry</p>  <p>Vice-Convener Cllr Alex Lunn</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Nigel Bagshaw• Cllr Jeremy Balfour• Cllr Angela Blacklock• Cllr Ron Cairns• Cllr Steve Cardownie• Cllr Maureen Child• Cllr Nick Gardner• Cllr Dominic Heslop• Cllr Karen Keil• Cllr Adam McVey• Cllr Eric Milligan• Cllr Joanna Mowat• Cllr Lewis Ritchie	<p>Stephen Broughton Committee Clerk Tel: 0131 529 4261</p> <p>Blair Ritchie Committee Clerk Tel: 0131 529 4105</p>

Building Standards Performance

The performance of the Council's Building Standards service has been below the expectations set by Scottish Government for the timescales in which building warrant applications should be progressed.

As the economy has recovered from recession, there has been a rising workload while the staff resource has remained relatively static. There have also been instances where over a short period a proportionately a high number of applications have been received as a result of changes to the building standards. These factors have impacted on the ability to achieve its service targets.

The Scottish Government sets a number of Key Performance Indicators. Two of these KPIs deal with decision-making timescales: the average time to grant a building warrant and the percentage of "first reports" that are issued within 20 working days.

For quarter 3 (2016/17) the average time to grant a building warrant was: 114 days. The Council's target is to grant warrants within 60 days.

During the same period the percentage of first reports issued within 20 working days was: 14.3%. The Council's target is 90%.

There is currently a backlog of applications that have failed to meet these timescales. A number of measures are being implemented to resolve this. These measures include recruitment, overtime and shared services with other local authorities.

Recruitment

Recruitment is underway for 6 building standards for surveyors. It is expected that these surveyors will be appointed by spring 2017.

Overtime

To deal with the backlog of applications, an overtime team has been formed. Between 18 January 2017 (when the overtime team was formed) and 8 February 2017 approximately 250 application reports have been processed by overtime. It is expected that overtime will continue over the next 2 months and is being closely

monitored to ensure it is meaningfully reducing the backlog.

Shared services

The reporting stage of some application is being handled by other local authorities. In January 25 applications have been handled by Aberdeen City Council. All of the first reports issued by it have been progressed within 20 working days.

In January, 18 applications were handled by Argyll and Bute Council.

Methodology for Submitting Building Warrants

The service has collaborated with the Edinburgh Chartered Architects Network to prepare a Methodology for Submitting Building Warrants. This sets a methodology for submitting information that will allow applications to be progressed more quickly. Training is being provided for officers on this and it is intended that the Methodology will be communicated to the professions who make Building Warrant Applications.

Conclusion

With these measures in place, it is expected that over the next few months, performance will steadily improve.

Forthcoming activities:
