

amr

authority monitoring report

2015-2016

Development Management Performance



planning and
building control



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Brighton & Hove City Council

Authority Monitoring Report 2015/16

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1. Development Management Performance

Despite maintaining a good level of turnaround on major planning applications, with improved performance every year for the last three years, the planning service experienced serious issues in 2015 with staff shortages and a slippage of minor applications not being decided on time. The service is making a sustained effort to reduce the delays on deciding planning applications and the numbers of 'out of time' applications more than halved by May 2016; the backlog had reduced to 210 applications, from 500 applications in August 2015.

Table 1: Development Management Performance 2015/16

| Indicator | Targets/Indicators | Progress |
|-----------|--|----------|
| BV109a | Percentage of Major Applications decided within 13 weeks or within agreed time (Target 60%) | 84.6% |
| BV109b | Minor planning applications decided within 8 weeks or within agreed time (Target 65%) | 37.1% |
| BV109c | Other planning applications processed within 8 weeks or within agreed time (Target 80%) | 42.6% |
| BV204 | Keep percentage of appeals allowed against the Authority's decision to refuse fewer than 35% | 42% |
| BVPI 110 | Average time taken in weeks to determine all planning applications | 13.8 |
| BVPI 188 | The number of planning decisions delegated to officers as a percentage of all decisions | 97.9% |

In response to consultation with the national Planning Advisory Service¹ improvements are being made to improve the whole service, from policy making and collaborating with developers and agents to giving advice and decision-making. Some of these improvements include:

- streamlining the registration and 'validation' process
- using electronic, rather than paper file systems
- smoother decision-making using case officer expertise with managers more focused on performance management and engaging with members and developers
- better prioritising of new applications
- setting up an oversight programme led by senior managers to lead, support and develop staff in taking forward the work

¹ [BHCC Planning Peer Challenge Report: Planning Advisory Service 2016](#)



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