

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING: Planning Committee

MEETING DATE: 30 July 2025

AGENDA
ITEM
NUMBER

TITLE: Quarterly Performance Report covering period 1 April – 30 June 2025

WARD: ALL

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Analysis of Chair referral cases

1 THE ISSUE

At the request of Members and as part of our on-going commitment to making service improvements, this report provides Members with performance information across Planning.

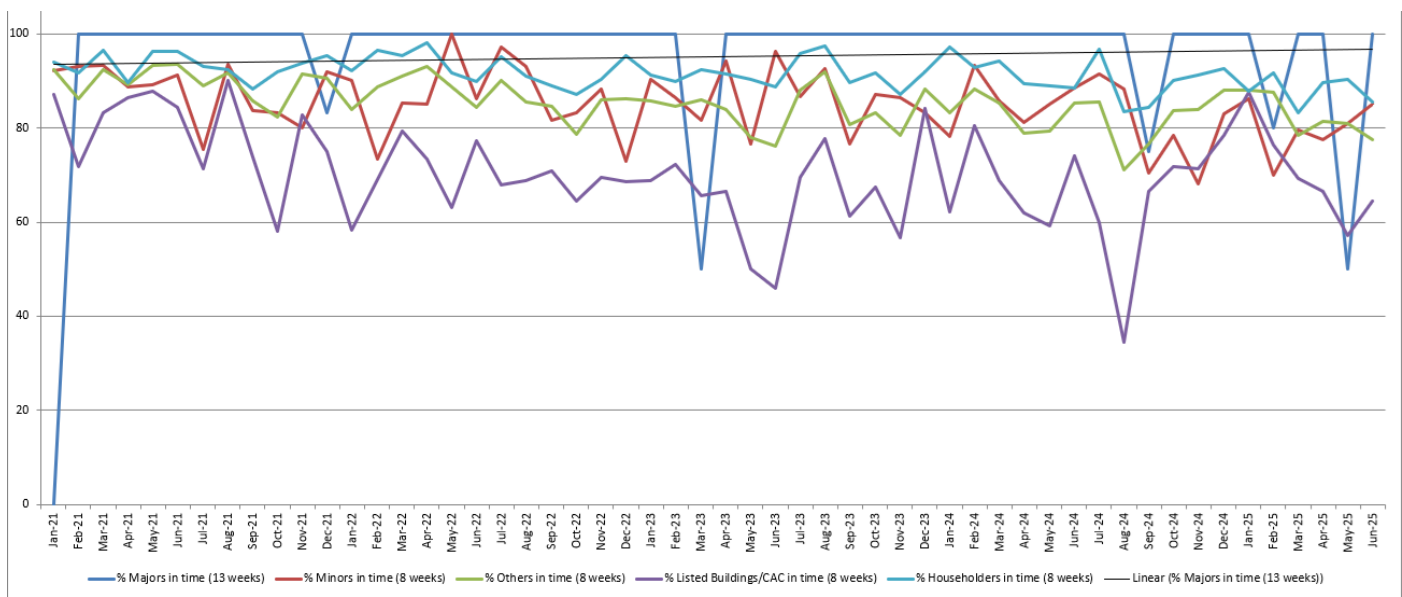
2 RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the contents of the performance report.

3 THE REPORT

Tables, charts, and commentary

1 - Comparison of Applications Determined Within Target Times



% of planning applications in time	2023-2024				2024-2025			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
% Majors in time	(5/5) 100%	(12/12) 100%	(7/7) 100%	(12/12) 100%	(6/7) 86%	(4/4) 100%	(8/9) 89%	(7/8) 88%
% Minors in time	(75/88) 85%	(85/99) 86%	(71/83) 86%	(83/98) 85%	(86/103) 83%	(102/133) 77%	(70/88) 80%	(95/117) 81%
% Others in time	(311/359) 87%	(283/341) 83%	(269/314) 86%	(281/348) 81%	(284/363) 78%	(283/332) 85%	(255/301) 85%	(338/423) 80%

Highlights:

- All three categories have been above target consistently every quarter for over 8 years (Majors target 60%, Non-majors target 70%).
- Performance is similar to the last published England average of 90.7% for Majors, and slightly below the average of 90.5% for Non-majors (year ending Mar 2025).

Note:

Major - 10+ dwellings/0.5 hectares and over, 1000+ sqm/1 hectare and over

Minor - 1-10 dwellings/less than 0.5 hectares, Up to 999 sqm/under 1 hectare

Other - changes of use, householder development, adverts, listed building consents, demolition in a conservation area

2 - Recent Planning Application Performance

Application nos.	2023-2024				2024-2025			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Received	526	538	536	615	495	514	613	565
Withdrawn	45	65	49	38	56	51	41	34
Delegated no. and %	449 (99%)	433 (96%)	395 (98%)	446 (97%)	457 (97%)	445 (95%)	377 (95%)	531 (96%)
Refused no. and %	30 (7%)	27 (6%)	15 (4%)	15 (3%)	38 (8%)	34 (7%)	26 (7%)	16 (3%)

Highlights:

- 1% fall in planning application numbers compared to the previous 12 months – the last published national trend figure was an 4% decrease (year ending Mar 2025).
- 8% decrease in planning application numbers compared to the same quarter last year. This could be partly because of the national planning application fees rise that came in April.
- The current delegation rate is in line with the last published England average of 96% (year ending Mar 2025).
- Percentage of refusals on planning applications remains very low compared to the last published England average of 14% (year ending Mar 2025) and we put this down to the high level of use and overall success of our Pre-application advice service which also brings income into the service.

3 – Dwelling Decisions and Numbers

Decisions on Major residential applications	2023-2024				2024-2025			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Decisions on Major residential applications (10 or more dwellings)	3	6	3	8	2	2	5	2
Major residential	2	5	3	6	1	2	5	2

decisions granted								
Number of dwellings applied for on Major schemes	70	237	283	16	0	320	10	0
Number of dwelling units permitted on schemes (net)	38	110	156	228	99	699	403	134

Highlights:

- There were two major residential planning decisions last quarter and both were granted.

4 - Planning Appeals

	Jul – Sep 2024	Oct – Dec 2024	Jan – Mar 2025	Apr – Jun 2025
Appeals lodged	4	15	17	16
Appeals decided	13	11	10	15
Appeals allowed	4 (31%)	2 (18%)	2 (20%)	2 (13%)
Appeals dismissed	9 (69%)	9 (82%)	8 (80%)	13 (87%)

Highlights:

- Over the last 12 months performance on Appeals Allowed (22%) is better than the national average of approx. 30%
- Planning Appeal costs awarded against the council in this financial year: None.

5 - Enforcement Investigations

	Jul – Sep 2024	Oct – Dec 2024	Jan – Mar 2025	Apr – Jun 2025
Investigations launched	113	110	105	100
Investigations in hand	459	505	518	547
Investigations closed	102	62	119	71
Enforcement Notices issued	7	3	5	1
Planning Contravention Notices served	5	3	5	3
Breach of Condition Notices served	1	1	2	1
Stop Notices	0	0	0	0
Temporary Stop Notices	0	0	1	0
Injunctions	0	0	0	0

6 – Other Work (applications handled but not included in national returns)

The service also processes other statutory applications (discharging conditions, prior approvals, prior notifications, non-material amendments etc) and discretionary services like pre-application advice. The table below shows the number of these applications received.

	Jul – Sep 2024	Oct – Dec 2024	Jan – Mar 2025	Apr – Jun 2025
Other types of work	334	275	414	381

7 – Works to Trees

	Jul – Sep 2024	Oct – Dec 2024	Jan – Mar 2025	Apr – Jun 2025
Number of applications for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)	25	26	31	17
Percentage of applications for works to trees subject to a TPO determined within 8 weeks	96%	96%	100%	100%
Number of notifications for works to trees within a Conservation Area (CA)	166	262	151	203
Percentage of notifications for works to trees within a Conservation Area (CA) determined within 6 weeks	98%	95%	95%	99%

Highlights:

- Performance on works to trees remains excellent.

8 – Corporate Customer Feedback

The latest quarterly report is published here:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/view-complaint-reports>

9 - Ombudsman Complaints

When a customer remains dissatisfied with the outcome of the Corporate Complaints investigation they can take their complaint to the **Local Government Ombudsman** for an independent view.

Planning complaints reaching the LGSCO:

Ombudsman Complaints	Jul – Sep 24	Oct – Dec 24	Jan – Mar 25	Apr – Jun 25
Investigated: Upheld	0	0	0	0
Investigated: Not upheld	0	0	0	0
Cases closed after initial inquiries (rejected by LGO with no action or out of their jurisdiction)	1	2	0	1
Premature Complaint (referred back to Council)	0	0	0	0

Highlights:

- There were no upheld complaints over the last year.

10 – Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Members will be aware of the Planning Obligations SPD first published in 2009. Planning Services have spent the last few years compiling a database of Section 106 Agreements. This is still in progress but does enable the S106/CIL Monitoring Officer to actively monitor the delivery of agreed obligations. S106 and CIL financial overview sums below will be refreshed for every quarterly report. CIL annual reports, Infrastructure Funding Statements and Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2021 are also published on our website: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/annual-cil-spending-reports>

(Note: figures are for **guidance only** and could be subject to change due to further updates with regards to monitoring S106 funds)

S106 Funds received (2025/26)	£89,660.64
CIL sums overview – Potential Liability amount (April 2015 to date)	£26,868,401.64
CIL sums overview – Paid (April 2015 to date)	£32,029,806.95

11 – Chair Referrals

Table 11 below shows the numbers of planning applications where Chair decision has been sought to either decide the application under delegated authority or refer to Planning Committee. *A further **analysis of Chair referral cases** is in Appendix 1 below.*

	Jul – Sep 2024	Oct – Dec 2024	Jan – Mar 2025	Apr – Jun 2025
Chair referral delegated	7	9	14	5
Chair referral to Planning Committee	9	9	7	7

12 – 5 Year Housing Land Supply

5 year housing land supply

A	Calculation		
B	5 year supply requirement (1489x5)		7,445
C	Deliverable supply		3,908
D	5 year requirement + backlog/surplus +5% buffer	7,817	Supply as a % of requirement 50% Supply in years 2.50

The monitoring reports are also published on our website: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/annual-monitoring-reports>

Appendix 1 – see attachment.

Contact person	John Theobald, Project/Technical and Management Support Officer, Planning 01225 477519
Background papers	CLG General Development Management statistical returns PS1 and PS2 + Planning applications statistics on the DCLG website: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	