

## **Bridgend Local Planning Authority – Annual Performance Report 2016**

In line with new Welsh Government requirements Bridgend County Borough Council submitted its first Annual Performance Report (APR) in October 2015. The 2016 APR is currently being prepared and the completed APR will be brought before a future Committee. This report provides members with an update on the direction of travel in terms of performance since last year.

The second APR, which is part narrative and part statistical, outlines the performance of Bridgend as a local planning authority over the period 2015-16 against a number of key national indicators and benchmarks and also includes the results of a customer satisfaction survey. The data is derived from information supplied to Welsh Government, which in turn forms part of the national planning performance framework.

Despite having one of the smallest planning teams in Wales, Bridgend has been one of the top performing planning authorities in Wales providing an excellent and value for money service to its customers. Whilst the number of planning staff has reduced by almost half in recent times the number of planning applications particularly major schemes has slightly increased.

The APR is currently being finalised however, some of the key points arising from it are:-

- Increase in planning applications from 785 in 2015 to 801 in 2016.
- Increase in determination times for all applications from an average of 58 days in 2015 to 60 days in 2016, which is still below the Welsh average of 77 days.
- A decrease in the percentage of applications determined within the required timescales from 84% to 77% although this is in line with the Welsh average.
- Decrease in determination performance with regard to major applications from an average of 203 days in 2015 to 270 days in 2016 which is below the Welsh average of 250 days. 30% of these applications were determined within required timescales compared to a Welsh average of 35%.
- The number of major applications has almost doubled to 30 over the last year.
- The appeal success rate has increased from 60% to 80%.
- Slight increase in enforcement performance
- Continuous and up to date development Plan coverage.
- A 5.4 year supply of housing land.

There has been a change in customer satisfaction. In 2015 74% of survey respondents thought that Bridgend gave good planning advice against a Welsh average of 57%. This year that figure has reduced to 48% with a Welsh average of 58%.

The APR will provide a more detailed commentary on the figures outlined above.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members of the Development Control Committee note the contents of this report.

**MARK SHEPHARD**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**

### **Background Papers**

None