

REPORT TO DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

27 October 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

BRIDGEND CBC LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015-2016

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 As reported to the 29th September 2016 DC Committee, the 2016 Annual Performance Report (APR) has been completed and is brought before Members to note its content before submission to the Welsh Government.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The delivery of the County Borough's statutory planning function has links to the Council's corporate priorities in particular number 1 – supporting a successful economy.

3. Background

- 3.1 In line with Welsh Government requirements, Bridgend County Borough Council submitted its first APR in October 2015. The APR was proposed by the Welsh Government as a result of the "Positive Planning" consultation in December, 2013.
- 3.2 This report provides members with an update on the direction of travel in terms of performance since last year and is attached at Appendix 1. The 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.
- 3.3 The data is derived from information supplied to Welsh Government and the Wales Data Unit, 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 service and value for money to its customers.
- 3.4 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. 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 as at 2015/2016 (Members will note that this figure has recently been revised to 5.1 years).

3.5 However, 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%. This can be attributed to a number of factors such as the introduction of new Development Management Procedures following the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the reduction in the number of respondents.

3.6 The APR provides a more detailed commentary on the figures highlighted above.

4. Next Steps

4.1 The LPAs APR for 2015/2016 will be formally submitted to the WG before the deadline of 31st October, 2016.

5. Recommendation

- (1) That Members note the content of this report and the LPAs Annual Performance Report for 2015/2016 (Appendix 1).

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Background documents

Appendix 1: BCBCs APR 2015/2016