



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2021 AT 6.00 PM**

- In the Chair** : Alderman T Campbell
- Committee Members Present** : Aldermen - F Agnew, P Brett and J Smyth
Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, H Cushinan, S Flanagan, R Kinnear, R Lynch, M Magill, R Swann and B Webb
- Non-Committee Members Present** : Councillors A Bennington, M Cooper, R Foster, J Gilmour, V McAuley, N McClelland, V McWilliam and N Ramsay
- In Attendance** : Malachy Kearney Shared Environmental Service (Item 3.1)
Keith Finegan NI Environment Agency (Item 3.1)
- Public Speakers**
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Councillor S Ross | In Objection (Items 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3) |
| Hugh Logan | In Objection (Item 3.1) |
| John Blair MLA | In Objection (Item 3.1) |
| Mitchell Henderson | In Objection (Item 3.1) |
| Gavin McGill | In Support (Agent Item 3.1) |
| Connor Fegan | In Support (Consultant Item 3.1) |
| Shane Carr | In Support (Consultant Item 3.1) |
| Geoff Connell | In Support (Consultant Item 3.1) |
| Andrew Irwin | In Support (Applicant Item 3.1) |
| David Archbold | In Objection (Items 3.2 & 3.3) |
| Harriett Moore-Boyd | In Objection (Items 3.2 & 3.3) |
| Matt Kennedy | In Support (Agent Item 3.2 & 3.3) |
| Derek Hall | In Support (Applicant Item 3.2 & 3.3) |
| Karen McShane | In Support (Consultant Items 3.2 & 3.3) |
| Stephen Anton | In Objection (Item 3.5) |
| Colin O'Dowd | In Objection (Item 3.5) |
| Andrew Nicholl | In Support (Applicant Item 3.5) |
| Thomas Burns | In Support (Applicant Item 3.8) |
| Chris Cassidy | In Support (Agent Item 3.10) |
| Mervyn Cotton | In Support (Applicant Item 3.11) |
| Ivan McClean | In Support (Agent Item 3.11) |
- Officers Present** : Deputy Chief Executive - M McAlister
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
Head of Planning – J Linden
Principal Planning Officer – B Diamond
Senior Planning Officer – J McKendry

Planning Officer – M O'Reilly
Head of Communications – J Hart
Legal Services Officer (Solicitor) – E Keenan
ICT Helpdesk Officer – C Bell
ICT Helpdesk Officer – D Mason
Member Services Officer – S Boyd

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Committee Members to the January Planning Committee Meeting and reminded all present of the protocol for speaking, timeframes accorded and of the audio recording procedures.

In order to protect public health during the current COVID-19 emergency it was not possible to allow the public or the press to physically attend the Planning Committee meeting. The public and the press could access those parts of the meeting which they are entitled to attend via live stream (a link to which is on the Council website). The meeting minutes and audio recording will be published on the Council's website.

The Chairperson advised Members that Addendum reports relating to Site Visits and Items 3.5 and 3.8 had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting and uploaded to the Council website, and that additional information relating to Item 3.1 had been uploaded to the Northern Ireland Planning Portal. Members were further advised that Item 3.6 had been withdrawn by the Officers and Item 3.7 had been withdrawn by the Applicant.

The Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services reminded Members about a number of issues in relation to their role as Members of the Planning Committee and their obligations under the Code of Conduct.

1 APOLOGIES

Chief Executive J Dixon

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 3.4 - Councillors M Magill and J Archibald-Brown

PART ONE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

ITEM 3.1 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2018/0185/F

PROPOSAL:	Proposed demolition of existing pig farm (6no units housing 4,200 finishing pigs) and replacement with 3no new pig units (to house 2,755 sows, 235 replacement breeders and 5 boars) with air scrubber units, associated underground slurry and washings stores, scrubber water storage tank, 7no feed bins, welfare facilities, feed kitchen/store, concrete hardstanding and 2no turning areas, loading bay, landscaped bund, tree and shrub planting, parking and new access.
SITE/LOCATION:	Lands adjacent and to the north of 10 Calhame Road, Ballyclare, BT39 9NA
APPLICANT:	JMW Farms Ltd

Johanne McKendry, Senior Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

The undernoted Elected Members and public speakers addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested –

Councillor S Ross	In Objection
Hugh Logan	In Objection
John Blair	In Objection
Mitchell Henderson	In Objection
Gavin McGill	In Support (Agent)
Connor Fegan	In Support (Consultant)
Shane Carr	In Support (Consultant) for questions
Geoff Connell	In Support (Consultant) for questions
Andrew Irwin	In Support (Applicant) for questions

Proposed by Alderman Brett

Seconded by Councillor Swann that planning permission be granted

on the proposal being put to the meeting 7 Members voted in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions, it was agreed

that planning permission be granted for the application subject to the conditions set out in the Planning Report.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.2 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2018/0918/F

PROPOSAL:	Retention of existing silo building to include control switch room. Re-contouring of land including earth mounding/earth bunds (part proposed and part existing). Provision of attenuation pond (reduction in size from that previously approved) and flood attenuation depression tank. Proposed landscaping and other works. Retention of bunded area around bio-digester plant. Retention of existing plant and machinery including (i) stand by generator (relocated 20 metres east of previously approved location), (ii) emergency flare (relocated approx. 41 metres south west of previously approved location), (iii) boiler, manifold and pump block (approx. 22 metres east of previously approved location). This application includes amendments to Planning Permission LA03/2015/0051/F for a proposed pig farm and the retention of development works beyond the previously approved site boundary.
SITE/LOCATION:	Lands 166 metres North West of no. 10 Reahill Road, Newtownabbey
APPLICANT:	Hall's Pig Farm

Michael O'Reilly, Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

The undernoted Elected Members and public speakers addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested –

Councillor S Ross	In Objection
David Archbold	In Objection
Harriet Moore-Boyd	In Objection
Matt Kennedy	In Support (Agent)
Derek Hall	In Support (Applicant)
Karen McShane	In Support (Consultant)

Proposed by Councillor Swann

Seconded by Alderman Brett that planning permission be granted

on the proposal being put to the meeting 6 Members voted in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions it was agreed

that planning permission be granted for the application subject to the conditions set out in the Planning Report.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.3 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2019/0768/F

PROPOSAL:	Retention of re-contouring of land including earth mounding/earth bunds and proposed re-profiling of earth bunds along western boundary of approved pig farm (LA03/2015/0051/F).
SITE/LOCATION:	Approx 320m NW of 10 Rea Hill Road, Newtownabbey
APPLICANT:	Hall's Pig Farm

Michael O'Reilly, Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

The undernoted Elected Members and public speakers addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested –

Councillor S Ross	In Objection
David Archbold	In Objection
Harriet Moore-Boyd	In Objection
Matt Kennedy	In Support (Agent)
Derek Hall	In Support (Applicant)
Karen McShane	In Support (Consultant)

Proposed by Councillor Swann

Seconded by Alderman Brett that planning permission be granted

on the proposal being put to the meeting 6 Members voted in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions, it was agreed

that planning permission be granted for the application subject to the conditions set out in the Planning Report.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

Councillors Archibald-Brown and Magill declared an interest in the following Item and therefore were unable to vote.

ITEM 3.4 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0082/F

PROPOSAL:	17 dwellings (Change of house types to previously approved sites 11-27 under LA03/2015/0173/F). The proposal involves alterations to the location and curtilage of 5 previously approved dwellings and also for 12 new dwellings consisting of 4 townhouses and 8 semi-detached houses.
SITE/LOCATION:	Portion of lands at Trench Lane to the east of Ballymartin Water and west of housing developments at Parkmount Road, Tudor Park and Hyde Park Manor, Mallusk, Newtownabbey, BT36 4PA
APPLICANT:	Trench Lane Development Ltd

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

There were no public speakers to address this item.

Proposed by Alderman Brett

Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and unanimously agreed

that planning permission be granted for the application subject to the conditions set out in the Planning Report.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.5 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0359/F

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing single storey structure and construction of new two storey extension to rear of property. New timber shed with roof mounted photovoltaic panels.

SITE/LOCATION: 14 Glenavie Park, Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, BT37 0QW

APPLICANT: Mr Andrew Nicholl

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report and associated addendum report to the Committee and made a recommendation to grant planning permission.

The undernoted public speakers addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested –

Stephen Anton	In Objection
Colin O'Dowd	In Objection
Andrew Nicholl	In Support (Applicant)

Proposed by Alderman Campbell

Seconded by Councillor Webb that planning permission be refused

In favour: Aldermen Agnew, Campbell and Smyth
Councillors Swann and Webb

Against: Alderman Brett
Councillors Archibald-Brown, Cushinan, Flanagan and Kinnear

Abstentions: Councillor Magill

on the proposal being put to the meeting 5 Members voted in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention. The Chairperson used his casting vote in favour of the proposal and it was agreed

that planning permission be refused for the following reason, the precise detail of which being delegated to Officers: Unacceptable amenity impact by virtue of the size, scale and mass of the proposed shed.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.6 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0419/F

PROPOSAL: Erection of 4 bedroom infill dwelling

SITE/LOCATION: Land between No. 32 and No. 38 Carnvue Road, Glengormley, Newtownabbey, BT36 6RA

APPLICANT: Laura Rossborough

The Chairperson advised Members that this application had been withdrawn by Officers.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.7 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0315/O

PROPOSAL: Site for detached dwelling and garage

SITE/LOCATION: Rear garden of 62 Jordanstown Road, Newtownabbey (frontage to Gleneden Park)

APPLICANT: Mr & Mrs A Leckey

The Chairperson advised Members that this application had been withdrawn by the Applicant.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.8 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0229/F

PROPOSAL: Proposed 2 storey dwelling with attached garages to the rear with associated works (Change of house type as approved under LA03/2017/0587/RM)

SITE/LOCATION: 21A Belfast Road, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, BT29 4TQ

APPLICANT: Mr Thomas Burns

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report and associated addendum report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse planning permission.

The undernoted public speaker addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested –

Thomas Burns In Support (Applicant)

Proposed by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Campbell that planning permission be refused

on the proposal being put to the meeting 6 Members voted in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention, it was agreed

that planning permission be refused for the following reason:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to the provisions contained in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY13 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that the height, scale, massing and design of the dwelling would not be appropriate for the site or the locality.**

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.9 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0641/O

PROPOSAL: Site for replacement dwelling
SITE/LOCATION: 250m north east of 44 Belfast Road, Nutts Corner, Crumlin
APPLICANT: Gerard Maguire

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse outline planning permission.

There were no public speakers to address this item.

Proposed by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Magill and unanimously agreed

that outline planning permission be refused for the following reason:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, Annex 1, Policy AMP 3 Access to Protected Routes (Consequential Revision), in that it would, if permitted, result in the creation of a new vehicular access onto a Protected Route, thereby prejudicing the free flow of traffic.**

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

Alderman Brett left the meeting.

ITEM 3.10 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0410/O

PROPOSAL: Site for replacement dwelling
SITE/LOCATION: Proposed site for a dwelling and attached domestic garage (Policy CTY 10)
APPLICANT: Mr Richard French

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse outline planning permission.

The undernoted public speaker addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested –

Chris Cassidy In Support (Agent)

Proposed by Councillor Cushinan

Seconded by Councillor Kinnear that outline planning permission be granted

on the proposal being put to the meeting 4 Members voted in favour, 7 against and 0 abstentions, the proposal was declared not carried

In favour: Councillors Cushinan, Kinnear, Lynch and Webb

Against: Aldermen Agnew, Campbell and Smyth
 Councillors Archibald-Brown, Flanagan, Magill and Swann

A further proposal was then put to the meeting

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown that outline planning permission be refused

on the proposal being put to the meeting 7 Members voted in favour, 4 against and 0 abstentions, it was agreed

that outline planning permission be refused for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to the provisions contained in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policies CTY1 and CTY 10 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that the dwelling if permitted, would not be visually linked or sited to cluster with an established group of buildings on a farm.**
- 2. The proposal is contrary to the provisions contained in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY13 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that the dwelling if permitted, would not integrate into the countryside.**

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

ITEM 3.11 APPLICATION NO: LA03/2020/0384/O

PROPOSAL: Site of dwelling and garage

SITE/LOCATION: Approx. 65m North West of 35 Clonkeen Road, Randalstown

APPLICANT: Mr Mervyn Cotton

Barry Diamond, Principal Planning Officer, introduced the Planning Report to the Committee and made a recommendation to refuse outline planning permission.

The undernoted public speakers addressed the Committee and responded to enquiries from Members as requested –

Mervyn Cotton	In Support (Applicant)
Ivan McClean	In Support (Agent)

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Alderman Agnew that outline planning permission be refused

on the proposal being put to the meeting 6 Members voted in favour, 3 against and 2 abstentions, it was agreed

that outline planning permission be refused for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposal is contrary to the policy provisions of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY 1 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that there are no overriding reasons why this development is essential in this rural location and could not be located within a settlement.**
- 2. The proposal is contrary to the policy provisions of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY2A of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that;**
 - (a) the identified site fails to provide a suitable degree of enclosure and is not bounded on at least two sides with other development in the cluster; and**
 - (b) development of the site cannot be absorbed into the existing cluster through rounding off and consolidation and will significantly alter its existing character and visually intrude into the open countryside;**
- 3. The proposal is contrary to the policy provisions of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY 8 of Planning Policy Statement 21, in that it;**
 - (a) fails to meet the provisions for an infill opportunity as the site is not located within a substantial and continuous built-up frontage; and**
 - (b) would result in the loss of an important visual break in the developed appearance of the locality and the extension of a ribbon of development.**
- 4. The proposal is contrary to the policy provisions of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY 13 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that;**
 - (a) the site lacks long established natural boundaries and is unable to provide a suitable degree of enclosure for the buildings to integrate into the landscape.**
 - (b) The development proposal relies primarily on the use of new landscaping for integration; and**
 - (c) The dwelling and garage would be prominent features in the landscape.**
- 5. The proposal is contrary to the policy provisions of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Policy CTY 14 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that;**
 - (a) it would be unduly prominent in the landscape.**
 - (b) it would result in a suburban style build-up of development when viewed with existing and approved buildings resulting in a detrimental change to and further eroding the rural character of the area; and**
 - (c) it would add to an existing ribbon of development.**

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

PART TWO GENERAL PLANNING MATTERS

ITEM 3.12

P/PLAN/1 DELEGATED PLANNING DECISIONS AND APPEALS

A list of planning decisions issued by Officers during December 2020 under delegated powers together with information relating to planning appeals was circulated for Members information. Members noted that there were no planning appeal decisions for the Borough issued during December by the Planning Appeals Commission.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and unanimously agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

ITEM 3.13

P/PLAN/1 PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICES FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

Prospective applicants for all development proposals which fall into the Major development category under the 2011 Planning Act are required to give at least 12 weeks' notice to the Council that an application for planning permission is to be submitted. This is referred to as a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN). One PAN was registered during December 2020 the details of which is set out below.

PAN Reference:	LA03/2021/0009/PAN
Proposal:	Proposed construction of timber recycling facility to include processing plant building, office, warehousing, loading and storage facilities, with associated landscaping and provision of new access to Antrim Road
Location:	Lands to north and east of No. 655 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 4RG
Applicant:	RTD Crawford Ltd
Date Received:	21 December 2020
12 week expiry:	15 March 2021

Under Section 27 of the 2011 Planning Act obligations are placed on the prospective developer to consult the community in advance of submitting a Major development planning application. Where, following the 12 week period set down in statute, an application is submitted this must be accompanied by a Pre-Application Community consultation report outlining the consultation that has been undertaken regarding the application and detailing how this has influenced the proposal submitted.

As part of its response to Coronavirus, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) introduced an amendment to subordinate legislation earlier this year to temporarily remove the requirement for a public event as part of the pre application community consultation (PACC). Whilst the initial Departmental Regulations applied for five months, the Infrastructure Minister, Nichola Mallon, announced on 1 October 2020 that the temporary suspension of the PACC requirement was being extended in light of the current uncertainty surrounding current and future incidences and spread of coronavirus.

The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 temporarily amend the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and will now apply until 31 March 2021. As with the previous Regulations applicants will still need to comply with other requirements to ensure communities are aware of and can input to major development proposals for their areas. However, this temporary change will allow major planning applications to continue to be submitted during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Guidance issued by the Department indicates that specific detail should be included in the PAN application indicating what consultation methods the prospective applicant is proposing to ensure that the local community is able to access, and comment on, information about a proposed development, despite the absence of a PACC public event.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown

Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and unanimously agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

ITEM 3.14

P/PLAN/1 - NORTHERN IRELAND PLANNING STATISTICS 2020/21 – SECOND QUARTERLY BULLETIN FOR THE PERIOD JULY – SEPTEMBER 2020

The second quarterly provisional planning statistics for 2020/21 produced by the Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), a copy of which was circulated were released on 17 December 2020.

The Quarterly Bulletin advises that planning activity and processing performance continued to be impacted during Quarter 2 by the restrictions put in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. It indicates that this should be borne in mind and caution taken when interpreting these figures and when making comparisons with other time periods and performance across Councils.

The figures show that during the period from July to September 2020, the total number of planning applications received in Northern Ireland was 3,288, an increase of 42% on the previous quarter (April – June 2020), and 12% up on the same quarter in 2020/21. The total number of decisions issued during this period was 2,410 up one-third from the previous quarter, but down almost one-quarter from the same period last year.

During the second quarter period a total of 182 new applications were received by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (an increase of some 30% on the first quarter and some 8% above the second quarter last year which is slightly below the NI trend) with 124 decisions issued, a significant reduction on the previous quarter reflecting the introduction of the staff furlough scheme in late May.

In relation to performance against statutory targets the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) figures show that the Council took on average 20.8 weeks to process and decide **Major** planning applications up to and including the second quarter against the target of 30 weeks. As with the first quarter statistics this performance at first reading maintains last year's Major performance and ranks amongst the top three of the 11 Councils. It also reflects well against the average processing time of 70.2 weeks across all Councils. However, Members noted that these figures continue to relate to a very small number of Major applications (only two applications by the end of the second quarter) and should therefore be interpreted with great care. A more realistic performance figure will only become apparent towards the year end and Members were made aware there are a number of Major applications over 12 months old that are likely to come forward to Committee over the remainder of the Business year for determination. This combined with the impact of coronavirus on the Planning Section could clearly impact on the Council's Major performance target by year end.

The DfI figures show that the Council took on average 9.8 weeks to process and decide **Local** planning applications during the second quarter against the target of 15 weeks. Whilst this performance maintains the progress witnessed last year and ranks amongst the top three of the 11 Councils, Members noted that the figures should be read with some caution at this time as they relate to a smaller number of decisions taken relative to the number of applications received during the quarter as a result of the introduction of furlough within the Planning Section. Nevertheless, the second quarter figures do reflect well against the average processing time of 18.4 weeks across all Councils and also show that almost 75% of Local applications were processed within 15 weeks.

In relation to enforcement the DfI figures highlight that the Council's planning enforcement team took an average of 11.9 weeks to process 70% of enforcement cases to target conclusion. Whilst, at first reading this performance compares favourably with the average processing time of 40.4 weeks among all Councils, as with the first quarter there continued to be a significant drop in the number of cases dealt with in absolute terms during the Quarter. As a consequence, there are a large number of outstanding enforcement cases which remain to be processed.

Overall, Members noted that the impact of coronavirus on the Planning Section resources together with the introduction of the staff furlough scheme in late May combined with enforcement work being limited to priority cases at that time has inevitably had a significant impact on overall performance in recent months. This impact will only become more apparent with the publication of the remaining NISRA statistics for the current Business year. As such and as the Quarterly Bulletin advises, Members noted that the performance results for the year to date should be read with a degree of caution as it is anticipated performance will be shown to have declined overall during the current Business year as a result of the impact of coronavirus.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and unanimously agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

ITEM 3.15

P/PLAN/1 - NORTHERN IRELAND PLANNING STATISTICS – PLANNING MONITORING FRAMEWORK 2019-2020

The second Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework, a copy of which was circulated, was published on 22 December 2020 by the Department for Infrastructure's Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch.

The statistical bulletin includes details of performance during 2019-20 across the three statutory planning targets for major development applications, local development applications and enforcement cases alongside a suite of additional indicators that are intended to provide a more comprehensive assessment of planning activity by each Council. The bulletin presents a summary of the indicators for Northern Ireland, as well as relevant indicator data for each local planning authority. As this is the second year of reporting the Framework, where relevant comparator figures for each Council for 2018-19 have been provided in the bulletin.

In addition to information on Council performance measured against the 3 statutory targets, previously reported to Committee, the figures provide information on the level of delegation in each Council and the proportion of Committee decisions taken against Officer recommendation. Members noted that this latter information should however be treated with caution and Officers advised that no direct comparison could be made with other Councils as each Council has its own Scheme of Delegation for planning matters.

Delegated Powers

The figures show that during 2019-20 decisions on 88.5% of planning applications submitted to the Council were delegated to Officers, an increase of 2% on 2018-19 and only slightly below the NI average of 91.2%.

Planning Committee

87 applications were determined by the Planning Committee during 2019-20 with 8% of decisions contrary to Officer recommendation which compares favourably with the NI average of 11.6%

Planning Appeals

Officers pointed out that this year's Planning Monitoring Framework also includes information on planning appeals during 2019-20 for each planning authority. This indicates that there were 12 appeals against the refusal of planning permission by the Council during 2019-20 and that 10 of these appeals were dismissed by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC). This equates to 83.3% of appeals dismissed against a NI average of 60.7%

There were 5 claims for costs made to the PAC in relation to appeals lodged during 2018-19 and 2 awards of partial costs against the Council were made.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and unanimously agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and unanimously agreed that

the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and the audio recording and live stream would cease.

ITEM 3.16 - IN CONFIDENCE

P/PLAN/34 – PLANNING ENFORCEMENT REPORT 2020-2021 – QUARTER 2

The Northern Ireland Planning Statistics Q2 Statistical Bulletin was released on 17 December 2020 by the Department for Infrastructure's Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch. It includes information on the Council's performance on enforcement cases measured against the statutory performance targets set by DfI.

The Quarter 2 report was circulated and in view of the sensitive nature of some of this information it was presented in confidence.

The DfI figures highlight that the Council's planning enforcement team opened 91 cases during the period, compared to 183 during the same period last year. 16 cases were concluded, compared to 162 during the same period last year. No prosecutions were initiated during this reporting period, compared with 2 during the same period last year.

The statistics indicate that the Council has concluded 81.3% of cases within the statutory target of 39 weeks, and this is compared with 99.7% during the same period last year. It was acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on enforcement performance for the year to date.

Following questions from Members the Head of Planning and Principal Planning Officer provided clarity to Members on the status of enforcement cases.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Webb and unanimously agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Cushinan

Seconded by Councillor Webb and unanimously agreed that

the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and co-operation and the meeting concluded at 9.46pm.

MAYOR