

Performance for Appeal Decisions 1st April to 30th September 2006

This is a briefing note intended to provide information on the current performance of the Council in respect of Planning Appeals.

The context for this information on Planning Appeals in Bury is as follows:-

- A previous Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) set a target of less than 40% of appeals to be allowed, i.e. the applicant was successful in appealing the Council's decision.
- BVPI (204) in respect of the percentage of appeals allowed against the refusal of planning applications. A National target has not been set but a Local target of 35% has been included within the Council's Best Value Performance Plan.
- The current National average of appeals allowed is 33% (and is consistently between 33% and 36%).
- In determining the Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) for 2006/7 the Government have indicated that poor performance on appeal will reduce the level of grant awarded. Where the number of appeals allowed is 40% greater than the national average, 10% of the grant will be withheld and where the number is greater than 50%, 20% will be withheld. The "target" therefore for appeal performance, in terms of PDG, is currently about 46%.

Appeal decisions 1st April 2006 to 30th September 2006 (Figures in brackets are those for the same period in 2005)

	No. W/drawn	No of appeals decided	No. of appeals allowed	% allowed
Committee decision	0	11 (7)	3 (2)	27% (28)
Delegated decision	0	25 (19)	6 (7)	24% (37)
All decisions	0	36 (26)	9 (9)	25% (35)

There were 7 appeal cases involving a Committee refusal of permission against the officer recommendation, of these one was allowed and 6 were dismissed on appeal.

The number of appeals dealt with was significantly higher than the same period last year (38% increase).

There was no award of cost for or against the Council.

The overall appeal performance is:-

- significantly improved on the last full year figure of 35% allowed and the year before of 51%
- better than the current national average (33%)
- better than that required by the Council's Best Value Performance Plan.

For the purposes of Planning Delivery Grant in 2006/7 the statistics are to be taken from a period calculated from the 1st October 2005 to the 30th June 2006. The target to avoid any abatement of this year's award of grant is expected to be 46% or lower. During this accounting period the performance was also good, when 28% of appeals were allowed.