



Forest of Dean
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —

CABINET

13 September 2018

SD.247

Subject	FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/2019										
Key Decision	This item is not a key decision.										
Accountable member	Roger James – Deputy leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance, Performance and Shared Working Tel: 01594 812623, email: roger.james@fdean.gov.uk										
Accountable officer	Head of Paid Service If you have any questions relating to the report content and its annex please contact a member of the Corporate Support Team on 01594 812524 who will direct you to the appropriate manager.										
Summary	This is the first performance report for the 2018/2019 financial year containing information for April to June 2018. The report also contains a summary of the client monitoring and the financial position.										
Annexes	Annex A – Performance Summary.										
Recommendation	Cabinet is asked to note the report.										
Corporate priorities	This report will allow members to monitor progress made in achieving our Community Outcomes and Objectives 2016-2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Communities • Thriving Economy • Enhanced Environment • Value for Money 										
Implications (details at end of report)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>LEGAL</td> <td>FINANCIAL</td> <td>RISK</td> <td>EQUALITIES</td> <td>SUSTAINABILITY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	LEGAL	FINANCIAL	RISK	EQUALITIES	SUSTAINABILITY	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
LEGAL	FINANCIAL	RISK	EQUALITIES	SUSTAINABILITY							
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO							

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.** Performance reports are presented to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. They demonstrate how the Council is performing in achieving its corporate priorities. The financial information, service information and local projects highlighted in these reports reflect any new or changing priorities to ensure the reports remain focussed on the most important performance messages.
- 1.2.** We are keen to improve our reporting and will continue to work with members to identify the performance information they would find most useful and how they would prefer it to be presented. We would be very interested to hear what you think and if you would like to provide any feedback please email Corporate.Support@fdean.gov.uk.

2. HIGHLIGHTS AND ISSUES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER

- 2.1.** Annex A provides a summary of the local projects and service information that is helping the Council to achieve its Corporate Priorities.
- 2.2.** Highlights and issues for the first quarter include:
 - Nine affordable housing units have been delivered this quarter at Owens Farm, Coleford. During 2018/19 it is estimated that 43 dwellings will be delivered. Whilst this is below target, we are aware through our Housing Enabler's activity that a number of a Registered Provider partners are in advanced discussions with developers to secure the delivery of further units.
 - The average amount of waste per household not sent for reuse, recycling and composting is 101kg against a target of 106kg.
 - Processing of major, minor and other planning applications are all exceeding target. However, at 44.44% planning appeals allowed is above the target of 30%. The relatively low number of appeals can result in one or two decisions significantly affecting the outcome and although the council has recently adopted its Allocations Plan it could be months before the Planning Inspectorate determine appeals using the new plan due to a backlog of work. To put the figure in context, during the same quarter we determined 239 applications. The four decisions allowed at appeal is 0.6% of the decisions for the quarter.
 - Members of the public are able to watch Full Council and Planning Committee meetings live from Thursday 24 May.
 - Our Community Engagement Team were regional champions in the 'Healthier Communities' category in a national competition to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS as a result of their partnership working with the NHS locally and their support to local individuals, groups and voluntary community and social enterprise organisations.

3. FINANCIAL RESULTS FIRST QUARTER 2018/2019

- 3.1.** Historically, the first quarter performance does not highlight significant variances in the budget. However, in accordance with financial rule B4.2 the following areas are worth noting at this stage in the financial year.
- 3.2.** The waste, recycling, street cleaning budget position at quarter one is forecast to overspend at year end of around £90,000. This is due to the income for recycling materials at quarter one being £45,000 under budget. During 2017/18 there was a significant decrease in the market prices for hard mixed fibres (paper and cardboard) and the decline in price continued until May this year. As mixed papers accounts for a large proportion of the tonnage collected for recycling the effect of the drop in market price had a major impact on income. The price decrease was due to China imposing restrictions on the materials which they accept, requiring all materials to be segregated into single material streams. Whilst the mixed fibres from Forest of Dean District Council were not going to China these restrictions affected the global recycling market as the supply of material is greater than demand, and as such this resulted in the price of mixed papers falling to an all-time low. The market price for mixed paper has started to recover so the deficit should reduce over the coming quarters.
- 3.3.** The shortfall in income for recycling is being offset by a higher than anticipated income from recycling credits. This is a payment from the waste disposal authority, Gloucestershire County Council, to the waste collection authority, Forest of Dean District Council, for diverting waste from landfill for recycling. As the tonnage of recycling collected has increased so has the income for recycling credits and as such at quarter one is £7,000 higher than budgeted. If this trend continues throughout the year, it is anticipated that we will receive £28,000 additional income. The garden waste budget is forecasting an underspend at year end of £25,000 due to licence sales being higher than budgeted for and demand for new garden waste bins being less than anticipated which should also offset the reduction of income for recycling materials. All contractor costs are on budget. Therefore a projected overspend across the service is currently forecast to be £37,000.
- 3.4.** Fee income for planning applications is significantly above estimate, with a surplus of £60,000 against the profiled budget of £141,000 for the first quarter. This is due largely to a number of larger housing schemes. Whilst difficult to predict, it is not expected that the fee income for the rest of the year will continue at the same rate. Therefore we are currently forecasting an additional £60,000 income from planning applications in this financial year.

3.5. Investments Returns Year on Year 2014/15 to 2018/19 as at the end of Quarter 1

Financial Year	Interest Earned £	Weighted Average Annual Principal £m	Average Rate of Interest %	Annual Budget £
2014/15	145,955	21.745	0.67	144,000
2015/16	173,130	25.203	0.69	144,000
2016/17	142,153	20.721	0.69	150,700
2017/18	158,000	24.170	0.66	100,000
2018/19	*360,000 est	20.000	1.94	350,000

As can be seen from the table above the Council were achieving very small returns on the investments made prior to 2018/19 as the Council kept to its traditional lending to financial institutions such as banks and local authorities at a time of sustained low interest rates.

Members will recall that in February 2018 an informed decision was made to invest more funds into Pooled Funds, resulting in a more diversified investment portfolio. After investing £3m into the CCLA Property Fund during late 2017, a further £2m was invested with the CCLA Diversified Income Fund and £1m with the Schrodgers Income Maximiser Fund. These decisions have enabled the Council to increase its investment income budget by a further £250k. Monitoring for the first quarter of the year has seen predicted levels of return of 1.94% annualised and if this was to continue throughout the financial year we would see returns approximately around £360k.

The actual returns for the 3 specific pooled funds for the first quarter of 2018/19 are as follows:

Pooled Fund	Investment	1 st quarter dividend	Equivalent interest rate
CCLA property fund	£3,000,000	£31,163.04	4.16%
CCLA diversified fund	£2,000,000	£17,934.15	3.58%
Schrodgers maximiser fund	£1,000,000	£23,152.23	9.76%

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified

Priority 1: Strong Communities

Quarter 1 2018/2019

Local Projects

Shaping Five Acres

- Negotiations between the Council and Homes England remain ongoing regarding the Council's acquisition of the site.
- Via a community focus group and survey some early work has been undertaken to establish how people would like to see the site redeveloped.

Leisure Strategy

- We received the Facilities Planning Model which considers the districts supply and demand for swimming pools and sports halls both now and projected in 2040.
- This and other information such as health profiles, deprivation statistics, site availability and economic growth will help shape our leisure strategy



Service Level Agreements

We are carrying out a review of the way we fund existing and new voluntary sector bodies to ensure we are meeting the needs of our communities.



Community Engagement

- District wide roadshow in 10 locations for Dementia Awareness week and 48 dementia awareness sessions held.
- 34 stray dogs collected, 24 reunited with their owners and ten successfully rehomed.

Priority 1: Strong Communities

Quarter 1 2018/2019

Service Information

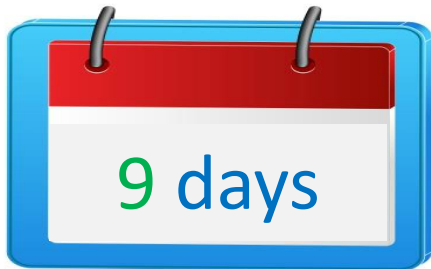
Time taken to process new claims for housing benefit

Target 20 days



Time taken to process change of circumstances for housing benefit

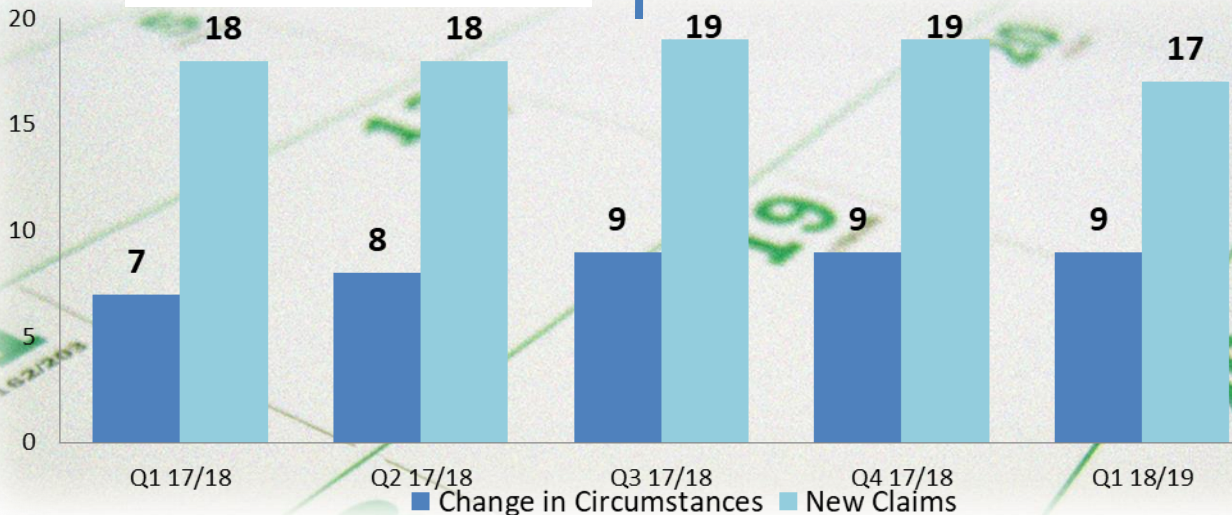
Target 10 days



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



- 87 exercise class and falls prevention referrals
- 124 Community Wellbeing Service referrals
- 254 classes during the quarter with over 2,500 attendees



Priority 1: Strong Communities



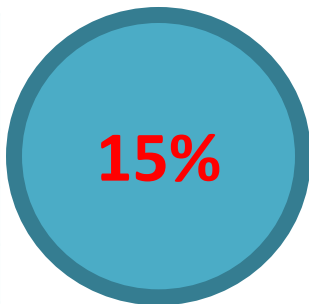
Quarter 1 2018/2019

Service Information

9 Affordable homes delivered in quarter one against a target of **15**

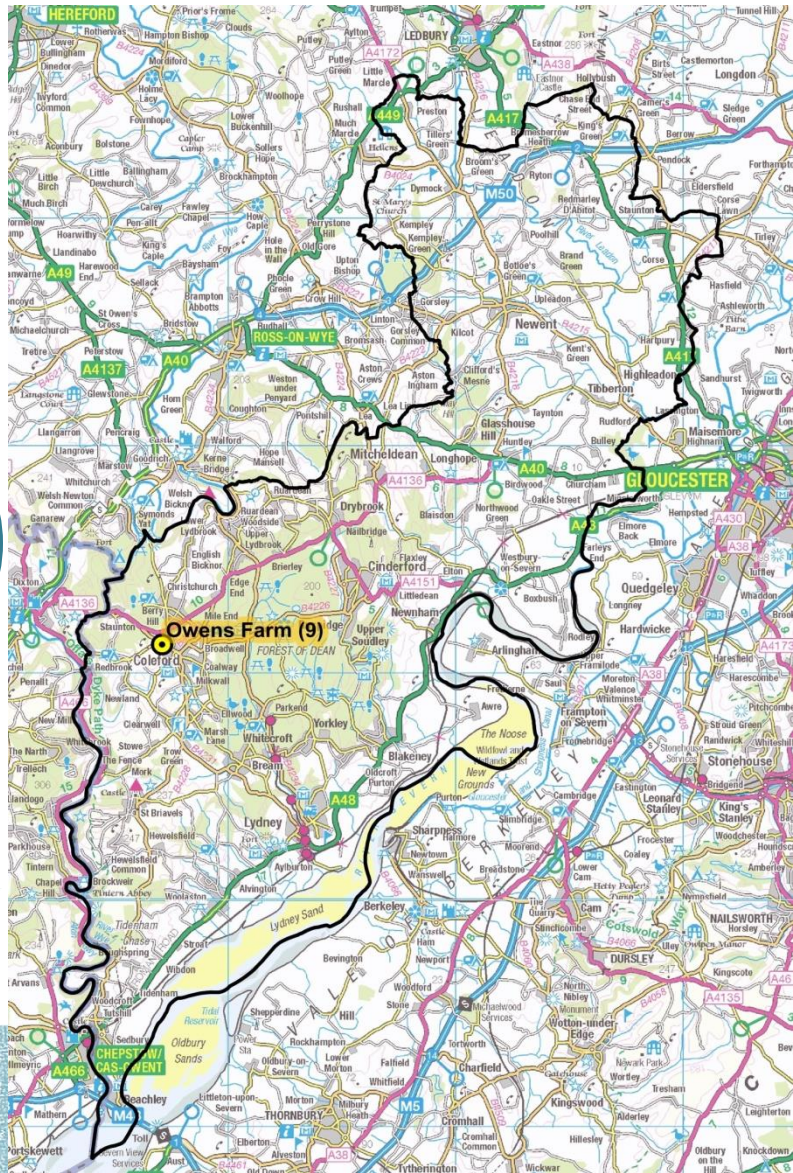
Target for 18/19 is 60

Q1 17/18	30
Q2 17/18	50
Q3 17/18	75
Q4 17/18	100
Q1 18/19	9



30

affordable homes delivered in quarter 1 2017/2018



Priority 2: Thriving Economy

Quarter 1 2018/2019

Local Projects

Lawnstone Site

- Planning permission has been granted to develop the site for three commercial units and ten residential units.
- Work on the materials and landscaping is continuing.
- Works are due to commence on site in October 2018.



Regenerating Lydney Docks

- Planning application approved to develop the harbour and provide visitor facilities.
- Funding bids submitted to Rural Development Programme for England and Coastal Community Fund for over £2m.

Cinderford Regeneration

- Gloucestershire College construction on track for handover mid August.
- Phase one of the Spine Road is being adopted by the County Council and drawings are being prepared for phase two.
- We are liaising with Homes England over the acquisition of the Northern United site.



Priority 2: Thriving Economy



Quarter 1 2018/2019

Forest Economic Partnership

- Chair and Vice Chair appointed, branding & twitter account launched.
- Four subgroups formed:
 - Education & skills
 - Transport & infrastructure
 - Digital connectivity
 - Bridges and borders
- Second quarterly stakeholder meeting held at Vantage Point.



Service Information

28.16%

of council tax was collected

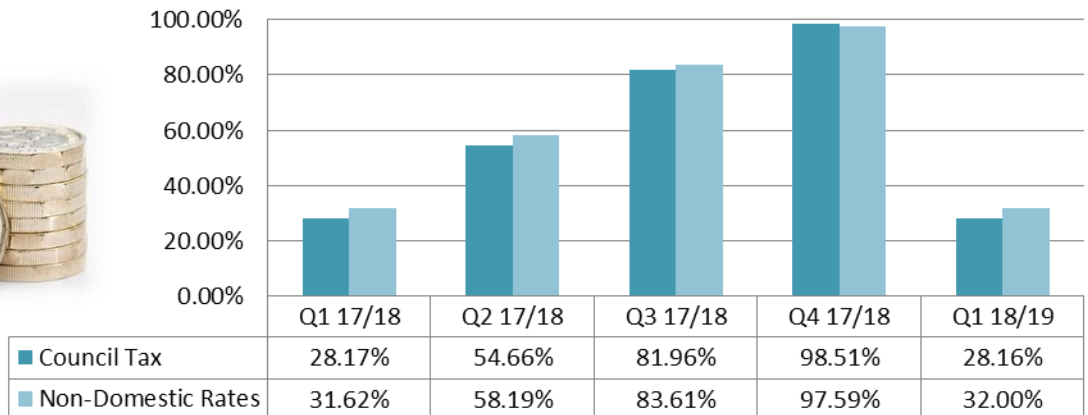
£14,004,923

32.00%

of non-domestic rates was collected

£4,096,621

Percentage Collected - cumulative



Priority 3: Enhanced Environment



Quarter 1 2018/2019

Local Projects

'Love Your Forest' campaign

- This year's #LoveYourForest anti-litter campaign was launched at the Activities Festival in April with a horsebox Trashconverter converting trash into treats.
- A new #LoveYourForest scouts activities badge has been launched.
- #LoveYourForest car window sticker competition launched in May – winning number plates are published each week.

#LOVEYOURFOREST



Allocations Plan

- The Inspector's Report has been received and the plan has been adopted.
- It details how and where policies in the Core Strategy will be implemented, allocations for development, settlement boundaries and areas to be protected.

Flood Protection Projects

- Scheme for Newent will be constructed in October 2018 subject to landowner agreement.
- A maintenance programme for Grills and watercourses is being introduced.



Priority 3: Enhanced Environment



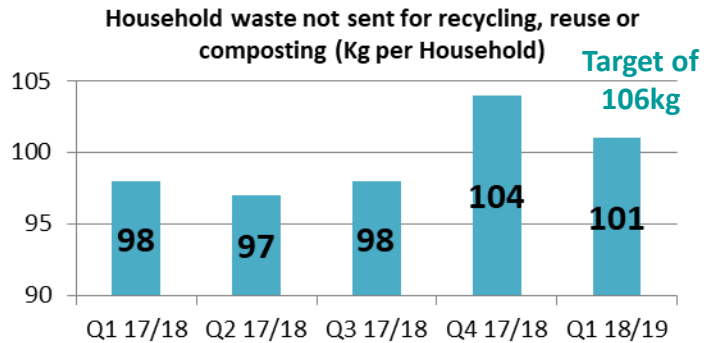
Quarter 1 2018/2019

Service Information

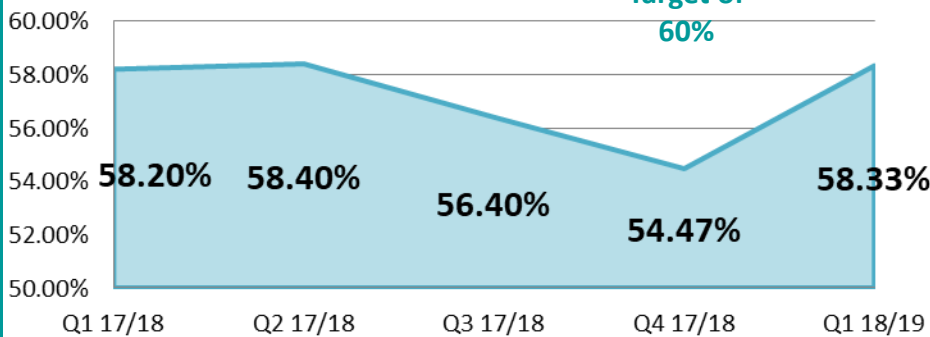
101kgs

Of waste was put in the average household's black bin

That's 101 bags of sugar!



Total household waste reused, recycled and composted (%) - cumulative



58.33%

of waste was recycled, reused or composted



164

flytipped were collected costing

£7,738

216 during Q1 17/18 costing £6,315.08

4

Fixed Penalty Notices were issued

Priority 4: Value for Money



Quarter 1 2018/2019

Local Projects

Peer Challenge

- A Local Government Association Peer Challenge was carried out.
- The Peer team acted as “critical friends” to evaluate our ability to deliver on our plans, proposals and ambitions and assess how effective we are at delivering services.
- An action plan will be developed from their recommendations.



Asset Management

- Work has commenced on developing a new asset management strategy to ensure we make best use of our assets.

Shared working

- The Publica Business Plan, ‘Preparing for the Future’, has been published and approved by partner councils.
- It sets out clear objectives to improve services for residents while identifying savings of £2.35 million over the next three years.
- Details of Publica performance are presented to the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

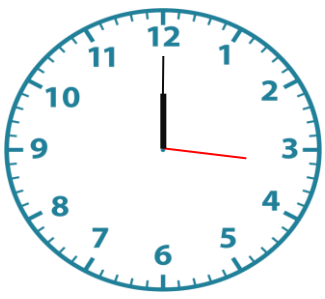
PUBLICA

Priority 4: Value for Money



Quarter 1 2018/2019

Service Information

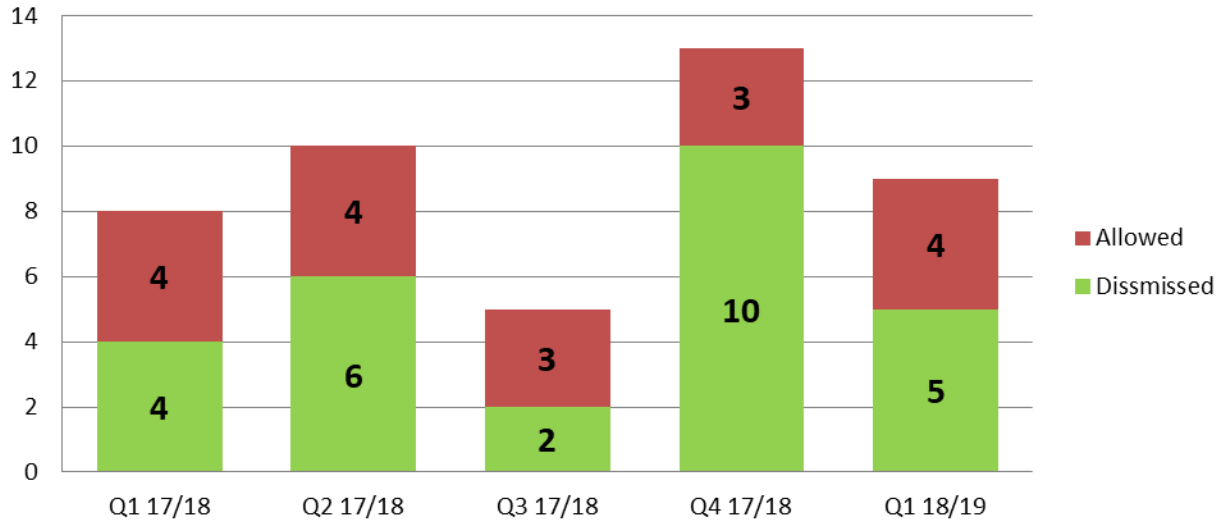


16 seconds is the average time taken to answer a call to customer services in Q1 18/19
11 seconds in Q1 17/18
(target =15 seconds)

3.5% of calls to the customer contact centre were abandoned in Q1 18/19
5.4% in Q1 17/18
(target = less than 5%)



Planning Appeals



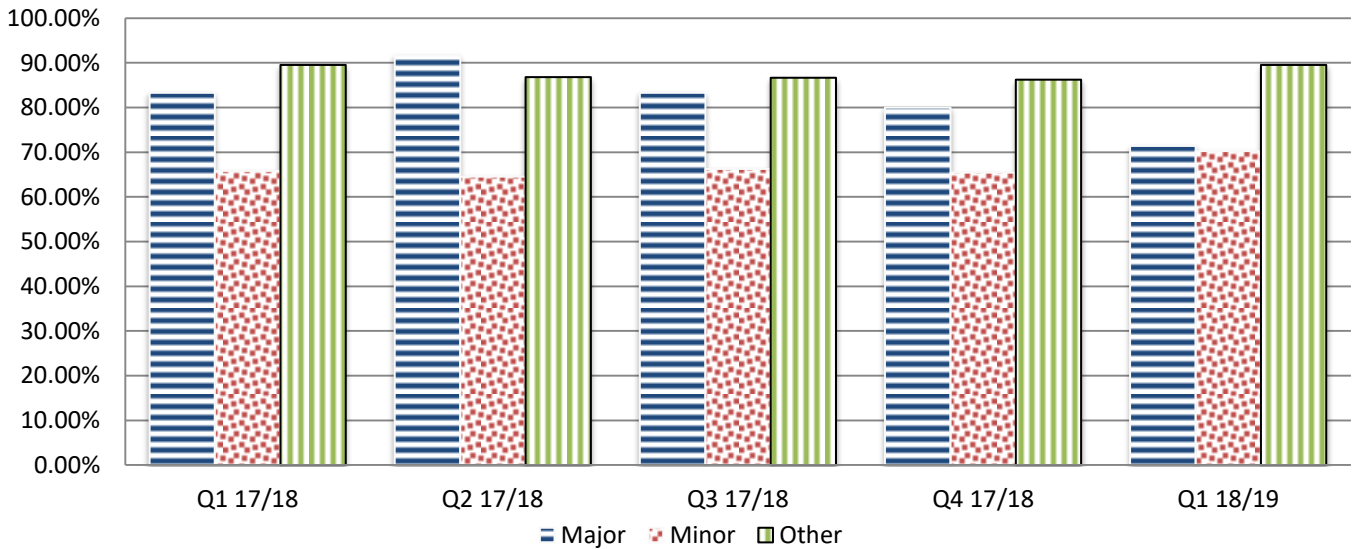
Priority 4: Value for Money



Quarter 1 2018/2019

Service Information

Planning applications processed within timescales



Major Planning Applications

71.43% (cumulative) **Target 60%**

80.0% (Q1 17/18 cumulative)

5 out of 7, **71.4%** (this quarter)

Minor Planning Applications

70.24% (cumulative) **Target 65%**

65.82% (Q1 17/18 cumulative)

59 out of 84, **70.24%** (this quarter)

Other Planning Applications

85.81% (cumulative) **Target 80%**

89.51% (Q1 17/18 cumulative)

127 out of 148, **84.5%** (this quarter)

Planning Appeals Allowed

44.4% (cumulative) **Target 30%**

50.0% (Q1 17/18 cumulative)

4 out of 9, **44.4%** (this quarter)