

The Vale of Glamorgan LPA

PLANNING ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (APR) – 2017-18

PREFACE

The Planning system in Wales is currently going through an unprecedented period of change with the introduction of the Wales Planning Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and all the consequent change for the Planning system associated with the implementation of this legislation. This comes in a period of reducing budgets for Local Government. It is also hot on the heels of one of the deepest recessions ever to affect the UK as a whole and Wales in particular. Notwithstanding the above the Vale of Glamorgan recognises the important role the Planning service has in re-invigorating the economy and communities to ensure that economic growth and regeneration lead to sustainable growth in the local economy while protecting and improving both the urban and rural features of the Vale of Glamorgan which ultimately make it one of the best places to live in Wales.

The recently adopted Local Development Plan, provides a framework for sustainable development within the Vale of Glamorgan up to 2026 and is an extremely important document that guides the growth of the Vale of Glamorgan and identifies the infrastructure needs of our communities in terms of employment, facilities and services needed to support that development. In setting this framework for the future development of the Vale of Glamorgan, we have been mindful of the need to regenerate and support our communities and in doing so the plan seeks to achieve a balance between economic growth, social cohesion and environmental impact.

Wherever possible, as a Council the re-use of previously developed land and the need to minimise development on green fields is promoted. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Barry where the emphasis is very much on the continued regeneration of the Waterfront. In addition, we have ensured that sufficient emphasis is being placed on providing for an appropriate level of growth in other communities throughout the Vale thereby ensuring their long term sustainability and vitality.

The Council is also seeking to grasp the opportunities offered by the St Athan - Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone and demonstrates the essential role that the Vale of Glamorgan plays in the success of the wider City-Region area. I would also re-affirm the Council's strong commitment to the on-going regeneration of Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan.

I am pleased to note the progress identified in this Performance Report including the adoption of the LDP and the clear continuing high performance of the council in determining planning applications. I am confident that this puts this Council in a very strong position as we move forward in 2017/18.

Councillor Jonathan Bird, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

CONTEXT

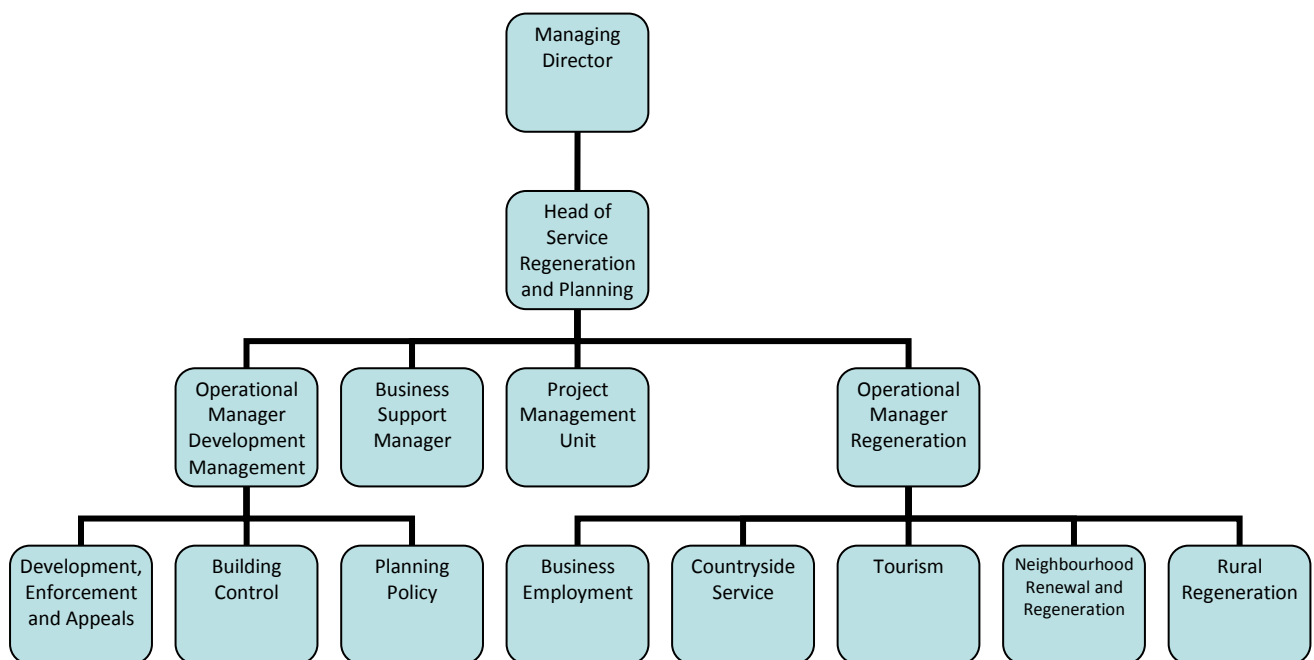
- The Vale of Glamorgan Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (LDP) constitutes the development plan for the authority. The LDP provides the strategic and detailed policy framework for the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council formally adopted the LDP on 28th June 2017 when it formally replaced the previous Unitary Development Plan (1996-2011).
- The LDP has regard to the policy context provided by a range of local policy documents, strategies and programmes. The LDP supports the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan Community Strategy and will assist in the delivery of the priority outcomes where they relate to or require the development and use of land or protection of natural assets. In addition, the Community Strategy vision has been adopted as the overarching vision for the Vale of Glamorgan LDP to ensure consistency.
- The proximity of the Vale of Glamorgan to Cardiff, coupled with the rich and diverse nature of the towns and villages in the area have resulted in significant development pressure, particularly for new residential development. In terms of employment, the Vale has one of the highest levels of out commuting in the region. The majority of people travel to Cardiff to work resulting in peak time congestion on the distributor roads in the eastern Vale. The designation of the St. Athan – Cardiff Airport Enterprise zone in 2011 is of regional importance and focuses on the aerospace and defence sector. The LDP seeks to capitalise on the opportunities presented by this designation and seeks to attract inward investment that will benefit the region as a whole. Although the UK Government decided not to progress with the Defence Training College development, MOD ST. Athan continues to play an important part in UK defence plans and provides an important source of employment for the local economy. The LDP also favours proposals which assist the long term viability of Barry's port to facilitate the efficient and reliable movement of freight by sea. In 2010, the Welsh Government designated Barry as a regeneration area and the ongoing redevelopment of Barry Waterfront plays a key role in this.
- The Vale of Glamorgan benefits from a wide range of environmental resources, some of which are recognised for their value by international and national designations such as the Severn Estuary and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. There are also a large number of national and locally important designated sites of nature conservation value which provide important habitats for local biodiversity including protected species. The Vale of Glamorgan has 27 sites of special scientific interest, 1 special protection area, 2 special areas of conservation and one adjoining the Vale of Glamorgan at Kenfig (Bridgend) and 1 Ramsar site.
- In terms of cultural heritage, the Vale of Glamorgan has approximately 740 listed buildings, over 100 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 39 conservation areas, 18 areas included in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and 2 areas on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales.
- The Vale of Glamorgan covers 33097 hectares of which approximately 85% is agricultural land. Notwithstanding this, the number of persons employed in agriculture or fishing accounts for less than 1% of the employment market, compared to a national average of 1.7%. Barry is identified as a key settlement in the Wales Spatial Plan in recognition of its role in the success of the South

East Wales Capital Region. This is reflected in the LDP strategy which seeks to promote new housing, employment and retail opportunities in Barry and other urban settlements in the south east zone. Other major settlements include Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge all of which have good public transport provision, local employment opportunities, established town centres and a wide range of cultural, educational and community facilities. The remaining population live in the smaller villages and hamlets located across the rural Vale.

- As part of the LDP process, the Council has fully considered the Welsh Government’s 2011-based population and household projections which indicate that the population will reach 136,281 by 2026 and will result in 7,118 new households between 2011 and 2026 (based on 10-year average migration projections). The Council’s LDP anticipates the need for 9460 new dwellings up to 2026 arising from these forecast demographic changes and to address local affordable housing need and to support economic growth (Policy SP3 refers).

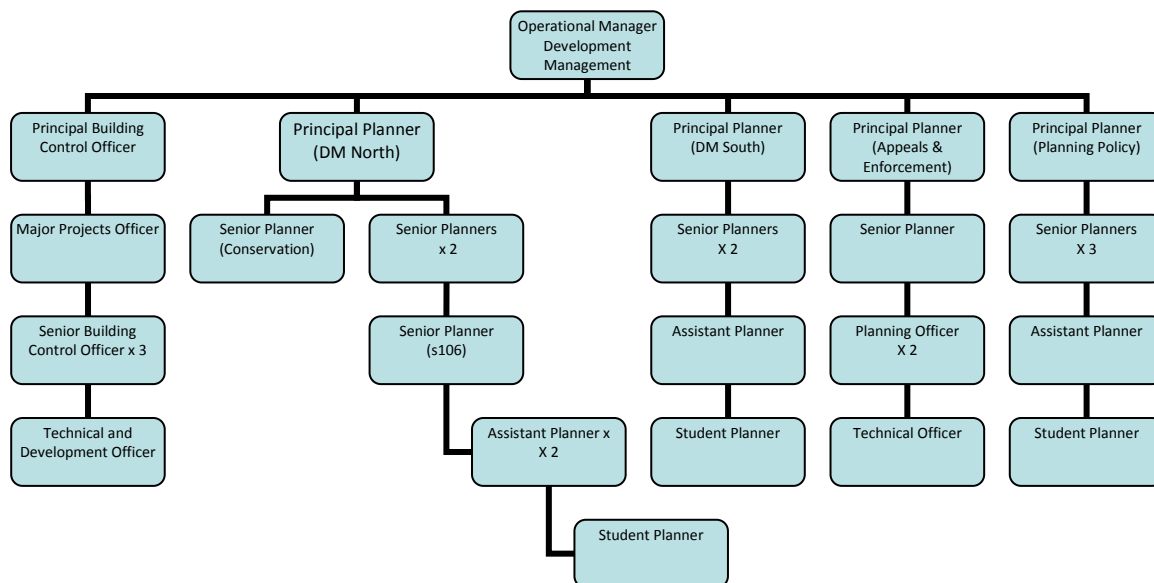
PLANNING SERVICE

The Planning Service now sits within a Regeneration and Planning Department under a Head of service that reports directly to the Managing Director.



- The Department has been through a restructure in 2015 with the Planning and Regeneration roles of the Council being grouped under one head of service with that role reporting directly to the Managing Director (Chief Executive).
- The Council is also going through a ‘re-shaping service’ process in light of the substantial cuts to its budgets. The process is exploring alternative deliver models, business case change models and income generation themes.

- Over the last 4 years the income received by the Planning Department in respect of planning applications has fluctuated from £644,000 in 13/14, £970,000 in 14/15 to £975,000 in 15/16 to £622,649 in 2016/17.



- The Council uses a combination of in house training and the information cascaded down by collaborative groups like POSW, and the SE Wales regional enforcement group to facilitate the training and development of staff in this difficult financial times. Officers are very much of the opinion that quality staff development can be achieved in this way and in fact is in many cases more real life/job based than some of the bought in training courses. The Council also supports existing staff who attend college and employs 3 students on yearly contract from the Planning School of Cardiff University, which helps develop the planners of the future.
- Staff have also been involved in the training of Members of the Council and also in training delivered to Community Councils through the Community Liaison Committee and have also given presentations to One Voice Wales the organisation representing Community and Town Councils in Wales.

YOUR LOCAL STORY

- The Council received 1366 planning applications in 16/17 and determined 1280 and this averages at 128 determinations per officer.
- The Council also received 19 major applications and determined 31 (including some carried over from the previous year) which was a drop in major application case load compared to previous years (the majority of which are major housing applications of over 10 dwellings). These applications are in the majority for sites identified within the Councils LDP
- With reference to the above, the Council has worked hard to try and maintain its housing supply figures going forward but unfortunately this has significantly undermined by the Welsh Governments TAN 1 which removed the ability of Councils without adopted LDPs to provide formal Housing availability figures in a JHLAS.
- The Team has been working with its software provider on a process review to speed up the processing of planning applications and to deliver a statistical package of performance indicators to match Welsh Governments requests.

During the period of this report the following service improvements have been delivered:

- Adopted the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (2011-2026) on the 28th June 2017. The Council will prepare its first Annual Monitoring Report in October 2018.
- Adopted new Supplementary Planning Guidance for Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations
- Provided an integrated approach to land use planning in the Vale, by managing new developments in a sustainable manner for the benefit of communities through the development team approach.
- The Council continued to be successful in negotiating S106 agreements in the financial year of 2016/17. During this period, a total of 21 planning permissions have been granted, which have been subject to Section 106 agreements. The value of the financial contributions in these legal agreements totals £5.34m and they relate to a range of developments including major residential developments. Approximately £1.4 million was spent on Section 106 schemes during 2016/17. Further receipts are anticipated on current on-going major applications that will in due course be subject to s106 agreements.
- In 2016/17, s106 money was used to expand educational facilities at Gwenfo Primary School; undertake sustainable highway improvements in Llandough; refurbish and enhance public open spaces in Penarth; and enhance community facilities in Dinas Powys and Llangan.

WHAT SERVICE USERS THINK

In 2016-17 we conducted a customer satisfaction survey aimed at assessing the views of people that had received a planning application decision during the year.

The survey was sent to 836 people, 10% of whom submitted a whole or partial response. The majority of responses (51%) were from members of the public. 12% of respondents had their most recent planning application refused.

We asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about the planning service. They were given the following answer options:

- Strongly agree;
- Tend to agree;
- Neither agree nor disagree;
- Tend to disagree; and
- Strongly disagree.

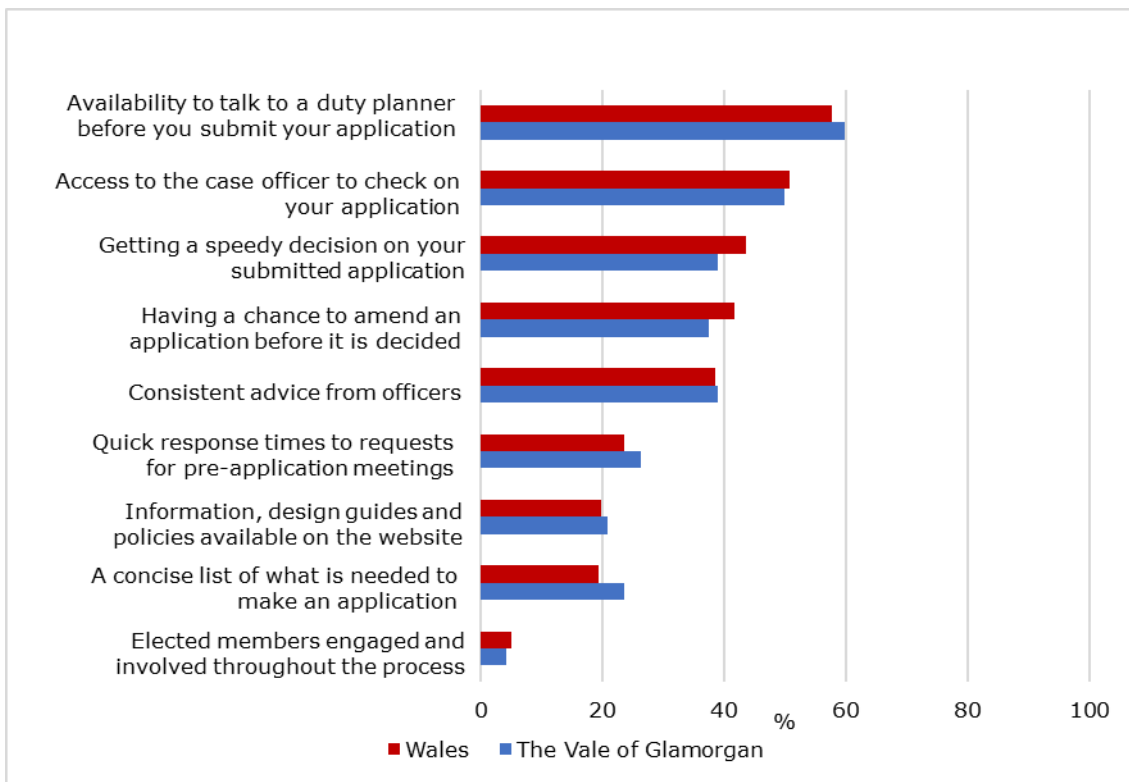
Table 1 shows the percentage of respondents that selected either 'tend to agree' or 'strongly agree' for each statement for both our planning authority and Wales.

Table 1: Percentage of respondents who agreed with each statement, 2016-17

Percentage of respondents who agreed that:	%	
	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA	Wales
The LPA enforces its planning rules fairly and consistently	55	52
The LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application	62	62
The LPA gives help throughout, including with conditions	49	52
The LPA responded promptly when they had questions	60	61
They were listened to about their application	54	59
They were kept informed about their application	53	51
They were satisfied overall with how the LPA handled their application	61	61

We also asked respondents to select three planning service characteristics from a list that they thought would most help them achieve successful developments. Figure 1 shows the percentage of respondents that chose each characteristic as one of their three selections. For us, 'the availability to talk to a duty planner before submitting an application' was the most popular choice.

Figure 1: Characteristics of a good planning service, The Vale of Glamorgan LPA, 2016-17



Comments received include:

- “I think it is an extremely helpful LPA and I can't thank them enough for their help.”
- “It would be helpful if to have an interactive website that we are able to check ourselves for TPO and conservation restrictions. It would limit the amount of enquiries the council receive and they would be able to deal with the full applications on a more effective turn around.”
- “The officers have in my experience been very helpful.”

OUR PERFORMANCE 2016-17

This section details our performance in 2016-17. It considers both the Planning Performance Framework indicators and other available data to help paint a comprehensive picture of performance. Where appropriate we make comparisons between our performance and the all Wales picture.

Performance is analysed across the five key aspects of planning service delivery as set out in the Planning Performance Framework:

- Plan making;
- Efficiency;
- Quality;
- Engagement; and
- Enforcement.

Plan making

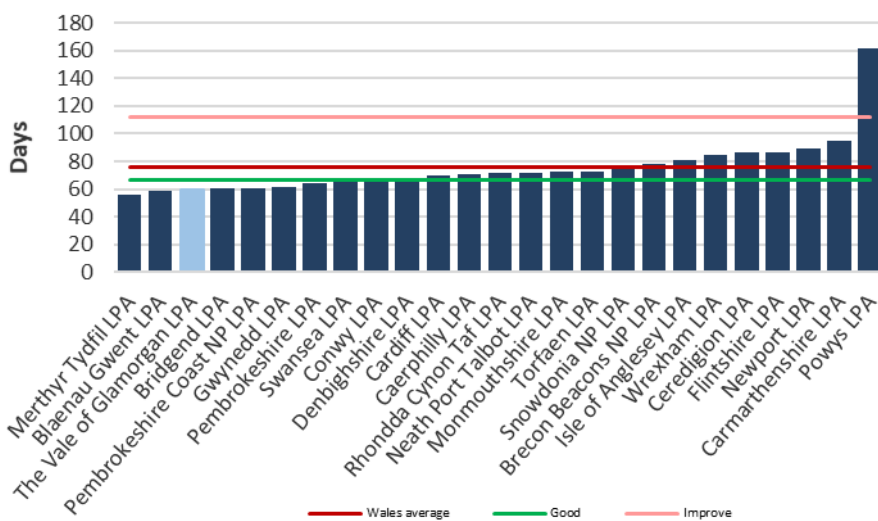
As at 31 March 2017, we were one of 3 LPAs that did not have a current development plan in place. The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 28th June 2017.

During the APR period we had 0 years of housing land supply identified because we did not have an adopted LDP, making us one of 19 Welsh LPAs without the required 5 years supply.

Efficiency

In 2016-17 we determined 1280 planning applications, each taking, on average, 60 days (9 weeks) to determine. This compares to an average of 76 days (11 weeks) across Wales. Figure 2 shows the average time taken by each LPA to determine an application during the year.

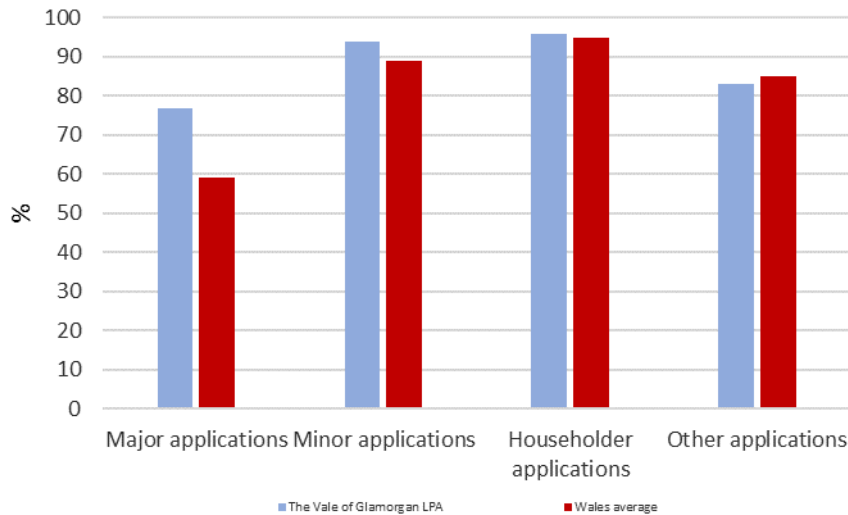
Figure 2: Average time taken (days) to determine applications, 2016-17



91% of all planning applications were determined within the required timescales. This compared to 87% across Wales and we were one of 20 LPAs that had reached the 80% target.

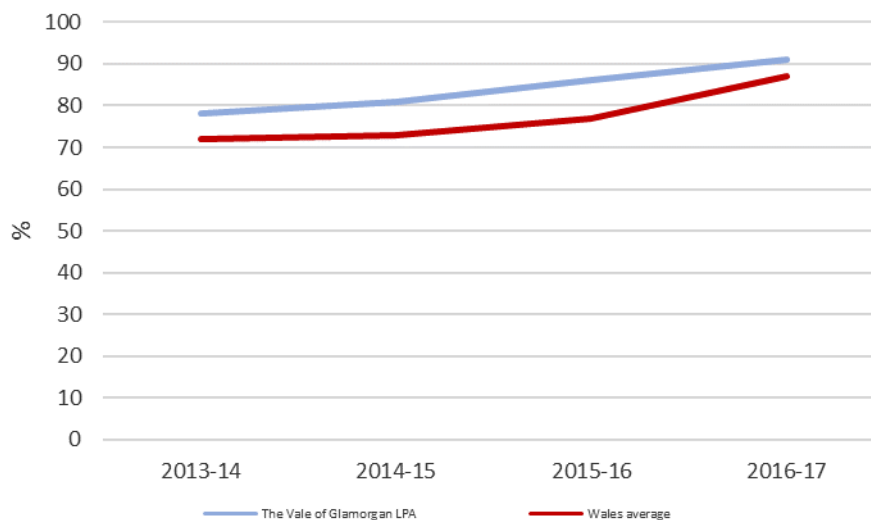
Figure 3 shows the percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales across the four main types of application for our LPA and Wales. It shows that we determined 96% of householder applications within the required timescales.

Figure 3: Percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales, by type, 2016-17



Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, as Figure 4 shows, the percentage of planning applications we determined within the required timescales increased from 86%. Wales also saw an increase this year.

Figure 4: Percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales



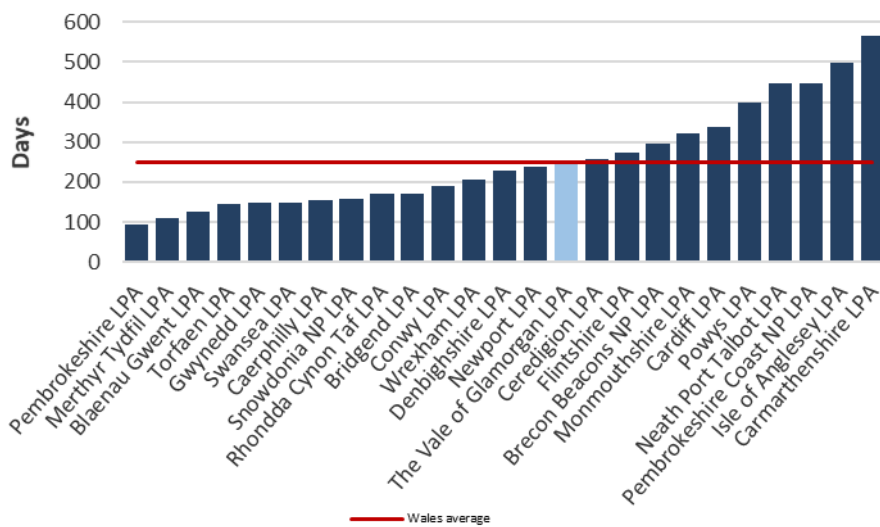
Over the same period:

- The number of applications we received increased; and
- The number of applications we determined increased.

Major applications

We determined 31 major planning applications in 2016-17, 10% (3 applications) of which were subject to an EIA. Each application (including those subject to an EIA) took, on average, 243 days (35 weeks) to determine. As Figure 5 shows, this was shorter than the Wales average of 250 days (36 weeks).

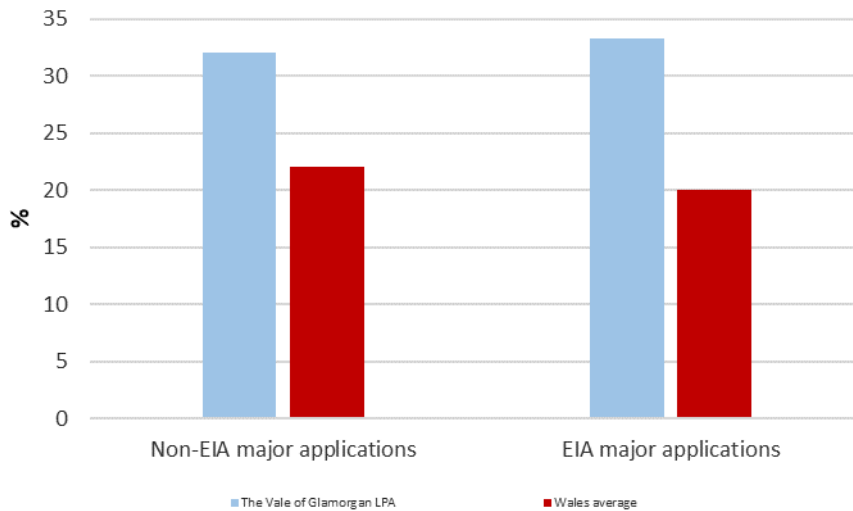
Figure 5: Average time (days) taken to determine a major application, 2016-17



77% of these major applications were determined within the agreed timescales, compared to 59% across Wales.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of major applications determined within the required timescales by the type of major application. 32% of our ‘standard’ major applications i.e. those not requiring an EIA, were determined within the statutory 8 week deadline.

Figure 6: Percentage of Major applications determined within the statutory timescales during the year, by type, 2016-17

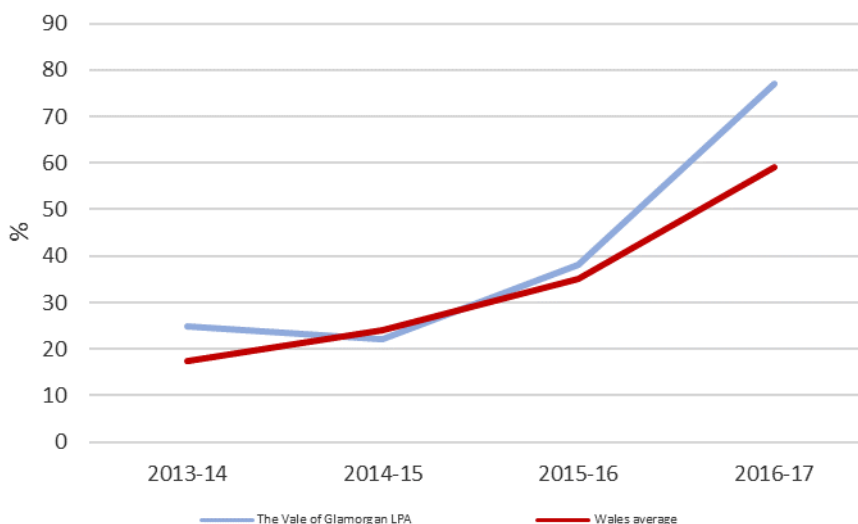


In addition we determined 70% of major applications that were subject to a PPA in the required timescales during the year.

Since 2015-16 the percentage of major applications determined within the required timescales had increased from 38%. In contrast, the number of major applications determined decreased while the number of applications subject to an EIA determined during the year stayed the same.

Figure 7 shows the trend in the percentage of major planning applications determined within the required timescales in recent years and how this compares to Wales.

Figure 7: Percentage of major planning applications determined within the required timescales



Over the same period:

- The percentage of minor applications determined within the required timescales increased from 89% to 94%;

- The percentage of householder applications determined within the required timescales increased from 94% to 96%; and
- The percentage of other applications determined within required timescales increased from 81% to 83%.

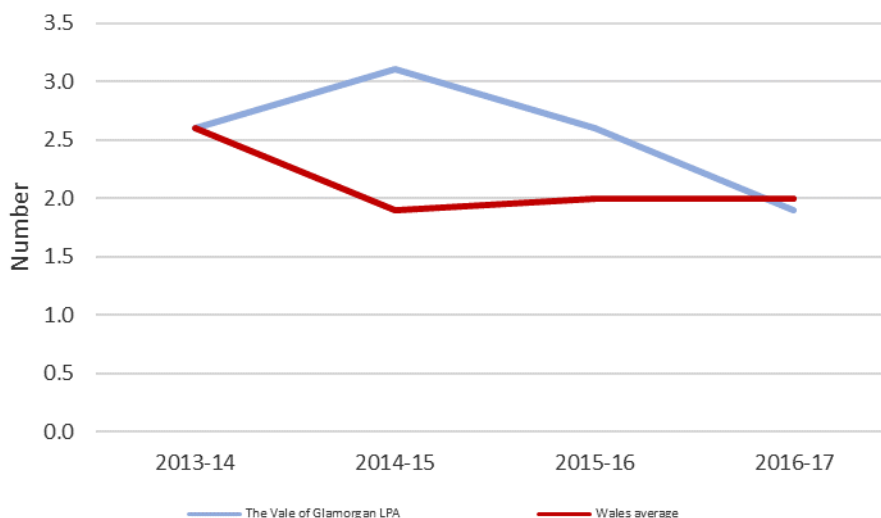
Quality

In 2016-17, our Planning Committee made 51 planning application decisions during the year, which equated to 4% of all planning applications determined. Across Wales 6% of all planning application decisions were made by planning committee.

8% of these member-made decisions went against officer advice. This compared to 11% of member-made decisions across Wales. This equated to 0.3% of all planning application decisions going against officer advice; 0.7% across Wales.

In 2016-17 we received 26 appeals against our planning decisions, which equated to 1.9 appeals for every 100 applications received. Across Wales 2 appeals were received for every 100 applications. Figure 8 shows how the volume of appeals received has changed since 2015-16 and how this compares to Wales.

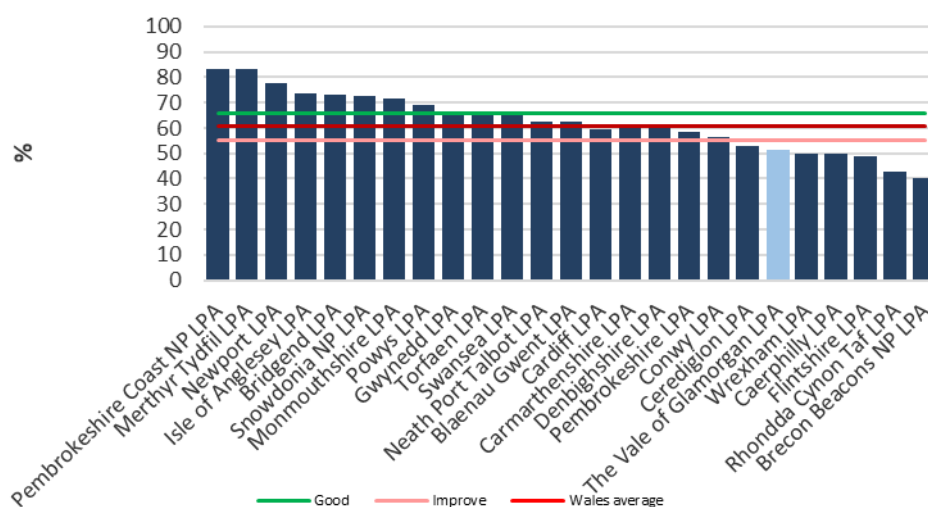
Figure 8: Number of appeals received per 100 planning applications



In 2016-17 we approved 93% of planning applications. This compares to 91% across Wales.

Of the 31 appeals that were decided during the year, 52% were dismissed. As Figure 9 shows, this was lower than the percentage of appeals dismissed across Wales as a whole and was below the 55% threshold.

Figure 9: Percentage of appeals dismissed, 2016-17



During 2016-17 we had no applications for costs at a section 78 appeal upheld.

Engagement

We are:

- one of 24 LPAs that allowed members of the public to address the Planning Committee; and
- one of 20 LPAs that had an online register of planning applications.

As Table 2 shows, 62% of respondents to our 2016-17 customer satisfaction survey agreed that the LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application.

Table 2: Feedback from our 2016-17 customer satisfaction survey

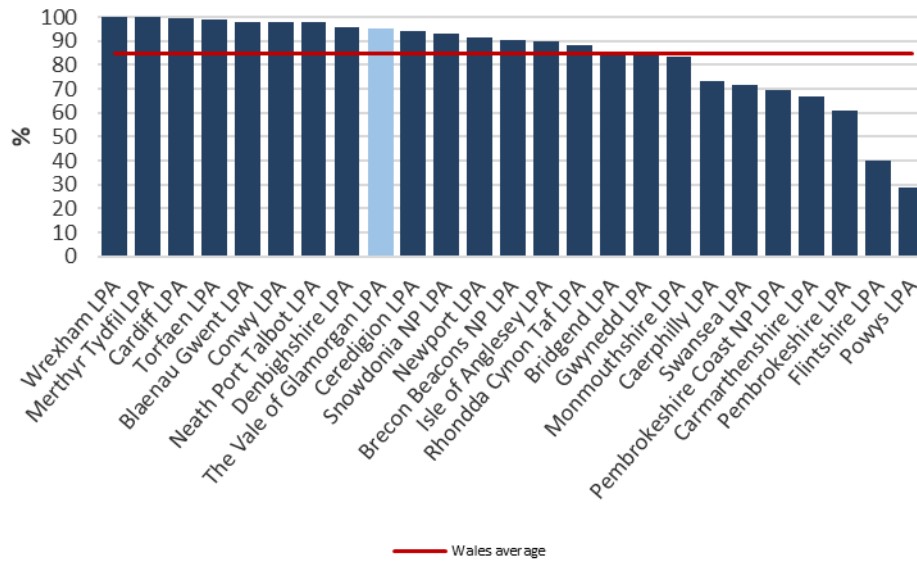
Percentage of respondents who agreed that:	%	
	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA	Wales
The LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application	62	62
They were listened to about their application	54	59

Enforcement

In 2016-17 we investigated 100 enforcement cases, which equated to 0.8 per 1,000 population. This was the fourth lowest rate in Wales. We took, on average, 16 days to investigate each enforcement case.

We investigated 95% of these enforcement cases within 84 days. Across Wales 85% were investigated within 84 days. Figure 10 shows the percentage of enforcement cases that were investigated within 84 days across all Welsh LPAs.

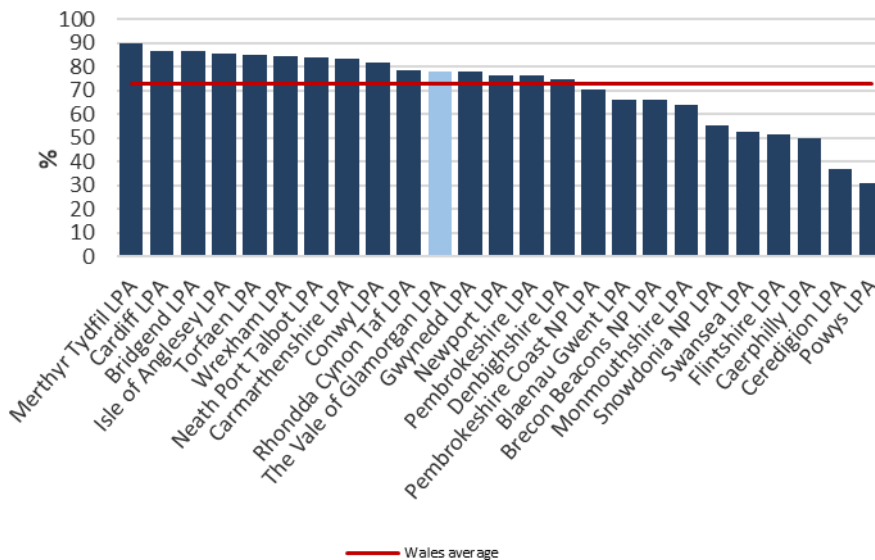
Figure 10: Percentage of enforcement cases investigated within 84 days, 2016-17



Over the same period, we resolved 208 enforcement cases, taking, on average, 130 days to resolve each case.

78% of this enforcement action was taken within 180 days from the start of the case. As Figure 11 shows this compared to 73% of enforcement cases resolved within 180 days across Wales.

Figure 11: Percentage of enforcement cases resolved in 180 days, 2016-17



ANNEX A - PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

MEASURE	GOOD	FAIR	IMPROVE	WALES AVERAGE	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA LAST YEAR	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA THIS YEAR
Plan making						
Is there a current Development Plan in place that is within the plan period?	Yes		No	Yes	No	No
LDP preparation deviation from the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement, in months	<12	13-17	18+	58	73	73
Annual Monitoring Reports produced following LDP adoption	Yes		No	Yes	N/A	N/A
The local planning authority's current housing land supply in years	>5		<5	2.9	0	0
Efficiency						
Percentage of "major" applications determined within time periods required	Not set	Not set	Not set	59	38	77
Average time taken to determine "major" applications in days	Not set	Not set	Not set	250	140	243

MEASURE	GOOD	FAIR	IMPROVE
Percentage of all applications determined within time periods required	>80	60.1-79.9	<60
Average time taken to determine all applications in days	<67	67-111	112+
Quality			
Percentage of Member made decisions against officer advice	<5	5.1-8.9	9+
Percentage of appeals dismissed	>66	55.1-65.9	<55
Applications for costs at Section 78 appeal upheld in the reporting period	0	1	2+
Engagement			
Does the local planning authority allow members of the public to address the Planning Committee?	Yes		No

WALES AVERAGE	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA LAST YEAR	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA THIS YEAR
87	86	91
76	67	60
11	0	8
61	86	52
0	0	0
Yes	Yes	Yes

MEASURE	GOOD	FAIR	IMPROVE	WALES AVERAGE	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA LAST YEAR	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA THIS YEAR
Does the local planning authority have an officer on duty to provide advice to members of the public?	Yes		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does the local planning authority's web site have an online register of planning applications, which members of the public can access, track their progress (and view their content)?	Yes	Partial	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Enforcement						
Percentage of enforcement cases investigated (determined whether a breach of planning control has occurred and, if so, resolved whether or not enforcement action is expedient) within 84 days	Not set	Not set	Not set	85	91	95
Average time taken to investigate enforcement cases	Not set	Not set	Not set	74	8	16
Percentage of enforcement cases where enforcement action is taken or a retrospective application received within 180 days from the start of the case (in those cases where it was expedient to enforce)?	Not set	Not set	Not set	73	75	78
Average time taken to take enforcement action	Not set	Not set	Not set	201	164	130

SECTION 1 – PLAN MAKING

Indicator	01. Is there a current Development Plan in place that is within the plan period?	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
A development plan (LDP or UDP) is in place and within the plan period	N/A	No development plan is in place (including where the plan has expired)

Authority's performance	No
The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 was adopted on 28 th June 2017. The first AMR will be prepared in October 2018.	

Indicator	02. LDP preparation deviation from the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement, in months	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
The LDP is being progressed within 12 months of the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement	The LDP is being progressed within between 12 and 18 months of the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement	The LDP is being progressed more than 18 months later than the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement

Authority's performance	73
The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 was adopted on 28th June 2017. The first AMR will be prepared in October 2018.	

Indicator	03. Annual Monitoring Reports produced following LDP adoption	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
An AMR is due, and has been prepared		An AMR is due, and has not been prepared

Authority's performance	N/A
The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 was adopted on 28th June 2017. The first AMR will be prepared in October 2018.	

Indicator	04. The local planning authority's current housing land supply in years	
"Good"		"Improvement needed"
The authority has a housing land supply of more than 5 years		The authority has a housing land supply of less than 5 years

Authority's performance	0
<p>During the APR period we had 0 years of housing land supply identified because under the terms of TAN 1 the Council cannot prepare a JHLAS because we did not have an adopted LDP. However, our subjective assessment of our housing supply indicates we had a housing land supply of 5.6 years at April 2017. Our housing land trajectory evidence submitted and agreed as part of the LDP Examination shows we had a 5 year land supply upon adoption of the LDP in June 2017.</p>	

SECTION 2 - EFFICIENCY

Indicator	05. Percentage of "major" applications determined within time periods required	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked

Authority's performance	77
<p>This compares to the Welsh average of 59% and an improvement from last year's 38%. We determined 31 major planning applications in 2016-17, 10% (3 applications) of which were subject to an EIA. Each application (including those subject to an EIA) took, on average, 243 days (35 weeks) to determine. This was shorter than the Wales average of 250 days (36 weeks).</p>	

Indicator	06. Average time taken to determine "major" applications in days	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked

Authority's performance	243
<p>We determined 31 major planning applications in 2016-17, 10% (3 applications) of which were subject to an EIA. Each application (including those subject to an EIA) took, on average, 243 days (35 weeks) to determine. This was shorter than the Wales average of 250 days (36 weeks).</p>	

Indicator	07. Percentage of all applications determined within time periods required	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
More than 80% of applications are determined within the statutory time period	Between 60% and 80% of applications are determined within the statutory time period	Less than 60% of applications are determined within the statutory time period

Authority's performance	91
This is significantly better than the Welsh average of 87% and an improvement on last year's 86%.	

Indicator	08. Average time taken to determine all applications in days	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Less than 67 days	Between 67 and 111 days	112 days or more

Authority's performance	60
This is 1 week quicker than the 'good' threshold and demonstrates strong performance from the Vale of Glamorgan Council particularly compared to the all Wales average of 76 days.	

SECTION 3 - QUALITY

Indicator	09. Percentage of Member made decisions against officer advice	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Less than 5% of decisions	Between 5% and 9% of decisions	9% or more of decisions

Authority's performance	8
This is still within the "fair" category and despite an increase from last year it reflects the relatively low number of planning applications that are reported to Planning Committee as the Council has an effective scheme of officer delegation. The Council had a number of major and controversial planning applications (which were recommended for approval by Officers and overturned for refusal) in the run up to the Local Government elections in May 2017.	

Indicator	10. Percentage of appeals dismissed	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
More than 66% (two thirds) of planning decisions are successfully defended at appeal	Between 55% and 66% of planning decisions are successfully defended at appeal	Less than 55% of planning decisions are successfully defended at appeal

Authority's performance	52
<p>We have been disappointed with the drop in performance under this indicator given the Council's historic success at defending appeals in the Vale of Glamorgan. However, a number of appeals related to the same issue at the same site, and in light of the Inspector's decisions the Council has reviewed how it interprets TAN 6 and rural enterprise developments which was a step change from the Council's policies in the previous Unitary Development Plan which has now been replaced by the Local Development Plan. We are hopeful of an improved performance against this measure in 2017/18.</p>	

Indicator	11. Applications for costs at Section 78 appeal upheld in the reporting period	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
The authority has not had costs awarded against it at appeal	The authority has had costs awarded against it in one appeal case	The authority has had costs awarded against it in two or more appeal cases

Authority's performance	0
<p>The Council is pleased with this success.</p>	

SECTION 4 – ENGAGEMENT

Indicator	12. Does the local planning authority allow members of the public to address the Planning Committee?	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Members of the public are able to address the Planning Committee		Members of the public are not able to address the Planning Committee

Authority's performance	Yes
<p>From December 2014 the planning committee meetings were web cast and from February 2015 public speaking procedures were put in place, which have been well managed by the democratic services department and welcomed by representors and consultees.</p>	

Indicator	13. Does the local planning authority have an officer on duty to provide advice to members of the public?	
"Good"		"Improvement needed"
Members of the public can seek advice from a duty planning officer		There is no duty planning officer available

Authority's performance	Yes
The Vale of Glamorgan has operated a duty officer system for members of the public since 2008. It operates 5 days a week during normal office hours by telephone or in person at the Council's Offices.	

Indicator	14. Does the local planning authority's web site have an online register of planning applications, which members of the public can access track their progress (and view their content)?	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
All documents are available online	Only the planning application details are available online, and access to other documents must be sought directly	No planning application information is published online

Authority's performance	Yes
The Vale of Glamorgan has offered a full online planning service covering, planning applications, appeals, enforcement and building control since 2010.	

SECTION 5 – ENFORCEMENT

Indicator	15. Percentage of enforcement cases investigated (determined whether a breach of planning control has occurred and, if so, resolved whether or not enforcement action is expedient) within 84 days	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked

Authority's performance	95
The Council is performing well against this indicator. The Council's percentage of enforcement cases investigated within 84 days is significantly better than the All Wales average of 85% and has improved since last year (91%). No benchmark has been given for this indicator to date.	

Indicator	16. Average time taken to investigate enforcement cases	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked

Authority's performance	16
The Council is performing very well against this indicator. The Council's time taken to investigate enforcement cases averaging 16 days is significantly better than the All Wales average of 74 days. No benchmark has been given for this indicator to date.	

Indicator	17. Percentage of enforcement cases where enforcement action is taken or a retrospective application received within 180 days from the start of the case (in those cases where it was expedient to enforce)	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked

Authority's performance	78
The Council is performing well against this indicator. The Council's percentage of enforcement cases where enforcement action is taken or a retrospective application granted within 180 days from the start of the case is better than the All Wales average of 73%. No benchmark has been given for this indicator to date.	

Indicator	18. Average time taken to take enforcement action	
"Good"	"Fair"	"Improvement needed"
Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked

Authority's performance	130
The Council is performing very well against this indicator. The Council's average time taken to investigate enforcement cases is significantly better than the All Wales average of 201 days. No benchmark has been given for this indicator to date.	

SECTION 6 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

The purpose of the Sustainable Development Indicators is to measure the contribution the planning system makes to sustainable development in Wales.

The Sustainable Development Indicators will be used to measure the progress against national planning sustainability objectives, set out in Planning Policy Wales, and can be used to demonstrate to our stakeholders the role and scope of the planning system in delivering wider objectives. The information will also be useful to local planning authorities to understand more about the outcomes of the planning system and help inform future decisions.

Authority's returns	Complete
The Council has established a protocol for recording SD Indicators within the Development Management back office system. Initial 'teething problems' with accuracy of returns have now been resolved.	

Indicator	SD1. The floorspace (square metres) granted and refused planning permission for new economic development on allocated employment sites during the year.
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Granted (square metres)	
Authority's data	4,365

Refused (square metres)	
Authority's data	0

This included new storage buildings within MOD St. Athan, 6 new industrial units at Vale Business Park, Tumulus Way, Llandow, and an office building at Units 5 and 6, Sutton Road, Llandow.

Indicator	SD2. Planning permission granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.
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Granted permission (number of applications)	
Authority's data	3

Granted permission (MW energy generation)	
Authority's data	2

These included 1 solar farm, 1 Biomass and 1 Wind Turbine.

Indicator	SD3. The number of dwellings granted planning permission during the year.
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Market housing (number of units)	
Authority's data	814

Affordable housing (number of units)	
Authority's data	332

This figure clearly shows the Council commitment to ensuring that it is meeting its obligations to provide both market and affordable housing in the Vale of Glamorgan. Of the 1146 dwellings granted planning permission in 2016/17, 29% were affordable housing.

Indicator	SD4. Planning permission granted and refused for development in C1 and C2 floodplain areas during the year.
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Number of residential units (and also hectares of non-residential units) that DID NOT meet all TAN 15 tests which were GRANTED permission	
Authority's data	0

Number of residential units (and also hectares of non-residential units) that did not meet all TAN 15 tests which were REFUSED permission on flood risk grounds	
Authority's data	0

Number of residential units (and also hectares of non-residential units) that MET all TAN 15 tests which were GRANTED permission	
Authority's data	0

Our SD returns to WG indicated we approved 0.02 hectares C1 and 0.02 hectares C2 of non-residential development which met the TAN 15 tests.

Indicator	SD5. The area of land (ha) granted planning permission for new development on previously developed land and greenfield land during the year.
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Previously developed land (hectares)	
Authority's data	54

Greenfield land (hectares)	
Authority's data	191

Of the 245 hectares of land granted planning permission for development in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2016/17, 54 hectares (22%) was on previously developed land.

Some of these permissions include agricultural and rural enterprise development that can only take place on greenfield land. The Council has been in discussions with Welsh Government to amend this SD Indicator so that it excludes these forms of development that can artificially influence the picture this data presents in rural authority areas.

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan aims to provide 38% of all new housing on previously developed land.

Indicator	SD6. The area of public open space (ha) that would be lost and gained as a result of development granted planning permission during the quarter.
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Open space lost (hectares)	
Authority's data	1

Open space gained (hectares)	
Authority's data	3

We are pleased that there is an overall net gain of open space as a result of planning permissions granted in 2016/17. The Council works hard to secure open space provision as part of major new housing developments.

Indicator	SD7. The total financial contributions (£) agreed from new development granted planning permission during the quarter for the provision of community infrastructure.
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Gained via Section 106 agreements (£)	
Authority's data	5,349,489

Gained via Community Infrastructure Levy (£)	
Authority's data	0

The above figure is based on the WG's definition for recording this SD indicator, i.e. only counting the last full / reserved matters application. The Council has been in discussions with Welsh Government to amend this SD Indicator so that it counts the s106 obligations at the time it is entered into (i.e. at Full or Outline stage) as this is the time usually used for recording this data within LPAs.

In the 12 months between April 2016 and March 2017, a total of 21 full or final reserved matters planning permissions have been issued, which have been subject to section 106 legal agreements. Excluding affordable housing contributions, these have equated to £5.34m in contributions for community infrastructure including (£733,231 for affordable housing contributions) in addition to on-site provision of public open space, sustainable transport facilities, public art and affordable housing.

The Council has ceased working on preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy for adoption pending the DCLG review of the CIL Regulations and the transfer of power to Welsh Government in 2018.