

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. 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 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, 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 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 2018/19.

Councillor Jonathan Bird, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

CONTEXT

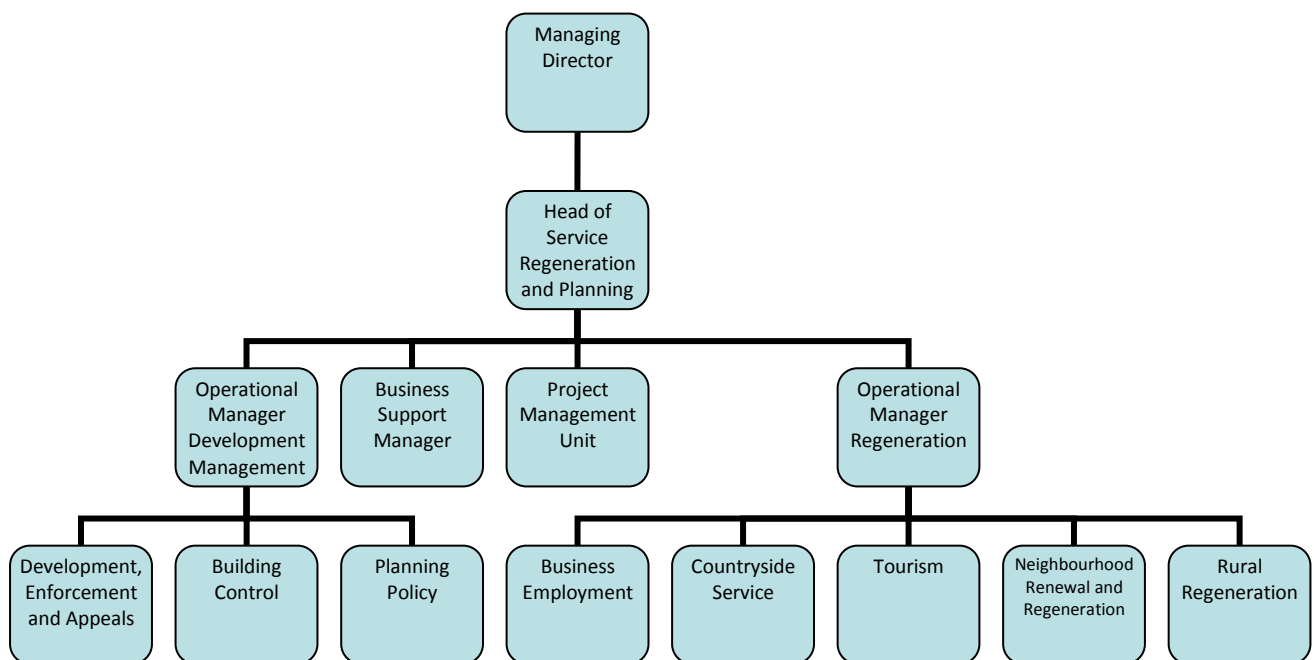
- The Vale of Glamorgan Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (LDP) constitutes the development plan for the authority. The LDP provides the strategic and detailed policy framework for the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council formally adopted the LDP on 28th June 2017 when it formally replaced the previous 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 33,097 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

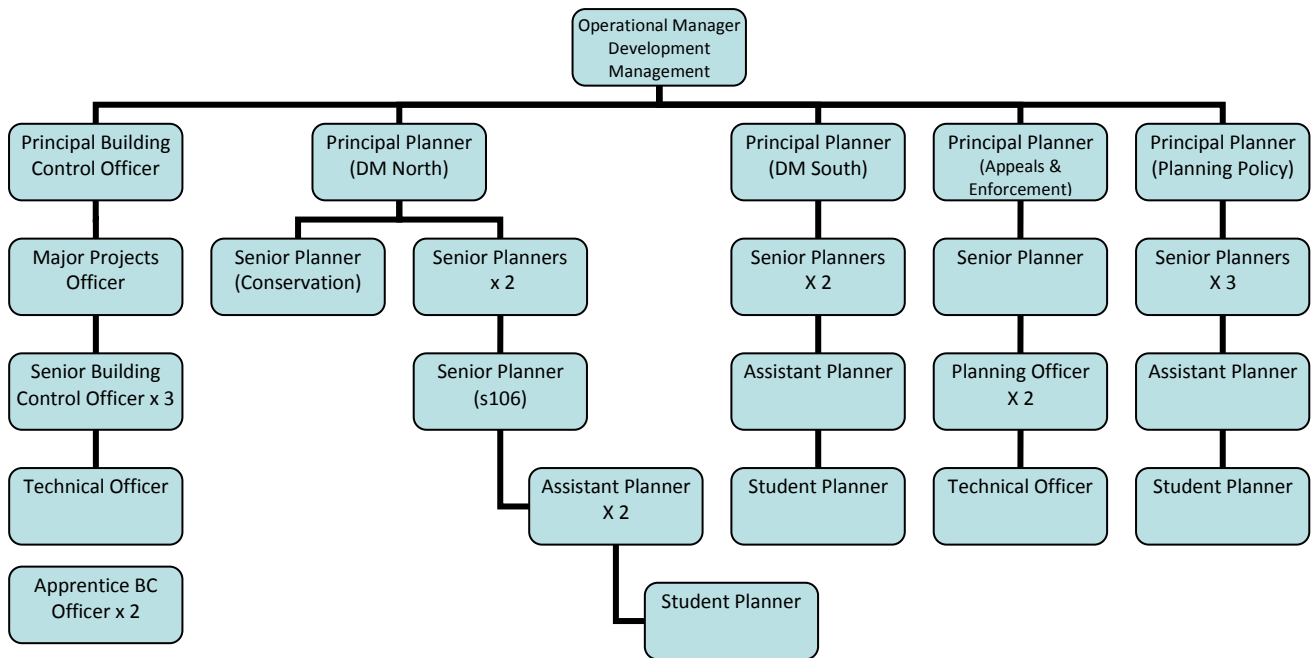
housing, employment and retail opportunities in Barry and other urban settlements in the south east zone. Other major settlements include Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge all of which have good public transport provision, local employment opportunities, established town centres and a wide range 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 sits within a Regeneration and Planning Department under a Head of Service that reports directly to the Managing Director.





- 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 5 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 to **£801,004 in 2017/18**. In addition in 2017/18 we received £36,401 for pre-application services and £9,600 from appeals.
- In addition, the Council has secured funding via Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) on a number of major and strategically important developments. These PPAs have secured a higher quality processes and outcomes from the application due to the closer liaison with developers, statutory consultees and interested persons and prioritisation of workload surrounding these applications.
- The direct cost of delivering the planning service in 2017/18 was around £1,337,110.
- We are considering other means of improved service delivery and income generation such as fast-track application services and conveyance compliance certificates which should be introduced in 2018/19.
- We would like Welsh Government's support in recognising the cost of delivering the planning service, which increases year-on-year in real terms, justifying an increase in planning fees that was last implemented in October 2015.
- To minimise costs, we would also suggest Welsh Government withdraw the requirement to advertise planning applications in the local press which costs the Council around £30,000 per annum. It is clear that interested persons primarily receive notification of an application

by direct contact through neighbour letters or site notices, or via the Council's web-site or via their town and community council representatives.

- To reduce costs, improve efficiencies and reduce environmental impacts, the planning department has implemented a paperless office system, saving an estimated £4000 per annum. The use of pool cars rather than individual mileage payments has reduced vehicle expenditure from around £12,000 to around £3,000 per annum.
- In terms of staffing, the department has restructured in recent years to cut costs and improve efficiencies. The Council no longer has a designated tree officer, instead the Development Management team has been trained to enable them to consider tree applications (TPO and TCAs) and the Council has adopted a recent 'Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Development' SPG to provide clear guidance to applicants and interested persons.
- In response to the changes to Development Management procedures, in particular the introduction of validation notices and appeals, the Council introduced a new 'Technical Officer' post who is responsible for validation of all new planning applications.
- The Planning Team currently has a number of vacancies: 1 Senior Planning (Planning Policy) (due to a temporary 2 year secondment to Merthyr Council); and 2 x Planning Officer (Enforcement). The Council is currently only recruiting to replace 1 of these posts (Planning Officer, Enforcement) and temporarily covering the other posts with short-term extensions of contract for last year's Planning Students. The Council employs 3 students on yearly contract from the Planning School of Cardiff University, which helps develop the planners of the future and provides a good opportunity for succession planning.
- The Council uses a combination of in house training, and complementary training provided by Welsh Government, Royal Town Planning Institute, Natural Resources Wales, DCWW and others to ensure staff maintain their continuing professional development. In addition the information cascaded down by collaborative groups like POSW, SEWSPG and the SE Wales regional enforcement group is shared at monthly team meetings.
- 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.
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council has been identified as the interim responsible authority and is therefore taking a lead role in the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan for the South East Wales region working collaboratively with the local planning authorities in the Cardiff Capital Region area and Welsh Government.

YOUR LOCAL STORY

The Council received 1,276 planning applications in 17/18 and determined 1,173 and this averages at 117 determinations per officer.

The Council also received 29 major applications and determined 20 (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).

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (2011-2026) was adopted on the 28th June 2017 and is being used in the determination of planning applications and appeals. The Council will prepare its first Annual Monitoring Report in October 2018.

In 2018 the Council carried out its first Joint Housing Land Availability Study since the adoption of the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan. The JHLAs demonstrated a land supply of 5.6 years.

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

- Provided bespoke services via Planning Performance Agreements on some major development projects.
- Adopted amended Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations and new SPG for:
 - Biodiversity and Development
 - Conversion and Renovation of Rural Buildings
 - Minerals Safeguarding
 - Residential and Householder Development
- Introduced new frameworks for monitoring retail and employment uses in the Vale of Glamorgan, adopting a methodology developed collaboratively by all South East Wales LPAs.
- 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 2017/18. During this period, a total of 28 planning permissions have been granted, which have been subject to Section 106 agreements. The value of the financial contributions in these legal agreements totals £8.1m and they relate to a range of developments including major residential developments. Approximately £1.8 million was spent on Section 106 schemes during 2017/18. Further receipts are anticipated on current on-going major applications that will in due course be subject to s106 agreements.

In 2017/18, s106 money was used to provide and improve educational facilities at Llantwit Major Learning Community and St. Brides Major Primary School; undertake sustainable highway

improvements in Barry, Wenvoe, Dinas Powys and Llandough, refurbish and enhance public open spaces in Penarth, Llantwit Major, Ystradowen, Barry and Cowbridge; and enhance community facilities in Dinas Powys and Wenvoe.

WHAT SERVICE USERS THINK

In 2017-18 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 628 people, 9% of whom submitted a whole or partial response. The majority of responses (49%) were from members of the public. 7% 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.

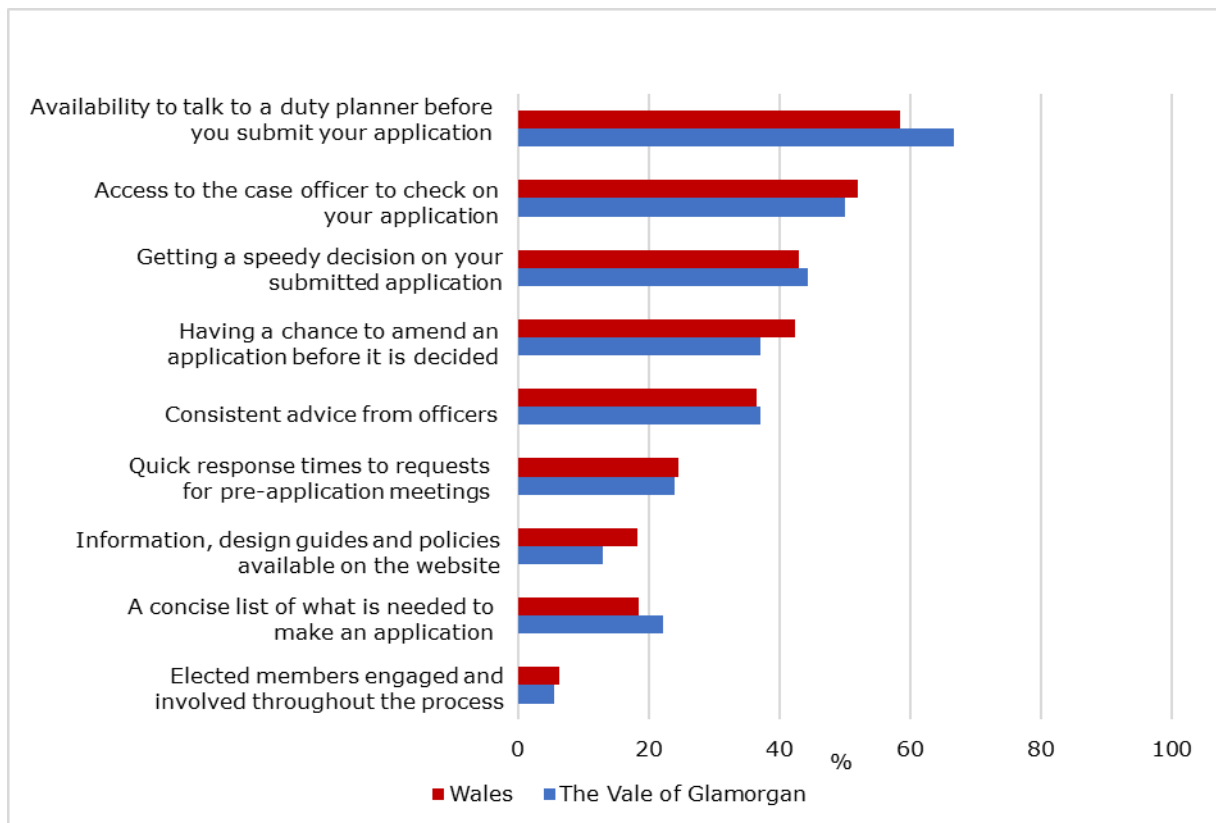
Table 1 shows the percentage of respondents that selected either 'tend to agree' or 'strongly agree' for each statement for both our planning authority and Wales. 67% of respondents were satisfied overall with how we handled their application which is higher than the all Wales average of 63%.

Table 1: Percentage of respondents who agreed with each statement, 2017-18

Respondents who agreed that:	The Vale of Glamorgan LPA %	Wales %
The LPA applies its planning rules fairly and consistently	55	55
The LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application	58	60
The LPA gives help throughout, including with conditions	50	52
The LPA responded promptly when they had questions	51	62
They were listened to about their application	64	60
They were kept informed about their application	57	52
They were satisfied overall with how the LPA handled their application	67	63

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, 2017-18



Comments received include:

- “Generally we find the officers very helpful and proactive.”
- “As Architects we are very happy and impressed with VOG.”
- "Dealings with all case officers and admin staff has generally been a pleasure, especially compared to other LPAs. Thank you VOG LPA.”

OUR PERFORMANCE 2017-18

This section details our performance in 2017-18. 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

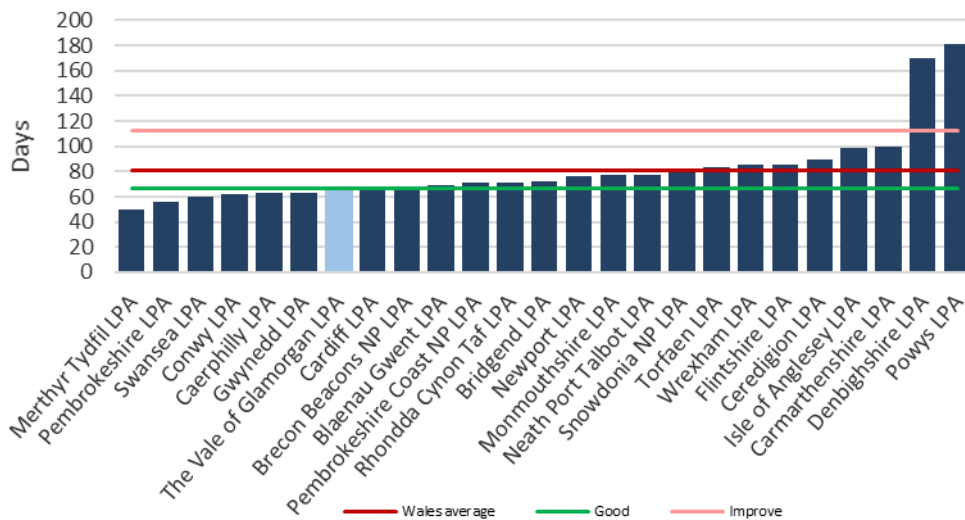
As at 31 March 2018, we were one of 22 LPAs that had a current development plan in place.

During the period we had 6.1 years of housing land supply identified (taken from the LDP housing trajectory), making us one of 7 Welsh LPAs with the required 5 years supply.

Efficiency

In 2017-18 we determined 1,173 planning applications, each taking, on average, 65 days (9 weeks) to determine. This compares to an average of 81 days (12 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, 2017-18



92% of all planning applications were determined within the required timescales. This compared to 89% across Wales and we were one of 22 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 97% of householder applications within the required timescales. We also determined 70% of Listed Building Consent applications within the required timescales.

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, as Figure 4 shows, the percentage of planning applications we determined within the required timescales increased from 91%. Wales also saw an increase this year.

Over the same period:

- The number of applications we received decreased;
- The number of applications we determined decreased; and
- The number of applications we approved decreased.

Figure 3: Percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales, by type, 2017-18

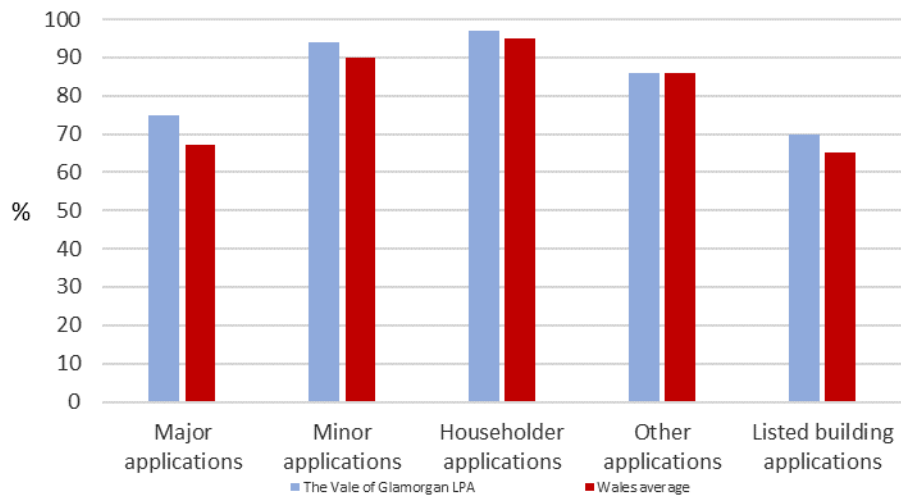
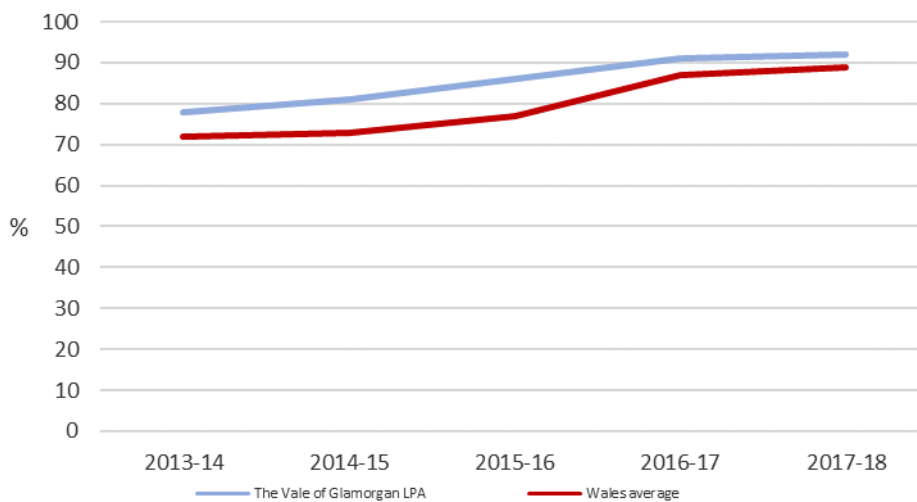


Figure 4: Percentage of planning applications determined within the required timescales



Major applications

We determined 20 major planning applications in 2017-18, 10% (2 applications) of which were subject to an EIA. Each application (including those subject to an EIA) took, on average, 164 days (23 weeks) to determine. As Figure 5 shows, this was shorter than the Wales average of 240 days (34 weeks).

75% of these major applications were determined within the required timescales (including those subject to an agreed ‘Extension of Time’), compared to 69% across Wales.

Figure 5: Average time (days) taken to determine a major application, 2017-18

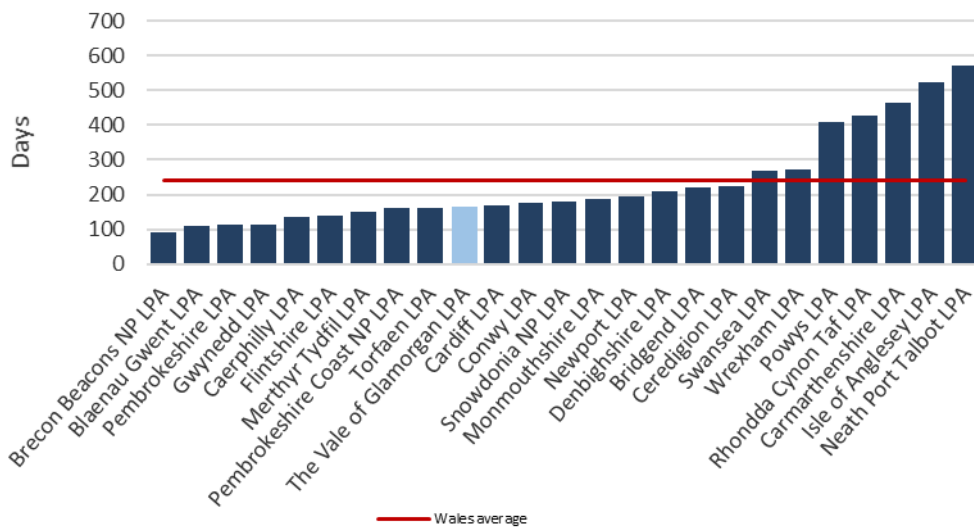
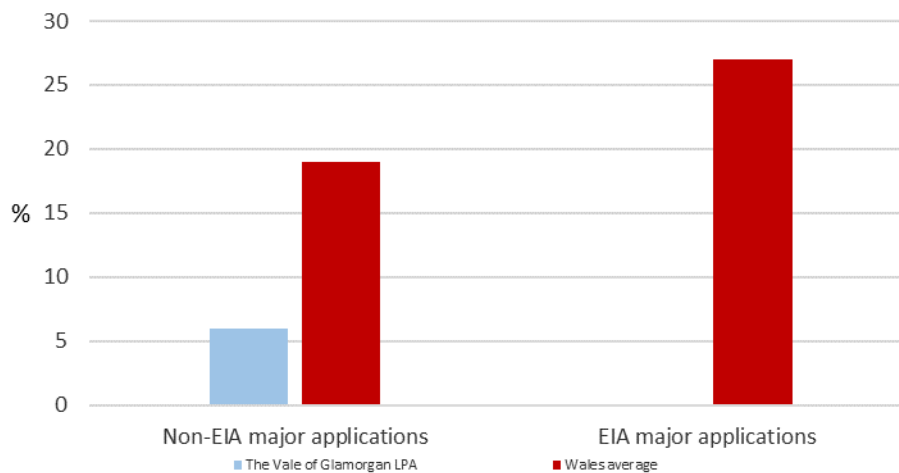


Figure 6 shows the percentage of major applications determined within the statutory required timescales by the type of major application (i.e. 8 and 16 weeks). 6% of our ‘standard’ major applications i.e. those not requiring an EIA, were determined within the required statutory timescales (8 weeks) during the year.

Figure 6: Percentage of Major applications determined within the required timescales during the year, by type, 2017-18

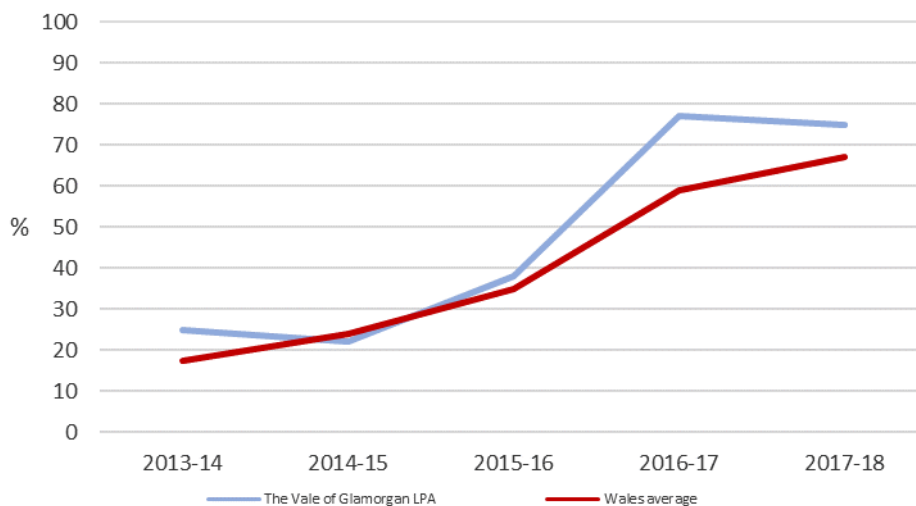


In addition we determined 14 major applications that were subject to an agreed ‘extension of time’ within the required timescales during the year.

Since 2016-17 the percentage of major applications determined within the required timescales had decreased from 77% to 75%. Similarly, the number of major applications determined decreased as had the number of applications subject to an EIA determined during the year.

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 stayed the same at 94%;
- The percentage of householder applications determined within the required timescales increased from 96% to 97%; and
- The percentage of other applications determined within required timescales increased from 83% to 86%.

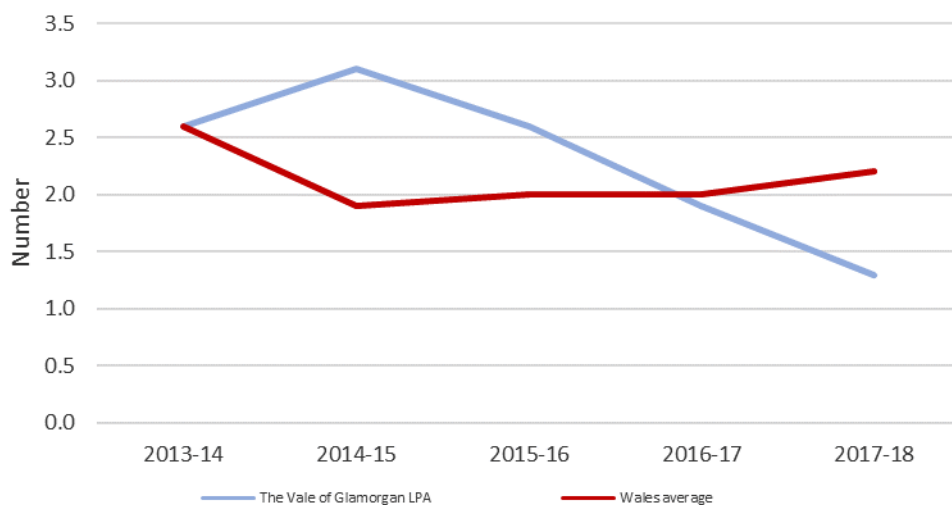
Quality

In 2017-18, our Planning Committee made 43 planning application decisions during the year, which equated to 4% of all planning applications determined. Across Wales 7% of all planning application decisions were made by planning committee.

0% of these member-made decisions went against officer advice. This compared to 9% of member-made decisions across Wales. This equated to 0% of all planning application decisions going against officer advice; 0.6% across Wales.

In 2017-18 we received 16 appeals against our planning decisions, which equated to 1.3 appeals for every 100 applications received. Across Wales 2.2 appeals were received for every 100 applications. Figure 8 shows how the volume of appeals received has changed since 2016-17 and how this compares to Wales.

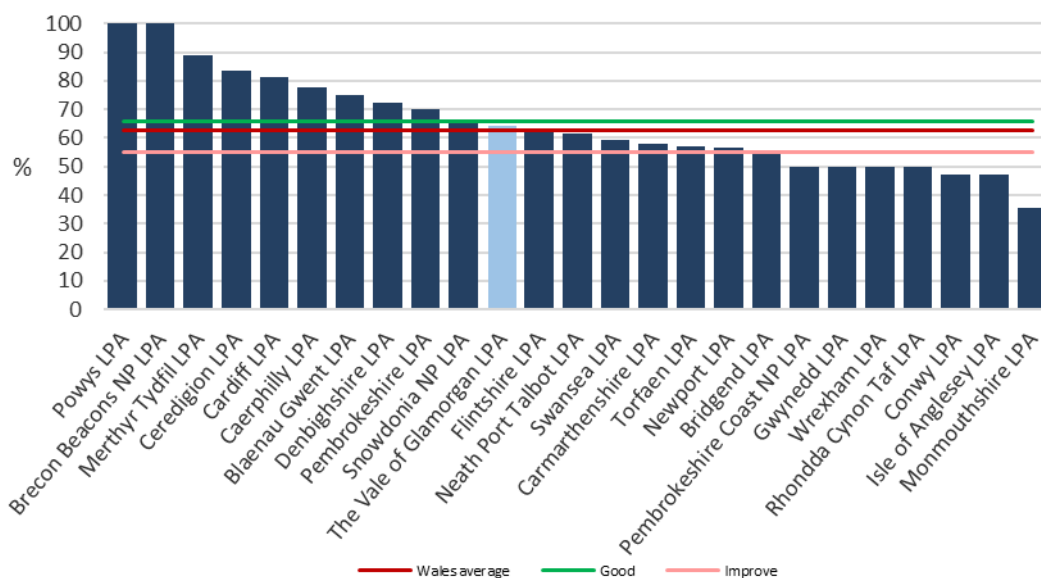
Figure 8: Number of appeals received per 100 planning applications



Over the same period the percentage of planning applications approved increased from 93% to 94%.

Of the 14 appeals that were decided during the year, 64% were dismissed. As Figure 9 shows, this was higher than the percentage of appeals dismissed across Wales as a whole, but was below the 66% target.

Figure 9: Percentage of appeals dismissed, 2017-18



During 2017-18 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 21 LPAs that had an online register of planning applications.

As Table 2 shows, 58% of respondents to our 2017-18 customer survey agreed that the LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application.

Table 2: Feedback from our 2017-18 customer survey

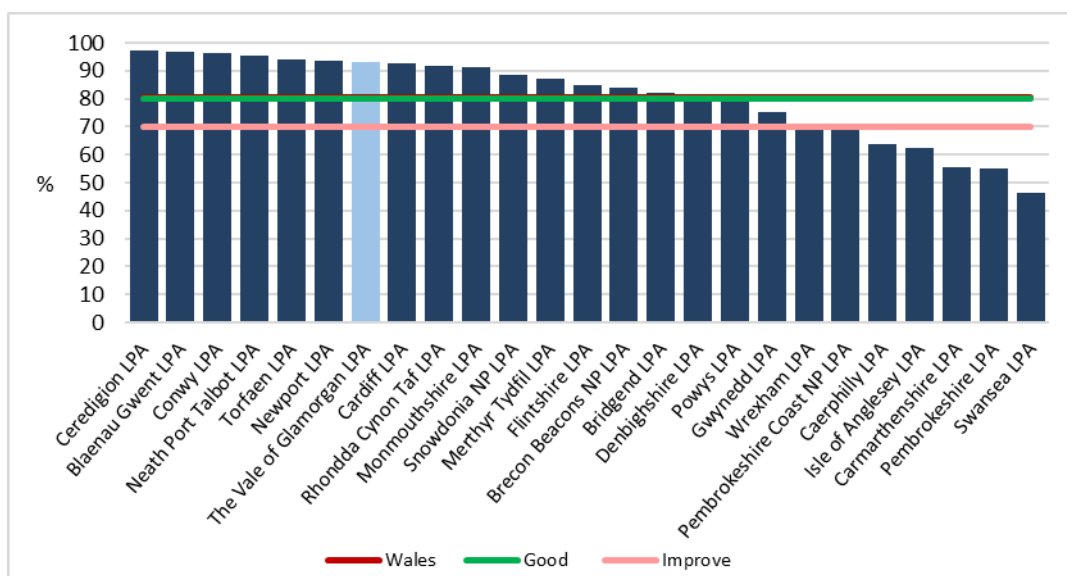
Respondents who agreed that:	The Vale of Glamorgan	
	LPA %	Wales %
The LPA gave good advice to help them make a successful application	58	60
They were listened to about their application	64	60

Enforcement

The WG figures show in 2017-18 we investigated 103 enforcement cases (compared to 100 in 2016-17), which equated to 0.8 per 1,000 population. This was the lowest rate in Wales. They also show we investigated 93% of these enforcement cases within 84 days. Across Wales 81% were investigated within 84 days. Figure 10 shows the percentage of enforcement cases that were investigated within 84 days across all Welsh LPAs.

However, officers have subsequently scrutinised this data and unfortunately found the report to be inaccurate. In fact in 2017-18 we investigated 296 enforcement cases, which equated to 2.3 per 1,000 population. The average for Wales is 2.0 per 1,000 population. Based on these figures we investigated 89% of these enforcement cases within 84 days.

Figure 10: Percentage of enforcement cases investigated within 84 days, 2017-18



Based on the revised figures referred to above, the average time taken to pursue positive enforcement action was 94 days.

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	Yes
LDP preparation deviation from the dates specified in the original Delivery Agreement, in months	<12	13-17	18+	67	73	N/A
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	7 of 25	0	6.1
Efficiency						
Percentage of "major" applications determined within time periods required	>60	50-59.9	<50	67.4	77	75
Average time taken to determine "major" applications in days	Not set	Not set	Not set	240.1	243	164
Percentage of all applications determined within time periods required	>80	70-79.9	<70	88.5	91	92
Average time taken to determine all applications in days	<67	67-111	112+	80.7	60	65
Percentage of Listed Building Consent applications determined within time periods required	Not set	Not set	Not set	65.4	-	70
Quality						
Percentage of Member made decisions against officer advice	<5	5-9	9+	8.6	8	0
Percentage of appeals dismissed	>66	55-65.9	<55	62.6	52	64
Applications for costs at Section 78 appeal upheld in the reporting period	0	1	2+	0	0	0
Engagement						

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 allow members of the public to address the Planning Committee?	Yes		No	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	>80	70-79.9	<70	80.6	95	89*
Average time taken to take positive enforcement action	Not set	Not set	Not set	184.6	130	94*

*Enforcement figures amended from WG published data following review of statistics and identification of errors.

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	Yes
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	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	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	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 28 th June 2017. The first AMR will be prepared in October 2018.	

Indicator	04. The local planning authority's current housing land supply in years
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“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	6.1
<p>The Vale of Glamorgan has in excess of the required 5 year housing land supply, which reflects the high market demand for housing in the area. Many of the LDP allocated sites already have planning permission and are under construction or expected to be so in the coming years. The 6.1 year figure is based on the Vale of Glamorgan LDP adopted on 28 June 2017. The Joint Housing Land Availability Study for 2017/18 demonstrates the Vale of Glamorgan has a 5.6 year housing land supply figure.</p>	

SECTION 2 - EFFICIENCY

Indicator	05. Percentage of "major" applications determined within time periods required	
“Good”	“Fair”	“Improvement needed”
More than 60% of applications are determined within the statutory time period	Between 50% and 60% of applications are determined within the statutory time period	Less than 50% of applications are determined within the statutory time period

Authority’s performance	75
<p>This compares to the Welsh average of 67.4% and is consistent with last year’s 77%. We determined 20 major planning applications in 2017-18. Each application took, on average, 164 days (23 weeks) to determine. This was significantly shorter than the Wales average of 240.1 days (34 weeks) and considerably better than last year’s 243 days.</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	164
<p>We determined 20 major planning applications in 2017-18. Each application took, on average, 164 days (23 weeks) to determine. This was significantly shorter than the Wales average of 240.1 days (34 weeks) and considerably better than last year’s 243 days.</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 70% and 80% of applications are determined within the statutory time period	Less than 70% of applications are determined within the statutory time period

Authority's performance	92
This is better than the Welsh average of 88.5% and an improvement on last year's 91%.	

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	65
This is quicker than the 'good' threshold and demonstrates strong performance from the Vale of Glamorgan Council particularly compared to the all Wales average of 80.7 days.	

Indicator	08a. Percentage of Listed Building Consent 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	70
The Vale of Council has a significant number of Listed Buildings and determined 35 Listed Building Consent applications in 2017/18. Given the complexities of these applications and the specialist input required from our Conservation Officer, we deliberately focus on quality rather than speed in the determination of these applications.	

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	0
<p>In 2017-18, our Planning Committee made 43 planning application decisions during the year, which equated to 4% of all planning applications determined. Across Wales 7% of all planning application decisions were made by planning committee.</p> <p>0% of these member-made decisions went against officer advice. This compared to 9% of member-made decisions across Wales. This equated to 0% of all planning application decisions going against officer advice; 0.6% across Wales.</p>	

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	64
<p>Of the 14 appeals that were decided during the year, 64% were dismissed. This was higher than the percentage of appeals dismissed across Wales as a whole (62.6%) and only just short of the 66% target for 'good' performance. It is also a significant improvement on last year's 52%.</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”		“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
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.	

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. Our customer satisfaction survey carried out this year showed 'the availability to talk to a duty planner before submitting an application' was the most popular planning service characteristic that respondents thought would most help them achieve successful developments.	

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”
More than 80% of enforcement cases are investigated in 84 days	Between 70% and 80% of enforcement cases are investigated in 84 days	Less than 70% of enforcement cases are investigated in 84 days

Authority’s performance	89 (amended)
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 80.6%.	

Indicator	16. Average time taken to take positive enforcement action	
“Good”	“Fair”	“Improvement needed”
Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked	Target to be benchmarked

Authority’s performance	94 (amended)
The Council is performing very well against this indicator. The Council’s time taken to take positive enforcement action averaging 94 days is significantly better than the All Wales average of 184.6 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.	

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	11,717

Refused (square metres)	
Authority's data	0

This included new B2 floorspace for Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd., at the Aerospace Business Park, St. Athan, Barry and B1 floorspace at Sully Moor Road, Sully	
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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	0

Granted permission (MW energy generation)	
Authority's data	0

N/A	
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Indicator	SD3. The number of dwellings granted planning permission during the year.
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Market housing (number of units)	
Authority's data	568

Affordable housing (number of units)	
Authority's data	250

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 818 dwellings granted planning permission in 2017/18, 30.5% 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) which were GRANTED permission	
Authority's data	0 residential units & 1.34 ha C2 non residential

Number of residential units (and also hectares of non-residential units) which were REFUSED permission on flood risk grounds	
Authority's data	1 residential unit & 0.63ha C2 non residential

There was an anomaly in the template report for this indicator and the WG figures are inaccurate and not based on our returns. The figures quoted above are accurate and reflect our actual returns to WG.

During 2017/18 the Council has not granted planning permission for any new homes within C1 or C2 flood zones. We have granted development on 1.34 ha land identified all /part within C2 flood zone for other uses compliant with planning policy including a new sewage pumping station, a leisure (adventure golf) use, storage and a watersports / community facility.

During 2017/18 we refused planning permission for development in C1 and C2 floodplain areas during the year on 2 occasions: 1 dwelling in Llanmaes and 1 retail development on an industrial estate.

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	22

Greenfield land (hectares)	
Authority's data	19

Of the 41 hectares of land granted planning permission for development in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2017/18, 22 hectares (53%) was on previously developed land.

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	0

Open space gained (hectares)	
Authority's data	6

We are pleased that there is a significant gain of open space as a result of planning permissions granted in 2017/18 and no loss of public open space. 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	8,109,966

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

The Council continued to be successful in negotiating S106 agreements in the financial year of 2017/18. During this period, a total of 28 planning permissions have been granted, which have been subject to Section 106 agreements. The value of the financial contributions in these legal agreements totals £8.1m) in addition to on-site provision of public open space, sustainable transport facilities, public art and affordable housing, and they relate to a range of developments including major residential developments.

In 2017/18 the total value of section 106 contributions secured in the whole of Wales was £41,758,554.66. The Vale of Glamorgan Council accounted for 19.4% of the total.

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.