



Service Deficit Mitigation Report

Service Directorate:	Planning and Transport - Planning
Deficit amount:	£400k
<p>Details of Deficit: The forecast pressure within planning operations is mainly due to the lower than anticipated planning application submissions and the associated income derived from this activity.</p> <p>It is difficult to accurately predict the number of applications which will be received per quarter as this is outside of the control of the LPA and subject to market forces and economic conditions. Planning applications are also subject to seasonal variations with notable reductions in summer months.</p> <p>The shortfall in Q2 follows on from the reduction seen last financial year and is consistent with the national trend. This is largely due to the downturn in the economy and the rise in building cost and the cost of borrowing. The planning service are actively trying to mitigate this downward trend where possible.</p>	
<p>Mitigation already assumed: It is difficult to accurately predict the number of applications which will be submitted throughout the year, a number of larger applications (with significant fees) are expected to be submitted in the next quarter with Q3 being one of the busiest quarters historically for planning application submissions. As such it is anticipated that the planning income will increase and be more inline with the budget estimate for the full financial year.</p>	
<p>Further Mitigation needed: No further mitigation required beyond monitoring of applications being submitted in Q3</p>	
<p>Conclusion: Whilst income is down against the forecast this is as a result of variations across the year and it is anticipated that income will increase in the following two quarters.</p>	
<p>Likelihood of success: High</p>	