



SELF-ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNEMENT

(PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND STANDARDS)
ORDER (NI) 2015

2015-2016

armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

Introduction

Under The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (NI) 2015, a number of performance indicators and standards have been set for each of the new 11 Councils in Northern Ireland. This is part of the performance improvement arrangements for district councils introduced at re-organisation by way of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. These indicators and standards will continue to apply until an amending order or new order has been enacted.

Performance measures have been specified for the functions of Economic Development, Planning and Waste Management. The aim of the performance measures is to promote the improvement of service delivery in these three service areas.

This document presents a self-assessment of the performance of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council against the current statutory indicators and standards for the year 2015-2016.

This publication fulfils, in part, the statutory requirement set out in Part 12, Section 90 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 to publish performance information.

Statutory Performance Indicators and Standards 2015-16

The Department of Trade and Investment set the economic development indicators and standards as part of the governance and performance management arrangements for the economic development functions transferring to local councils.

The Department of the Environment set the Planning indicators and standards as part of the governance and performance management arrangements for the Planning functions transferring to local councils. The new Department for Communities will publish performance by council area on a quarterly basis through the NI Planning development management statistics report. Information for 2015-16 may be found using the following link:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-planning-statistics-april-2015-march-2016>

The Department of the Environment set the Waste Management indicators and standards. The new Department for Communities will publish performance by council area in a quarterly basis through the NI Local authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics report. Information for 2015-16 may be access using the following link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-january-march-2016>

The specific performance indicators and standards for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council in relation to Economic Development, Planning and Waste Management are set out below, along with the details of how we performed over the period April 2015-March 2016.

Economic Development

Ref	Statutory Indicator	Standard to be met (annually)	Standard achieved 2015/16
ED1	<p>The number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity.</p> <p>(Business start-up activity means the delivery of completed client-led business plans under Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Regional Start Initiative or its successor programmes)</p>	165	254

In the financial year 2015/16 the Regional Start Initiative promoted 254 jobs in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 54% above the target of 165. The business start-up activity has been delivered on behalf of Councils through a Service Level Agreement with Invest Northern Ireland since this function transferred to Councils in April 2015.

Planning

Ref	Statutory Indicator	Standard to be met (annually)	Standard achieved 2015/16
P1	<p>The average processing time of major planning applications.</p> <p>(An application in the category of major development within the meaning of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (NI) 2015 (a))</p>	Major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawn within an average of 30 weeks.	43 weeks
P2	<p>The average processing time of local planning applications.</p> <p>(An application in the category of local development within the meaning of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (NI) 2015, and other applications for approval or consent under the Planning Act (NI) 2011 or any Regulations made under the Act)</p>	Local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawn within an average of 15 weeks.	22 weeks
P3	<p>The percentage of planning enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks.</p> <p>(Enforcement cases are investigations into alleged breaches of planning control under Part 5 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 or any Regulations made under the Act)</p>	70% of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint.	79%

The Planning Department was successful in meeting one of the three standards; (P3) the percentage of planning enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks.

The performance in relation to major (P1) and local (P2) planning application processing times is reflective of a very challenging first year for the Planning Department which came to Council on 1st April 2015. This was mainly attributable to IT related issues. Notwithstanding this, the Council has been extremely positive in terms of its response to addressing planning performance. IT related issues have been addressed and resolved and consideration is currently being given to a review of the service and its resourcing.

The Council is confident that the statistics for the first quarter of next year (2016/17) will, once released, show a marked improvement in the Planning Department's performance against at least 2 of the 3 statutory indicators – local applications and enforcement – and that this will provide a platform on which further and continuous improvement will be made.

Waste Management

Ref	Statutory Indicator	Standard to be met (annually)	Standard achieved 2015/16
W1	The percentage of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for reuse)	NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (50% by 2020)	*48.16%
W2	The amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled	NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (29,173 tonnes)	*10,407 tonnes.
W3	The amount (tonnage) of Local authority Collected Municipal Waste arisings (the total amount of waste collected)	No standard has been set	*102,947 tonnes

**To be verified by the Department for Environment, Agriculture & Rural Affairs (DEARA)*

The Environmental Services Department is continuing to increase landfill diversion, already reaching a high percentage of 48.16% during 2015/16; this strong position means that the 50% standard expected for 2020 will be met.

In 2015/16 the Council landfilled 10,407 tonnes of biodegradable waste, well below the 29,173 tonnes allowance which we would have been permitted to landfill. This is as a result of well-established composting processes and use of education/engagement programmes with the public.

The Council will continue with existing and, where possible, new initiatives with local residents and businesses, promoting re-use, composting and recycling as effective ways of dealing with waste. We will continue to drive sustainable waste management practices, benefiting local and global communities.

The Borough is well placed, as one of the top performing councils in Northern Ireland, to meet the waste management standards by 2020.

Committed to Continuous Improvement

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council wants to assure our citizens, local businesses and all of our other stakeholders that we are fully committed to using our best endeavours to deliver services that are efficient, economical and of an exemplary standard. We look forward to working with you to ensure this happens and to meet the priorities set out in our 2015-2017 Corporate Plan: To Prosper the Place, To Serve the People and To Strengthen our Position. <http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Corporate-Plan-2015-2017.pdf>

You may also wish to view our annual Performance Improvement Plan for 2016/17 on our website. <http://issuu.com/acdcdesign/docs/pip-2016-2017/1?e=2182723/36857583> or <http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/PIP-2016-2017.pdf>

How to Contact us

If you would like further information about any of the statutory indicators and standards or to obtain copies of this or any of our other publications then please contact us using the details below or alternatively access them via the Publications page on our website:

www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

We welcome your ongoing feedback and comments or suggestions on how we might improve any of our Council services. Please use one of the following ways to contact us:

Email: performance@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 0300 900

In Writing: Performance and Audit
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Armagh Old City Hospital
Abbey Street
Armagh
BT61 7DY

This document is available in a range of formats upon request using the contact details above.

Armagh Office
The Palace Demesne
Armagh
BT60 4EL

+44 (0)28 3752 9600

Banbridge Office
Civic Building
Downshire Road
Banbridge BT32 3JY

+44 (0)28 4066 0600

Craigavon Office
Craigavon Civic &
Conference Centre
Lakeview Road
Craigavon BT64 1AL

+44 (0)28 3831 2400

performance@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk
armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk