



## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 06 March 2023

<b>Subject</b>	Planning Performance Report – October to December 2022
<b>Report of</b>	Councillor David Ritchie  Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Ben Woolnough Planning Manager (Development Management, Major Sites and Infrastructure) 01394 444681 <a href="mailto:ben.woolnough@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">ben.woolnough@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a>  Katherine Scott Principal Planner (Technical Lead, Development Management) 01394 444503 <a href="mailto:katherine.scott@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">katherine.scott@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a>

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

**Purpose of Report:**

This report provides an update on the planning performance of the Development Management Team in terms of the timescales for determining planning applications.

**Options:**

None.

**Recommendation/s:**

That the content of the report be noted.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

**Governance:**

Not applicable.

**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

Not applicable.

**Environmental:**

Not applicable.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

Not applicable.

**Financial:**

Not applicable.

**Human Resources:**

Not applicable.

**ICT:**

Not applicable.

**Legal:**

Not applicable.

**Risk:**

Not applicable.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	None
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## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b> To provide information on the performance of the enforcement section			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	This report provides details on the determination timescales for all planning applications at East Suffolk Council when tested against the government set timescales as well as the East Suffolk Council stretched targets.
1.2	The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are reported on a quarterly basis and included within the East Suffolk Council performance report and tested against the Council's Business Plan.

2

Current position

2.1

East Suffolk Council as Local Planning Authority determines applications that seek Planning Permission, Listed Building Consent, Advertisement Consent and Tree Works applications along with associated applications such as those seeking approval of matters reserved by conditions on consents.

2.2

This report focuses on the applications for Planning Permission (those seeking Approval of Reserved Matters, Change of Use, Full Planning Permission, Outline Planning Permission, Removal of Condition(s) and Variations of Condition(s)). There are herein referred to as Planning Applications.

2.3

The previous Strategic Planning Committee took place on 5 December 2022, after the end of the last quarter and the closure of a two-year monitoring period for quarterly returns to government, and part way through the first quarter of the new/current monitoring period (October – December 2022). It therefore contained partial figures for that quarter. This report provides the full data for that quarter.

	Quarter (Oct - Dec 2022)	Percentage	Targets
Major Development	11/12	91.67%	60% national 65% stretched
Minor Development	98/128	76.56%	n/a - national 75% stretched
Other Development	275/350	78.57%	n/a - national 90% stretched
Minor and Other Development Combined figures	373/478	78.03%	70% national n/a - stretched

2.4	As set out in the table above, during the first six weeks of this quarter the team has determined 91.67% of 'Majors' either within 13 weeks or an agreed extension of time. This is significantly above the national target of 60% and our own stretch target of 65%.
2.5	During this period the team has also met our own stretch target for the determination of 'Minor' Applications, achieving 76.56% determined either within 8 weeks or an agreed extension of time. The stretch target is 75%.
2.6	Unfortunately, the stretch target for the determination of 'other' applications either within 8 weeks or an agreed extension of time has not been met, with the team achieving 78.7% rather than the stretch target of 90%.
2.7	The combined figures for 'Minors' and 'Others' for this period is 78.03% so it meets the government target of 70%. However, it should still be recognised that this figure is unfortunately being reduced by the proportion of 'Others' that are not making the target and therefore this should be recognised as an area for improvement.
2.8	However, it should also be recognised that the team had a significant number of vacant posts during that quarter and those vacancies remain, which likely affects the proportions of applications they are able to determine in time. The team should be commended on all their hard work and efforts to achieve the above figures.
2.9	It should be noted that there are a number of advertisements out seeking to recruit officers to the currently vacant position, and filling those posts should strengthen and improve capacity within the team potentially enabling the above figures relating to quantity to potentially be improved, but also ensure the quality of decisions made is maintained.
2.10	The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting (scheduled for June 2023) will take place once the current quarter has expired (1 January – 31 March 2023)) and therefore the report for that meeting will contain the full figures for the current quarter.

### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	Quarterly monitoring
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### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	That the report concerning the performance of the Development Management Team in terms of the speed of determining planning applications is noted.
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## Appendices

<b>Appendices:</b>
None.

<b>Background reference papers:</b>
None.