



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 02 October 2023

Subject	Planning Performance Report – April to June 2023
Cabinet Member	Councillor Kay Yule Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
Report Author(s)	Ben Woolnough Planning Manager (Development Management, Major Sites and Infrastructure) ben.woolnough@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Katherine Scott Principal Planner (Development Management, Technical Lead) katherine.scott@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
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Director	Nick Khan Strategic Director nick.khan@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

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

External Consultees:	None
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Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
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"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
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"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
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"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
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"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		
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"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How does this proposal support the priorities selected?			
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	<p>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.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Quarter (April – June 2023)</th> <th>Percentage</th> <th>Targets</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Major Development</td> <td>8/8</td> <td>100%</td> <td>60% national 65% stretched</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minor Development</td> <td>101/135</td> <td>74.81%</td> <td>n/a - national 75% stretched</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Development</td> <td>252/321</td> <td>78.50%</td> <td>n/a - national 90% stretched</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minor and Other Development Combined figures</td> <td>353/456</td> <td>77.41%</td> <td>70% national n/a - stretched</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Quarter (April – June 2023)	Percentage	Targets	Major Development	8/8	100%	60% national 65% stretched	Minor Development	101/135	74.81%	n/a - national 75% stretched	Other Development	252/321	78.50%	n/a - national 90% stretched	Minor and Other Development Combined figures	353/456	77.41%	70% national n/a - stretched
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2.4	As set out in the table above, during this quarter the team has determined 100% 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%. This is an increase upon the previous quarter (January – March 2023), during which 88% of Major applications were determined within 13 weeks or an agreed extension of time. However, it should be noted that during that quarter the authority determined 16 Major applications, and in the most recent quarter only 8 Major applications were determined.
2.5	During this period the team was close to meeting our stretch target for the determination of 'Minor' Applications, achieving 74.81% 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 79.15% so it meets the government target of 70% for 'Non-Majors'. Whilst this is a decrease on the previous quarter (January – March 2023) which was 82.1% for 'Non-Majors', the decrease is not of sufficient level to warrant concern.
2.8	The Local Planning Authority is monitored over rolling two-year monitoring periods on the basis of the percentage of 'Major' and 'Non-Major' planning applications it determined within time (i.e. within the nationally set determination target date or within an extension of time agreed with the applicant/agent).
2.9	Appendix A to this report includes the figures for East Suffolk Council for the full quarters 1 October 2021 to 30 June 2023, and for the current quarter up until 14 September 2023. They show that despite lower percentages for 'non-majors' being determined in time during the first three quarters of the monitoring period, the Local Planning Authority is on target to meet the required levels for both 'Majors' and 'Non-Majors' in the current two-year monitoring period, with predicted levels of 89% for Majors and 74% for Non-Majors (the government requirements are 65% for Majors and 70% for Non-Majors).
2.10	The team should be commended on all their hard work and efforts to achieve the above figures.

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

Appendices:
None.

Background reference papers:
None.