



## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 13 December 2021

<b>Subject</b>	<b>PLANNING PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021</b>
<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) 01394 444593 <a href="mailto:Ben.woolnough@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">Ben.woolnough@eastsoffolk.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:**

Not applicable.

**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: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		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	<p>The breakdown for Q2 (July 2021 to September 2021) compared with the previous quarter (Q1) is reported as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">Current Quarter</th> <th colspan="2">Previous Quarter</th> <th rowspan="2">Targets</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Q2 Percentage</th> <th>Q2 Total</th> <th>Q1 Percentage</th> <th>Q1 Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Major Development</td> <td>63.6%</td> <td>7/11</td> <td>64.29%</td> <td>9/14</td> <td>60% national 65% stretched</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minor Development</td> <td>75.7%</td> <td>103/136</td> <td>72%</td> <td>92/127</td> <td>65% national 75% stretched</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Development</td> <td>84.6%</td> <td>474/560</td> <td>76%</td> <td>446/586</td> <td>80% national 90% stretched</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Current Quarter		Previous Quarter		Targets	Q2 Percentage	Q2 Total	Q1 Percentage	Q1 Total	Major Development	63.6%	7/11	64.29%	9/14	60% national 65% stretched	Minor Development	75.7%	103/136	72%	92/127	65% national 75% stretched	Other Development	84.6%	474/560	76%	446/586	80% national 90% stretched
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2.2	<p>The figures for Q2 of the financial year shows a continued high number of application submissions, particularly for other development, at 560 submissions. There remains a trend to issue decisions in a timely manner and the national performance indicators have been met for all categories. The slight underperformance last quarter in respect of other developments has been made up for by now exceeding the national target at 84.6%. As previously reported work is progressing to make decision making more efficient, particularly for more straightforward decisions without public interest.</p>																												

2.3	All members of the Development Management Team largely continue to work from home but undertake site visits in a Covid secure manner. All office meetings with customers have been held virtually though site meetings are now taking place and the figures presented to Members demonstrates that the pandemic has not had a significant negative effect on either the quality of timeliness of decision making albeit there are a number of challenges which have been faced.
2.4	The Development Management Team have also been appropriately using the extension of time mechanism to ensure that appropriate discussions can take place with applicants/other parties to secure high quality sustainable developments.
2.5	The Council maintains a high approval rate across all types of applications and proactively look to support development where policy permits and work proactively with applicants and agents to secure appropriate schemes.
2.6	Where applications are refused Officers seek to defend those refusals robustly. Members will note the separate appeals report on the agenda which demonstrates confidence that applications are being refused correctly and those decisions are for the most part upheld at appeal.
2.7	Officers continue to work proactively with agents to promote the pre-application service to seek to ensure that where applications are submitted they have the right level of information accompanying them to enable swift decisions on applications to be made. The Planning Manager is currently engaging with a range of agents to understand their needs and expectations of the team to factor into further improvements. Unfortunately, in order to accommodate the considerable increase in planning applications and maintain decision making targets, the pre-application service has suffered in terms of quality of service. This is a short term effect which has been covered in a recent Planning Newsletter.
2.8	For information purposes an update on Strategic/Major Sites is also provided as Appendix A of this report. It is proposed that such an update will be provided twice a year for Strategic Planning Committee.

### 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 be noted.
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## Appendices

### Appendices:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Strategic/Major Sites update – Major Sites and Infrastructure Team
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### Background reference papers:

None.
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