EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 4 June 2020

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

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| Is the report Open or Exempt? | Open |
|---|---|

| **Wards Affected:** | All |
|---|---|

| **Cabinet Member:** | Councillor David Ritchie<br><br>Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management |
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| **Supporting Officer:** | Liz Beighton<br><br>Planning Development Manager<br><br>01394 444778<br><br>Liz.beighton@eastsuffolk.gov.uk |
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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. This paper seeks to provide Members with a Quarterly breakdown and also provide a yearly total.

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 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

2.1 The breakdown for Q1 (April through to end of June 2019) is reported as follows:

|  | Q1 Percentage | Q1 Total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 100% | 13/13 | 60% national 65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 67% | 104/154 | 65% national 75% stretched |
| Other Development | 85% | 437/516 | 80% national 90% stretched |

2.2 The breakdown for Q2 (June through to end of September 2019) is reported as follows:

|  | Q2 Percentage | Q2 Total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 78% | 18/23 | 60% national 65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 80% | 127/159 | 65% national 75% stretched |
| Other Development | 90% | 350/387 | 80% national 90% stretched |

2.3 The breakdown for Q3 (October through to end of December 2019) is reported as follows:

|  | Q3 Percentage | Q3 Total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 84% | 16/19 | 60% national 65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 74% | 92/125 | 65% national 75% stretched |
| Other Development | 91% | 339/374 | 80% national 90% stretched |

2.4    The breakdown for Q4: (January through to end of March 2020) is reported as follows:

|  | Q4 percentage | Q4 total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 100% | 13/13 | 60% national 65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 80% | 107/133 | 65% national 75% stretched |
| Other Development | 82% | 309/375 | 80% national 90% stretched |

2.5    The cumulative figures for the who year are reported as follows:

|  | Year percentage | Year total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 88.2% | 60/68 | 60% national 65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 75.3% | 430/571 | 65% national 75% stretched |
| Other Development | 86.8% | 1435/1652 | 80% national 90% stretched |

2.6    The figures reported show a consistently high speed of determination across all genres of applications.  In all instances the national performance targets are achieved, and the locally set stretched targets are met in both 'major' and 'minor' applications, with performance in respect of 'other' applications slightly below the target of 90% of all applications being determined within eight weeks.  This is partly to do with current vacant posts within the team (including one in enforcement) which has increased officer workload alongside a high volume of submissions.  In addition, it is important to note that applications are becoming more complex and complicated and this has not been reflected in central government extending determination timescales in recognition of such.

2.7    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.  Where applications are refused Officers seek to defend those refusals strongly.  Members will note the separate appeals report on the SPC agenda which demonstrates confidence that applications are being refused correctly and those decisions are for the most part upheld at appeal.

2.8    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.

## 3    REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1    This report is for information only.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the contents of the report are noted.

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