



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 September 2020

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

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.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Ritchie Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
Supporting Officer:	Liz Beighton Planning Manager (Development Management) 01394 444778 Liz.beighton@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

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.
- 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 2020) is reported as follows:

	Q1 Percentage	Q1 Total	Targets
Major Development	87.5%	(7/8)	60% national 65% stretched
Minor Development	89%	(138/155)	65% national 75% stretched
Other Development	89%	(314/352)	80% national 90% stretched

- 2.2 For reference, in the same period last year (April 2019 to June 2019) the Council provided the following statistics

	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

- 2.3 The figures for Q1 of the financial year are promising and show a continued intent to issue decisions in a timely manner. The national performance indicators have been met in all categories and with the exception of 'others' the internally stretched targets have been met. Members will note that there has been a marked increase in performance on minor applications. It is important however to note that there has been less 'other' applications submitted and determined by East Suffolk this year compared to last year, and this is a direct result of Covid-19 and the impact this has had on the economy, the development sector and personal finances.
- 2.4 There are currently a number of job advertisements live for four trainee or assistant planners, a Design and Conservation Officer to replace an existing position and temporary backfilling for Design and Conservation, Landscape and Ecology to enable assist in delivering the Planning service whilst also providing valuable support to the Energy projects. The additional resource will provide valuable support to the existing team and assist with performance moving forward.

- 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. Where applications are refused Officers seek to defend those refusals strongly. 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.
- 2.8 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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the contents of the report are noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None