**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Monday, 9 March 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 |

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| **Wards Affected:** | All |

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| **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 |

# 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 2019) is reported as follows:

|  | Q1 Percentage | Q1 Total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 100% | 13/13 | 60% national<br>65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 67% | 104/154 | 65% national<br>75% stretched |
| Other Development | 85% | 437/516 | 80% national<br>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<br>65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 80% | 127/159 | 65% national<br>75% stretched |
| Other Development | 90% | 350/387 | 80% national<br>90% stretched |

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

|  | Q2 Percentage | Q2 Total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 84% | 16/19 | 60% national<br>65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 74% | 92/125 | 65% national<br>75% stretched |
| Other Development | 91% | 339/374 | 80% national<br>90% stretched |

2.4 The rolling statistics for both Q1, Q2 and Q3 are as follows:

|  | Combined Percentage | Combined Total | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|
| Major Development | 84.4% | 47/55 | 60% national<br>65% stretched |
| Minor Development | 74% | 323/438 | 65% national<br>75% stretched |
| Other Development | 88.1% | 1126/1277 | 80% national<br>90% stretched |

2.5     The figures reported continue to show a high speed of determination across all genres of applications.  In all instances the national performance targets are achieved.  The performance is slightly below the internally stretched targets in both minor and other applications. This is partly to do with the Christmas period and there being four vacant posts within the team (including one in enforcement) which has increased officer workload alongside a high volume of submissions.  These vacant posts are currently out for advertisement and officers are hopeful of being able to recruit to these posts and increase the officer level across the team.

2.6     The Council maintains a high approval rate across all boards 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.

2.7     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 to enable not only swift decisions on applications.

2.8     The Q4 statistics run until the end of March 2020.  These will be reported to the March SPC meeting together with an update on the Q4 and yearly statistics cross-referenced against those for the preceding year.  The report will also seek to offer more detailed analysis on the use of extensions of time and the pre-application service.


**3       REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3.1     This report is for information only.


**RECOMMENDATION**

That the content of the report is noted.


**APPENDICES – None**


**BACKGROUND PAPERS - None**