

Report to:

Planning Committee

Relevant Officer:

Gary Johnston, Head of Development Management

Date of Meeting :

5 March 2019

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS PERFORMANCE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update members of Planning Committee of the Council's performance in relation to Government targets.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the report

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To provide the Committee with a summary of current performance

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? No

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None the report is for information only

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is both:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Members of Planning Committee will be aware that the Government has set targets for the determination of major and minor category planning applications and major and minor category appeals. These are speed and quality of decision targets and are currently –

Speed of major development decisions – 60% within 13 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time – for the period October 2016 to September 2018

Speed of minor development decisions – 70% within 8 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time – for the period October 2016 to September 2018

Quality of major development decisions – Loss of more than 10% of appeals – for the period April 2016 – March 2018

Quality of minor development decisions – Loss of more than 10% of appeals – for the period April 2016 – March 2018

Figures are submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Communities and Local Government. Performance for January 2019 shown as is performance for the third quarter – October to December 2018

The last full year performance figures for applications (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2018) were –
Majors 95% within 13 weeks or an agreed extension of time (target 60%)
Minors 96% within 8 weeks or an agreed extension of time (target 70%)

In terms of the assessment period (October 2016 – September 2018) performance at the end of September 2018 for the full two year period was as –
Majors 91% within 13 weeks or an agreed extension of time (target 60%)
Minors 92% within 8 weeks or an agreed extension of time (target 70%)

In terms of appeals for the period April 2016 – March 2018 –
 There were 28 decisions of which 6 non major appeals were lost (21% of the total appeal decisions). There were no major appeal decisions.

	Government Target	Performance January 2019	Performance October - December 2018
Major development decisions	>60%	none	100%
Minor development decisions	>70%	100%	92%
Quality of major development decisions	<10%	none	none
Quality of non major development decisions	<10%	One appeal decision in January – appeal dismissed	No appeal decisions in the quarter

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.3 **List of Appendices**

None.

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Performance is influenced by staffing numbers, sickness and leave.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 Poor performance puts the Council at risk of designation and the potential for loss of fee income

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Under resourcing the service could lead to inability to respond to peaks in workload.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Not applicable.

13.0 Background Papers

13.1 None.