

Report to:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Susan Parker, Head of Development Management

Date of Meeting:

12 December 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS PERFORMANCE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update the Committee of the Council's performance in relation to Government targets. This report reflects performance in the second quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year.

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 performance.

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

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None the report is for information only.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 This report is relevant to both Council priorities:

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

6.0 Background Information

6.1 The Government sets targets for the speed of planning decisions.

- Major applications – 60% to be determined within 13 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time
- Non-major applications – 70% to be determined within 8 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time

6.2 The Council's performance must be reported to Government on a quarterly basis.

6.3 For the quarter of July – September 2023, the Council’s performance in terms of speed was as follows:

- Major applications – 80% determined within 13 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time
- Non-major applications – 79.9% determined within 8 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time

6.4 The Council has therefore exceeded the statutory targets in this quarter.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

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

9.0 Legal considerations:

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

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Performance is influenced by staffing numbers, sickness and leave. Under-resourcing of the service could lead to inability to respond to peaks in workload

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 Not applicable.

14.0 Background Papers

14.1 None.