

Report to:

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Susan Parker, Head of Development Management

Date of Meeting:

25 July 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 the performance over Quarter 1 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 The relevant Council priorities are both 'The Economy: maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool' and '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 2022-2023 financial year, the Council's performance in terms of speed was as

follows:

- Major applications – 100% determined within 13 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time.
- Non-major applications – 65.6% determined within 8 weeks or an agreed Extension of Time.

6.4 The Council has therefore exceeded the statutory targets for major applications for quarter 1 but has fallen slightly below the threshold for minor applications. This shortfall is considered to reflect the ongoing pressures placed on the team by levels of workload and staff shortages. The team will renew focus on securing appropriate extensions of time to address this issue over the next quarter.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices

None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.