

PART A

Report to: Development Management Committee

Date of meeting: 19 April 2017

Report of: Development Management Section Head

Title: Review of Performance October 2015 to December 2016 (For Information Planning: Development Management)

Summary

1. This report provides information on the performance of Development Management with regard to the number of planning applications determined and appeals decided between October 2015 and September 2016. Performance figures for October 2016 – December 2016 are also provided.
2. The performance figures for Watford are provided in the table below alongside our internal target. All three targets are being exceeded, with the majority of applications being approved, which indicates that planning officers are working with applicants and agents in a positive manner and are performing well.
3. The speed of planning decisions is now being monitored by the DCLG for the purposes of designating poor performing authorities. The Council is currently considered to be highly performing and is substantially exceeding the prescribed standards.

Performance Oct 2015 to Dec 2016

October 2015 – September 2016				
Type	Target % in agreed time	Achieved % in agreed time	No. Approved	% Approved
Majors	60	95	17	77
Minors	65	96	165	71
Others	85	97	406	77

Quarter October – December 2016				
Type	Target % in agreed time	Achieved % in agreed time	No. Approved	% Approved
Majors	60	100	1	100
Minors	65	94	31	67
Others	85	93	102	85

4. The table below provides details of the appeal decisions on planning applications. The majority of applications are dismissed at appeal, which is a good indication that planning officers are applying the relevant policies appropriately. The overall appeal performance of 33% appeals upheld (allowed) is very good as the historical national target was 34% of upheld appeals.
5. On delegated decisions, the Authority's decisions are upheld slightly more often with only 27% of appeals being allowed. No appeals arising from decisions of the Development Management Committee have been upheld, however this must be noted in the context that all such decisions were contrary to the officers' recommendations.
6. The Department for Communities and Local Government sets quality criteria comparing the number of upheld appeals against total decisions in the same period. This is not based on the same period as this report; however it is useful to consider performance across the report period for purposes of on-going monitoring. The criterion for poor performance is 10% for Major and Non-Major applications. For the period considered in this report the figure is 5.5% for Major and 1.8% for Non-Major applications. It should be noted that the quality measure for Major applications is particularly sensitive to appeal decisions due to the low total number of such applications.

Appeal Decisions Received within Oct 2015 to Dec 2016

Oct-Dec 2015		Application	Decision Type	Overtake	Appeal Decision
	1	14/01773/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	2	15/00644/ADV	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	3	15/00649/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	4	15/00413/FULM	Committee	Yes	Allowed
	5	15/00350/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	6	15/00759/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	7	15/00066/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	8	14/01197/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed

Jan–Mar 2016	9	15/00141/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	10	15/00917/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	11	15/00808/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	12	14/01833/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	13	15/01290/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	14	15/00815/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	15	15/01358/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
Apr–Jun 2016	16	15/01244/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	17	15/01447/FUL	Committee	Yes	Allowed
	18	15/01208/FUL	Committee	Yes	Allowed
	19	15/01321/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	20	15/01214/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	21	15/01524/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	22	15/01573/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	23	15/01618/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	24	15/01430/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	25	15/01137/OPD	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
July-Sep 2016	26	15/01563/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	27	15/01613/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	28	16/00080/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	29	15/01139/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	30	16/00517/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	31	16/00002/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	32	16/00022/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	33	16/00082/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
Oct-Dec 2016	34	15/01340/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	35	16/00291/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	36	16/00018/FUL	Committee	Yes	Allowed
	37	16/00540/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Allowed
	38	16/00086/TPO	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	39	16/00753/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	40	16/00573/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	41	16/00796/FULH	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed
	42	15/01785/FUL	Delegated	N /A	Dismissed

Recommendation:

That the Committee note the performance of Development Management planning.

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