

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

25 June 2019

COUNCILLOR WARD - CABINET MEMBER FOR

For the period April 2019 to June 2019

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Development Management Performance

Our latest figures for speed of decision stand as:

Majors at 92.4% (up by 1.8% National indicators require decisions should exceed 60%)

Non- major applications 94.2% (falling by 1.1%, National indicators require decisions should exceed 70%).

The overall picture for performance remains positive with both sectors significantly exceeding national minimum requirements when viewed over the two-year performance interval.

Our latest figures for quality of decision (as measured by appeal success) stand as:

Majors no appeal decision have been overturned.

Non-major developments 0.9% (rising by 0.3%)

The figure has risen for non-major decisions, with 20 overturned decisions in our total over a 2-year period the figure remains low in the national context. The national performance threshold is for no more that 10% of appeals to be overturned in that qualifying period.

No fees were refunded as a result of requests made following failure to determine the cases in 26 weeks.

Planning Policy

Local Plan Review:

Consultation on the first Draft of the new Local Plan commenced in early May and closed on the 19th of June. The comments received will be compiled into a 'Report of Representations' and the Working Party will shortly commence the process of considering these and amending the Draft Plan. This process is expected to take several months and result in a second draft being produced for consultation in the new year. As part of the consultation exercise the team held twelve staffed drop in

sessions around the District. These were attended by approximately 1,000 people.

Housing Delivery and Supply

This year was the first year when a new Housing Delivery Test(HDT) was applied by government. This test compares housing completions with the requirement for homes over a three-year period and failure to meet the test results in the introduction of various sanctions. Housing completions have remained at reasonably high levels (534 new dwellings in 2018-19) and NNDC passed the new test by some margin, delivering 126% of the housing requirement for the District. A new Five Year Land Supply Statement will be prepared shortly. This looks forward at likely future rates of development and assesses if the supply of sites is sufficient to deliver the required growth. Early indications are that the position may be fairly marginal pending the preparation of the new Local Plan when new development sites will be released.

Neighbourhood Plans

The team expects to be involved in more Neighbourhood Planning work over the coming year with a number of communities either preparing or thinking of preparing a Plan.

Major Developments

The local validation list for planning applications is being reviewed, this will be under consultation prior to expiry of our existing list. The list ensures that planning applications are supported by appropriate plans and reports, and in turn that consultees and decision makers have suitable evidence upon which to make planning decisions.

The process of supporting consultation on Three National Infrastructure off shore wind energy projects has been ongoing. Geoff Lyon and Counsel (Estelle Dehon) have lead this process for NNDC and most recently supplied responses for the Vattenfall / Vanguard to Secretary of State at the end of May.

Work continues on the major housing development proposals for Roughton / Cromer, and also for Beresford Close, Holt. Officers will be pleased to update ward members upon request. The second major housing proposals for Norwich Road Holt is under consultation currently. No committee can be actively targeted until the consultation process has been completed.

The development team will meet with Trinity College and representatives in early July to update and negotiate on outstanding issues for the current planning application proposing circa 950 dwellings at Fakenham. Officers have agreed an extension of time period for the determination of this application with the applicants which runs until the end of July.

Interviews will be held on 27 June with shortlisted candidates to replace the two vacant posts in the Major Developments Team.

Building Control

NNDC Market share for the year was 88% (up slightly from 86% in 2017/18) this compares against a national average of approx. 63%. Applications increased to 1053 (up from 996). Year-end initial budget surplus circa. £30,000.

CIPFA guidelines indicate maintaining a balanced budget between 1 and 5 years max. Current 5-year surplus is approx. £180,000. Considerations include i) reinvesting a proportion back into the service; and or ii) proportionally reduce fees to run at a deficit to bring the surplus down.

The Hackitt Report was released on 6 June, 2019 officers will attend an eastern Region briefing on 25 June and will report back to me on the potential implications for our service at NNDC. Initial consideration remains that the report may well place Local Authority Building Control (LABC) in a more responsible position and potential increase the market-share of Building Regulations work for NNDC.

Conservation, Design & Landscape

The revised district wide Design Guide has followed the same consultation period as the Local Plan Review running until Wednesday 19 June, responses will then be considered and reported.

The document can be viewed at:

<https://designguide.north-norfolk.gov.uk/>

Officers have now received final drafts from Purcell in relation to the Glaven Ports Conservation Area Appraisals, those details will be reviewed and reported to members via the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party.

Nominations have opened for the Graham Allen Design Awards. The Graham Allen Award for Conservation and Design was inaugurated in 1982 as a memorial to the late Councillor G.S. Allen, first Chairman of North Norfolk District Council. Since then the award has continued to celebrate best practice in design and conservation.

Entering a project into the awards is a great opportunity to seek recognition for schemes which have made a significant contribution to the built environment and local communities.

All types of building project are eligible. Whether it be new build, extension, restoration or conversion, the Conservation and Design Award recognises excellence in all design projects. Nominations can be made via the Council's web page or contacting the Conservation and Design team.

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/conservation/nominate-a-building-for-a-conservation-and-design-award-2019/>

Enforcement

Arcady, Cley: Formal investigation have progressed, Appointed Counsel has visited the site, spoken with the investigation team and is reviewing those final formal submissions from the owners / those directly connected to the work on site. The investigation team will be holding a final Case Conference with Counsel before actions are then proposed.

Melton Hall – Officers have been unable to secure attendance of Historic England (HE) at the scheduled site meeting with the owner, this meeting has been deferred pending a secure attendance from HE.

Beeches Farm: Pre application enquiries relating to relocation of businesses from the site have now been completed and issued. First compliance periods will close on 17th July. Three further units have an extended compliance to 17 January 2020. On-going monitoring, liaison and appropriate business support will be given by

officers from Economic Development, Combined Enforcement, Eastlaw and Planning. Officers continue to seek payment of costs made to NNDC in this case from the Planning Inspector.

Software Introduction

Progress within the NNDC commitments for the project remains good with production of an updated project plan. A new project officer has been appointed by IDOX, he attended a site meeting with our project team and is working effectively through weekly conference calls with the NNDC project management team. Deadlines being met and good progress being made with some tasks being well in hand before project plan requirements.

Backfilling resources are to be made available with reallocation of roles for key staff moving forward in July as the project plan requires those additional commitments from existing staff.

“Go Live” date is targeted to be in November 2019.

Recruitment

A recruitment consultant has delivered a shortlist of suitable candidates for the two vacant senior officer posts within the major developments team. Interviews will take place on 27 June.

A successful recruitment campaign has been run to appoint to the vacant post of Planning Officer within the Development management team. Jayne Owens will move over from her consultancy to join the team on 24 June.

Sarah Tudhope, a Senior officer in our Planning Policy team is to be congratulated on her appointment to a role as a Planning Inspector, Sarah has been a member of the team at NNDC for 18 years, it is a pleasure to see that the skills developed at NNDC have enabled Sarah to be successful in her application. The recruitment campaign to fill this role will start with advertisements in the next 10/14 days.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Development Committee – 20 June 2019 (visiting Ward member) ?.

Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party – 22 July (Provisional).

3 Events Attended.

Development Committee – 6 June 2019 (visiting Ward member)

Local Plan Drop in Session Blakeney – 29 May 2019

Member training (Planning) – 22 & 24 May 2019

