

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**November 2019**

### **COUNCILLOR A BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & HOUSING**

For the period September 2019 to November 2019

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

##### **Development Management Performance**

Our latest figures for speed of decision stand as:

Two-year average Majors at 89.55% National indicators require decisions should exceed 60%)

Two-year average Non- major applications 91.53%, 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. Performance has stabilised for both indicators at around 90%.

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

Majors no appeal decision have been overturned.

Non-major developments 0.93% (National benchmark 10%)

Excellent performance is sustained on qualitative measures for decision made by the service, robust and defensible decision is clear and apparent for the service at NNDC.

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

##### **Planning Policy**

###### **Local Plan Review:**

The team continues to process the representations made following consultation on the first draft of the Local Plan. It is hoped that these will start to be reported to the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party in December.

###### **Housing Delivery and Supply**

The Councils position in relation to Five Year Land Supply was agreed at the Working Party meeting in September and a formal statement has now been

published and is available on our web site. The Council currently demonstrates slightly over five and a half years' supply and in terms of housing delivery has once again for the fourth year in a row delivered in excess of 500 dwellings per year. This exceeds the requirements of a National Housing Delivery Test. Annual housing completion returns have been submitted to government to allow for the compilation of this year's housing delivery test which the Authority is expected to pass.

#### **Brownfield Register**

The Council maintains a Register of Brownfield sites in the District which are suitable for residential development. This is reviewed annually. The 2019 review has been completed and results will be reported to the Working Party in December

#### **Major Developments**

The major housing development proposals for Beresford Close, Holt were reported to the October meeting of the Development committee. The matter was deferred at member's request and is to be targeted for reporting back with additional information and third part consultancy over view in December / January.

Applications for major development at Roughton Road and Norwich Road in Roughton / Cromer are being progressed. Technical issues persist with both schemes; officers will report to Development Committee as soon as possible.

The development team are continuing to meet with Trinity College are positively negotiating outstanding issues for the current planning application proposing circa 950 dwellings at Fakenham, I understand that pending those outcomes officers are on target to report the application to a January agenda.

#### **Building Control**

Incomes have shown growth over a sustained period. The current Building Control surplus accrued over 5-years is approx. £180,000 has been considered via a report to SLT.

The surplus is effectively ring fenced to be spent on service improvements or provide the basis for reduced fees. NNDC fees are already competitive generally sitting at the lower end of the spectrum in Norfolk.

The review of current structure and staffing has recommended additional resourcing is funded via the surplus to enable the service to plan for a robust future. The revisions will ensure service resilience in terms of meeting the current and future needs following the Grenfell Inquiry, and NNDC's Declaration of Climate Emergency. Improved service competencies and capacities will be delivered.

#### **Conservation, Design & Landscape**

The Graham Allen Design Awards ceremony was held on 7 November, the event was successful and enjoyed by developers, land owners, architects and our "trades Sector as well as officers and members. Positive press coverage has resulted in the local media. Once again thankyou to all members who have supported and actively engaged in the Design Awards, I will look forward to bring forward such positive and engaging events from my service area in the future.

### **Planning Enforcement**

Melton Hall – Officers have met with the owner and Historic England (HE) to explore outcomes relating to existing enforcement notices, for remediation works to the Engine House; The Bath House & Clock Tower. Urgent works reports are to be reviewed by the owner in relation to the Main Hal. A series of reporting back were secured, officers will be updating The Enforcement Board and me of outcomes in January.

Arcady, Cley: The Enforcement Notice appeal process has moved forward. The council's appeal team have met and inform me that they continue to prepare the Council's case in advance of a "start date being identified by The Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

Officers are tasked with pressing PINS on timely determination of enforcement appeals.

### **Software Introduction**

Progress within all commitments for the project remain good. Sarah Ashurst has now been permanently seconded to support the project group and following a review of exactly where we are our "Go Live" date has been pushed back to late March 2020. Deadlines are demanding but tasks on the project plan are in hand and significant progress has been made in recent weeks. It is of paramount importance that the system is right when we go live to ensure consistency of service. Officers are preparing a report for the Head of Service, Portfolio Holder, Development Committee Chair and the Leader around options for Go live and resting communications. A recommendation will be made in the next couple of months.

Idox have had a restructure as well and we now have our ninth project manager from Idox: Matthew Wade. In addition, our account manager has changed: Dave Trafford takes up the role moving forward.

The project team are all drawn from existing posts within the planning and building control teams, backfilling is now in place to support the wider service.

### **Recruitment:**

Sarah Hinchcliffe Team Leader Major Developments left the team in November to take up a role at Norwich City Council.

A recruitment campaign is underway which will be moving to shortlisting and interviews for Team Leader Major Developments; Senior Officer Major Developments and Senior Officer Development Management by the end of November on a permanent basis.

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## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

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Development Committee – 5 December

Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party – 9 December

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<b>3 Events Attended.</b>