

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 September 2020

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING

For the period June 2020 to September 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Development Management Performance

Our latest figures for speed of decision stand up to month end July in as:

- *Two-year average Majors to end of August stand at 81.36%, down 1.50% since May. National indicators require decisions should exceed 60%. In August 100% of major application were determined within time.*
- *Two-year average Non-major applications to end of August stand at 88.77% up by 3.06% from May, (National indicators require decisions to be a minimum of 70%). In August 98.44% of Non- major application were determined within time.*

The performance profile for both sections is moving positively upwards since May. COVID 19 protocols for site inspections has been simplified and are enabling officers to visit sites at an earlier stage and will deliver improvements in the timeliness of decision making.

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

- *Majors no appeal decisions have overturned Council decisions for the 2 year reporting period.*
- *Non-major developments 1.04%, no appeals were approved against Council decisions since last reporting.*

The national standard for performance on this matter is 10% of appeals being approved in the 2-year cycle. The Council have an excellent record in relation to the quality of decisions being made.

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

Planning Policy & neighbourhood planning

Local Plan Review

The Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working party (PPBH) continue to work remotely and include public engagement via the Council's YouTube channel. Through these provisions PPBH was able to recommend a series of outcomes for site allocations to Cabinet. Further reports are to be heard to reconsider allocations at Cromer, Holt, and Mundesley. Cabinet have required that the recommendation for allocations at Blakeney is to be re-heard.

Along with site allocation PPBH have also progressed:

- Open space, Sport and Recreation study has been (approved)
- Five-year land supply 2020 (standing at 5.16) (approved)
- Coastal Adaptations Supplementary Planning Document (approved)
- Planning White Paper consultation response (reporting to September meeting)

Neighbourhood Plan

Great Ryburgh neighbourhood plan recommendations have now been agreed. We will look forward to the plan being made in due course. Weight may now be given to the Neighbourhood plan in any applications to be determined within the plan area.

Major projects & Conservation, Design & Landscape

The major housing development appeal for 110 homes and land for a new primary school at Beresford Close, Holt, originally proposed for determination by written reps, was considered by the appointed planning inspector. The inspector has determined that the case must be heard as a public inquiry which is due to take place via remote hearing on 20 October 2020 over four days.

Planning applications submitted by Crisp Maltings group are progressing. The applicant has agreed to withdraw the housing application focussing instead on the two applications to extend the existing malting's business including provision of a new access road. The applicant is seeking to address matters raised at consultation stage and the cases will be referred to Development Committee for determination.

Housing schemes at Fakenham (Trinity College) and two sites on the edge of Cromer (Norwich Road and Roughton Road) are also progressing with referral to Development Committee expected before end 2020. The Majors Team are focussing efforts to clear a number of outstanding cases at this busy time.

Work continues to progress on the review of Conservation Areas within the Glaven Valley being undertaken in partnership with Purcell. This includes the Conservation Areas of Holt, Baconsthorpe, Hempstead, Letheringsett and Glandford and then Brinton with Thornage, Sharrington, Hunworth, Edgefield and Stody before the larger Glaven Valley Conservation Area is reviewed. Reports will be taken to the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party

in the coming months detailing progress and to agree actions such as public consultation.

Work is also continuing to review and finalise the Council's updated Landscape Character Assessment and Sensitivity Study ahead of formal adoption. The Council are working with LUC to finalise the document in the coming months.

Building Control

Covid 19 remains challenging for our Building Control team, recently more flexible working arrangements have enabled a backlog of internal final inspections for dwellings to be cleared. All sites are now being inspected first hand, remote site inspections are now entirely exceptional. The team continue to provide a timely and well respected service to the construction sector in North Norfolk.

Software Introduction

COVID 19 has led to the Go Live date for the Uniform (planning applications) project being deferred. From August onwards the project team have been able to recommence work on project in earnest. The revised project timetable will deliver an agreed Go Live in December 2020.

Staffing

The following Officers have joined the service since reporting in May:
Alice Walker – Planning Trainee
Chris Neal – Senior Officer Development Management
Richard Riggs – Senior Officer Major Projects

A contract offer has been made to a further candidate to fill a vacancy as a Senior Officer Major Projects; Interviews will be held for the appointment of an Assistant technical officer Building Regulations, and Assistant Landscape Officer.

I am pleased to announce the promotion of Elliot Schubert to Building Surveyor. Very much positive news to report on recruitment with only 2 vacant posts in the service currently.

Planning White Paper Consultation

Members will be aware of significant proposed changes to the planning system that are currently under consultation. It is essential that members and our community are made aware of this process and are enabled to comment on the proposals.

Officers will be reported verbally to the PPBH Working Party on September 14. This has been followed by circulation of a briefing paper and invitations for members to attend a virtual briefing / Q&A session later this month. Officers will also contact Parish and Town Councils to raise awareness of the White paper consultation and its proposals.

Prior to final completion of the Council's response officers will report to the final draft response to Business Planning for consideration.

Planning Awards

I am pleased to report that NNDC (Housing and Planning) in partnership with Housing providers and Planning consultants has been nominated for a regional planning award under the Royal Town Planning Institute in relation to an innovative strategy that has successfully delivered affordable homes in North Norfolk. The district-wide strategy delivered 61 affordable homes in 5 rural locations, linked by one Section 106 Agreement. The schemes have been thoughtfully designed having regard to existing and future residents to ensure the creation of sustainable, inclusive, communities.

https://www.rtpi.org.uk/find-your-rtpi/rtpi-english-regions/rtpi-east-of-england/awards/?dm_i=1MBA,70LG8,359IAQ,SAAVL,1

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Planning Policy & Build Heritage Working Party – 14 September 2020

Development Committee – 17 September 2020

3 Meetings attended

Planning Policy & Build Heritage Working party – 15 June, 13 July, 17 August.

Development Committee – 23 July, 10 August.