



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Strategic Planning Committee

27 February 2025

Subject: Planning Performance Update Report.

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report produces a summary of performance on planning applications/appeals and planning enforcement for the quarters, July to September and October to December 2024.
- 1.2 Details of any planning appeal decisions in the periods where committee resolved to refuse planning permission contrary to officer recommendation are also given.
- 1.3 The Government has set performance targets for Local Planning Authorities, both in terms of speed of decision and quality of decision. Failure to meet the targets set could result in the Council being designated with applicants for planning permission being able to choose not to use the Council for determining the application

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

3 QUALITY OF PLANNING DECISIONS

- 3.1 In accordance with the published government standards, quality performance with regard to Major (10 or more residential units proposed or 1000+ sq m new floorspace or site area greater than 0.5 hectares), County Matter (proposals involving minerals extraction or waste development) and Non-Major applications are assessed separately. If more than 10% of the total decisions

in each category over the stated period were allowed on appeal, the threshold for designation would be exceeded. Due to the fact that 10% of the number of non-major decisions made exceeds the total number of appeals, there is no chance of designation so the performance against the non-major target will not be published in this report, although it will still be monitored by officers.

3.2 In December 2024, MHCLG announced that there would be two periods of assessment for the purposes of designation:

- decisions between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2024, with subsequent appeal decisions to December 2024.

- decisions between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2025 with subsequent appeal decisions to December 2025.

3.3 The final figures for April 2022 to March 2024 are:

Total number of planning decisions over period: 52

Number of appeals allowed: 2

% of appeals allowed: 3.85%

Appeals still to be determined: 1

Refusals which could still be appealed: 0

County Matter Applications:

Total number of planning decisions over period: 8

Number of appeals allowed: 0

% of appeals allowed: 0%

Appeals still to be determined: 0

Refusals which could still be appealed: 0

3.4 Based on the above, there is no risk of designation for this period.

3.5 The current figures for April 2023 to March 2025 (to date) are:

Total number of planning decisions over period: 42

Number of appeals allowed: 1

% of appeals allowed: 2.4%

Appeals still to be determined: 1

Refusals which could still be appealed: 2

County Matter Applications:

Total number of planning decisions over period: 5

Number of appeals allowed: 0

% of appeals allowed: 0%

Appeals still to be determined: 0

Refusals which could still be appealed: 0

- 3.6 Due to the small number of decisions that we take that are majors or county matters, any adverse appeal decision can have a significant effect on the figure. Based on the above, it is considered that at this time there is a risk of designation. The figure will continue to be carefully monitored.

- 3.7 As part of the quarterly monitoring, it is considered useful to provide details of the performance of appeals generally and summarise any appeal decisions received where the Strategic Planning Committee/Planning Committee resolved to refuse planning permission contrary to officer recommendation. This is provided in the tables below.

Appeal Decisions Jul 2024-Sep 2024

Total Number of Appeal Decisions - 32
Appeals Allowed - 7
Appeals Dismissed - 25
% Appeals Allowed - 22%

Appeal Decisions Oct 2024-Dec 2025

Total Number of Appeal Decisions - 45
Appeals Allowed - 14
Appeals Dismissed - 31
% Appeals Allowed - 31%

Officer Comment – The average for the 24/25 year so far is 27% appeals allowed. In terms of benchmarking, the national average for the same period was 31%, with the London average being 32%. Appeal decisions are carefully monitored for any particular trends with appropriate advice to officers, as necessary.

Adverse Costs Decisions –

Details of Costs Awards –

There have been no adverse costs decisions during these periods.

Appeal Decisions where Committee Decision Contrary to Officer Recommendation

Total Number of Appeal Decisions - 1
Appeals Allowed - 1
Appeals Dismissed - 0
% Appeals Allowed - 100%

Appeal Decisions Jul-Dec 2024

Decision by Committee Contrary to Officer Recommendation

| Date of Committee | Application Details | Summary Reason for Refusal | Appeal Decision | Summary of Inspectors Findings |
|---|--|--|------------------------|--|
| Planning Committee 1 8 th April 2024 | P1413.23 - Land adjacent to 7 Ferndown, Hornchurch Erection of 1 x 2-bed bungalow with associated works | Cramped form of development resulting in overdevelopment and appearing as out of keeping with the spacious character of surrounding dwellings within the street. | Appeal Allowed | Dwelling would be set back and not visually prominent. Dwelling would be set in from boundaries and similar spacing to others in the cul-de-sac. No impact on existing spacious character and meets Emerson Park SPD guidance. |

4 SPEED OF PLANNING DECISIONS

- 4.1 In accordance with the published government standards, speed of decision applies to all major and non-major development applications, with the threshold for designation set as follows:

Speed of Major Development (and County Matters) – 60% of decisions within timescale (13 or 16 weeks or such longer time agreed with the applicant)

Speed of Non-Major Development - 70% of decisions within timescale (8 weeks or such longer time agreed with the applicant)

- 4.2 In December 2024 MHCLG announced that there would be two periods assessed for the purposes of designation:

- Decisions made between October 2023 and September 2024
- Decisions made between October 2024 and September 2025

- 4.3 Performance to date on these is as follows:

October 2023 to September 2024

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Major Development (24 out of 24) – | 100% in time |
| County Matter (2 out of 2) – | 100% in time |
| Non-Major Decisions – (2109 out of 2189) | 96.2% in time |

October 2024 to September 2025 (to date)

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Major Development (4 out of 4)– | 100% in time |
| County Matter (2 out of 2) – | 100% in time |
| Non-Major Decisions – (649 out of 670) | 96.9% in time |

- 4.4 The Council is currently not at risk of designation due to speed of decisions. The figure for future periods will continue to be monitored.

- 4.5 It is considered useful to provide some comparison on speed of decision on Major and Non-Major decisions with other London Boroughs. Comparison data on speed of decision for the year ending September 2024 is available and set out below. Performance in Havering is good compared to other boroughs for both measures.

| Borough | Major In Time | Rank - Majors | Minor and Others In Time | Rank - Minors and Others |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Barking and Dagenham | 100% | 1 | 100% | 1 |
| Barnet | 95.3% | 21 | 90.1% | 17 |
| Bexley | 100% | 1 | 93.9% | 9 |
| Brent | 100% | 1 | 84.4% | 28 |
| Bromley | 90% | 26 | 86.0% | 25 |
| Camden | 77.8% | 33 | 78.0% | 33 |
| City of London | 100% | 1 | 82.3% | 30 |
| Croydon | 97.3% | 18 | 87.0% | 22 |
| Ealing | 100% | 1 | 98.8% | 2 |
| Enfield | 79.2% | 32 | 83.4% | 29 |
| Greenwich | 100% | 1 | 92.7% | 12 |
| Hackney | 93.3% | 22 | 81.5% | 31 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 100% | 1 | 93.0% | 11 |
| Haringey | 100% | 1 | 91.8% | 13 |
| Harrow | 100% | 1 | 86.6% | 23 |
| Havering | 100% | 1 | 96.2% | 6 |
| Hillingdon | 96.8% | 20 | 89.3% | 18 |
| Hounslow | 81.3% | 31 | 85.4% | 27 |
| Islington | 100% | 1 | 96.6% | 5 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 92.3% | 24 | 96.8% | 4 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 92.9% | 23 | 88.3% | 20 |
| Lambeth | 97.2% | 19 | 94.5% | 7 |
| Lewisham | 100% | 1 | 91.7% | 14 |
| Merton | 100% | 1 | 91.0% | 15 |
| Newham | 100% | 1 | 85.7% | 26 |
| Redbridge | 88.9% | 27 | 93.5% | 10 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 100% | 1 | 87.6% | 21 |
| Southwark | 90.2% | 25 | 94.4% | 8 |
| Sutton | 100% | 1 | 98.7% | 3 |
| Tower Hamlets | 87.5% | 29 | 89.3% | 18 |
| Waltham Forest | 100% | 1 | 86.3% | 24 |
| Wandsworth | 88.9% | 28 | 90.7% | 16 |
| Westminster | 86.5% | 30 | 79.9% | 32 |

5 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

- 5.1 There are no designation criteria for planning enforcement. For the purposes of this report, it is considered useful to summarise the enforcement activity in the relevant quarter. This information is provided below:

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|--|
| Jul 2024 – Sep 2024 |
| Number of Enforcement Complaints Received: 111 |
| Number of Enforcement Complaints Closed: 123 |
| Number of Enforcement Notices Issued: 10 |

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|--|
| Oct 2024 – Dec 2024 |
| Number of Enforcement Complaints Received: 106 |
| Number of Enforcement Complaints Closed: 75 |
| Number of Enforcement Notices Issued: 8 |

- 5.2 It is intended to introduce a range of data for enforcement in future performance reporting.