

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

DATE: 27th March 2024

SUBJECT: Development Management Performance

CHIEF OFFICER: Daniel Ray

CONTACT OFFICER: Daniel Ray

WARD(s): All

APPENDICES: None.

1 Summary and recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the Local Planning Authorities performance in relation to national performance statistics, known as PS Returns, as well as Appeal performance. The report is brought to members to provide an understanding of the volume of work in the service and the performance of the Council in meeting the national targets.

Recommendation(s)

- 1.2 The Committee is to note the performance figures.

2 Report

Planning Applications

- 2.1 The Government require planning performance returns to measure the performance of Local Planning Authorities against national requirements. The performance reports are submitted to Government on a quarterly basis with the latest quarter for 23/24 starting 1st October and ending 31st December 2023. Planning Committee will receive quarterly updates, however the PS returns are also reported under the Councils KPI's to
- 2.2 In summary the Council's performance for the latest quarter can be reported as follows:
- Majors: 6 decisions made, 5 approvals, 1 refusal of which 5 were decided within the required times and one decision was made exceeding 13 weeks with no Extension of Time in place.
 - Minors: 32 decisions made, 27 approvals, 5 refusals of which 23 were made within required times and 9 were determined exceeding 8 weeks with no Extension of Time in place.

- Others (including householders): 130 decisions were made, 113 were approvals and 27 refused. 119 applications were determined in time and 23 exceeded the 8 week period with no Extension of time.

2.3 The Councils overall performance was 80% of its decisions being made within 8/13 weeks or as per the agreed timeframes.

2.4 For wider context, looking at a 12 month calendar period from the 27th February 2023 to 26th February 2024, the Council registered 1262 applications and determined 1282 applications. In terms of validation of planning applications, in 2023, 92% of applications initially received were checked for valid information within two working days with 66% being passed straight to an officer to begin determination. The majority of the remaining applications requiring further information to be made valid.

2.5 Finally, in relation to the Council performance against national targets the latest reporting figures the LPA determined 100% of its major applications within prescribed times against a national target of 65%. Similarly, minors and others were determined at a rate of 84.2% within prescribed times against a national target of 75%.

Appeals.

2.6 For appeals, figures are published on an annual basis, the latest figures released by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for the period 22/23 are as follows:

- Section 78 Appeals (all non-enforcement and Householder Appeals) 17 appeals made of which 24% went against the Council. This is against a national average of 29%.
- For Householders, 11 appeals were made of which 18% went against the Council. This is against a national average of 35%.
- For Enforcement appeals 10 were made, 10% went against the Council. This is against a national average of 27%.

2.7 The LPA's enforcement success rate for 22/23 was therefore excellent compared to the national average.

2.8 This is a vast improvement from 21/22 where 56% of s78 appeals went against the Council, 25% of Householders and 38% Enforcement found against the Council.

3 Implications of the recommendation

Financial implications

There are no financial implications for this report.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications for this report.

Risk management implications

Minimal – the Council is currently exceeding nationally required

Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications for this report.

Equality implications

There are no equality implications for this report.