

**GOV07 What percentage of planning applications recommended by planning officers for refusal were overturned and granted permission following an appeal?**

<b>Outturn</b>			<b>Target</b>
<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
<b>15.10%</b>	<b>18.18%</b>	<b>21.28%</b>	<b>19.00%</b>

**Responsible Officer**

**Colleen O'Boyle  
Director of Governance**

<b>Improvement Action</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Key Measures / Milestones</b>
At monthly Team Meeting of Development Control, assess why any appeal was allowed and whether judgement call by officers in refusing planning permission should next time be different.	November 2015	6 monthly report to members of Area Plans Cttees.  Reduce number of appeals allowed.
Planning officer's refusal report state a way forward, if there is one, so as to encourage a resubmission under a new planning application rather than appeal.	Ongoing, review quarterly	Reduction in the number submitted and proportion of those appeal submitted being allowed.

Finely balanced planning applications decisions to be recommended for approval rather than refusal, particularly those decisions taken at officer delegated level.

As and when required.

Reduction in the number submitted and proportion of those appeal submitted being allowed.

**Please detail any budget or resource implications of the improvement actions you have listed overleaf. Please quantify any additional resources which will be required to implement the improvements and detail how the additional resources will be allocated.**

The current level of staffing and resources should be sufficient. In respect of more complex planning appeal hearings or a public inquiries, there is a Professional Fees annual budget of £24,640, which, when required, pays for specialist advice to help the Council defend appeals. Such examples include, gypsy and traveller appeals, agricultural related cases and highway refusals where there is no highway objection from Essex County Council. Each year, there has been a need to use this consultancy resource, including, where necessary, helping Legal Services pay towards barrister fees.

**Please describe any contextual factors, internal or external, which may impact upon the ability to deliver the improvements listed.**

Full staff resource within the Development Control section is required to produce appeal statements on a strict time limit and attend hearing etc. All senior planning officers in Development Control have had hearing and public inquiry training.

Where external consultants are required to defend the Council's appeal, we use consultants who are familiar with Epping Forest District and despite the narrow time parameters set by the Planning Inspectorate, this has proved invaluable in helping to defend the appeal.

The reliance on internal staff, again in specialist areas across the Council and Essex County Council, is invaluable.