

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 19 February 2008
Subject: Planning and Economic Development Portfolio
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Anne Grigg **Item:** 6(i)

Recommending:

That the report of the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be noted.

The Planning Performance statistics given below are in a slightly different format to those given in previous reports as the Government targets are now out of date. Accordingly, the performance figures for 2007/08 up to Quarter 3 are compared to the same periods in 2006/07 and 2005/06, in addition to the top quartile targets.

As you will see, there has been a very significant improvement in performance in all three categories compared with 2005/06 and a significant improvement in Major applications and Minor applications compared with 2006/07. Minor Applications slightly exceeded the top quartile target with Major and Other applications finding the top quartile targets elusive by 1.42% and 2.4% respectively.

Major Applications - determined within 13 weeks

Actual	2005/06	2006/07	Top Quartile
73.33%	36%	65.3%	74.75%

Minor Applications - determined within 8 weeks

80.53%	60%	73.1%	80.39%
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Other Applications - determined within 8 weeks

89.21%	80%	90.8%	91.61%
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Gypsies and Travellers - East of England Plan Single Issue - Allocation of Pitches

The East of England Regional Assembly has recommended an allocation of 49 additional pitches to be provided by Epping Forest District by 2011. Whilst this figure is very disappointing, it is a reduction of three from the previous suggested allocation of 52. EERA also recommended that every Local Authority in the region should provide a minimum of 15 new pitches by 2011. These proposals will now be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and will be published in late February for three months of public consultation. The Government will determine the final number of pitches required in 2009 following an examination in public by planning inspectors in late 2008.

Forward Planning is working on potential sites for gypsies and travellers in line with the Government direction and these will be coming forward for consideration later in the year.

Loughton Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

We are still awaiting the formal signing off by Essex County Council of this scheme following final snagging of lamp columns. I am also pressing the County Council Portfolio Holder for a response regarding the land ownership issues in Centric Parade.

The Broadway Loughton Enhancement Scheme

The District Council's consultants have provided a risk assessment to National Grid Gas regarding the proposed scheme and a response is awaited. The scheme is still on schedule for commencement in May and completion by the end November 2008, subject to design issues and Cabinet approval.

Bus Stops in The Broadway, Loughton

The Housing Portfolio Holder's decision has been implemented to enable relevant buses to stop on the forecourt of garages in Burton Road on a temporary basis. Work continues on the arrangements for the short-term bus stopping, with designs under review between Environment and Street Scene and Housing Directorates and Essex County Council.

The Broadway Loughton Regeneration Scheme

Urban Practitioners, the District Council's appointed consultants for the Broadway Regeneration Scheme are holding a Stakeholder Meeting on 11 February 2008 at Epping Forest College and will be presenting an outline of their vision for the area. There will be the opportunity for stakeholders to feedback their views. The consultants will also be arranging a meeting to consult and engage with the local Community.