

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 22 April 2008

Subject: Planning and Economic Development

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs A Grigg

Item:

Recommending:

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

Development Control Performance

Performance for Current Quarter and Financial Year

Category	Provisional Performance for Q4 2007/08	Provisional Performance for 2007/08	Top Quartile Target	Performance in 2006/7
Major	92.3%	79.1%	74.75%	67.24%
Minor	72.0%	78.1%	80.39%	72.96%
Other	88.8%	89.1%	91.61%	88.03%

Performance for Development Control in 2007/08 shows that across all three application types there has been an improvement in performance over that achieved in 2006/07. Compared to the targets set by the Council (i.e. achievement of the top quartile), this has only been achieved for Major applications, with Minor and Other applications each missing their respective targets by around 2%.

Members will recall that steps have been agreed to further improve performance, but owing to the need to involve local councils in these changes (particularly the changes to the committee cycle), they have not had an impact on performance for 2007/08. As such it is anticipated that these changes will serve to improve performance in 2008/09.

Blunts Farm: update on planning enforcement action

Following discussion with the applicants, they have now withdrawn the planning application to complete a golf course at Blunts farm, Ref. EPF/2195/06).

This has the following consequences:

1. The applicants have forgone any opportunity to appeal against a refusal of

planning permission.

2. The 2 enforcement notices relating to the land continue to be effective and must be complied with.

The enforcement notices require:

1. Cessation of the importation of any fill material to the land (whether waste or not).
2. Cease carrying out excavations on the land.
3. Cease raising levels on the land.
4. Remodel and landscape the land in accordance with a plan and method statement attached to the notice.
5. Not to complete a golf course on the land other than in accordance with revised details approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The notices became effective on 18 October 2007 following the withdrawal of appeals against the notices.

Requirements 1 - 3 have been complied with.

Requirement 4 must be complied with by 18 October 2009. Officers are actively seeking compliance as soon as possible.

Requirement 5 is an option for the owners to complete a golf course on the land.

The owners are not required to complete a golf course. If they wish to complete a golf course revised details for its completion must be submitted by 18 October 2009.

The owners only have to submit such details if they actually want to complete a golf course on the land. If no details are submitted within that timescale they will forego this option.

Update on sites related to Blunts Farm

Delegated authority has been given to take enforcement action in respect of the Old Foresters site, in the same ownership as Blunts Farm. An enforcement notice requiring the topsoil bund to be spread across the land stripped of topsoil will be issued by about 18 April.

A further site in the ownership of Blunts Farm is that which was occupied by Trek Highways. Steps are being taken to comply with an enforcement notice requiring the cessation of the use of the land as a highway contractors depot and restoring the land to its former condition. This is taking place under threat of prosecution since the compliance period set by the notice has expired. The owners have given a written undertaking to comply with the requirements of the notice.