

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 22 February 2011
Subject: Operational Planning & Transport
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Syd Stavrou **Item:** 6(h)

Recommending:

The report of the Operational Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be noted

Parking Reviews

I am pleased to report that progress has been made on the Epping parking review. A total of 120 formal responses have been received and officers are comparing these against the previous consultations to make sure a full assessment can be made. I will, as a Portfolio Holder, receive the officer recommendations before they are sent to the County Portfolio Holder for a formal decision. I will share the officer recommendations with the ward members, as promised.

I will have to remind Members that the parking reviews are being undertaken on a phased basis and therefore it will, unfortunately be some time, before work on all of them is complete. In the meantime I will continue to follow progress on these schemes very closely and keep you informed.

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

Members will recall that I have spoken in the past of the County Council's decision to cease the current on street enforcement agency with the District as of the 1st of April 2011. At the last meeting I stated that one or two parking partnerships, across the County, could be established. I can now inform members that the County Council has agreed to form two partnerships, North and South.

I attended a meeting of the shadow board of the North Partnership which besides us consists of Harlow, Braintree, Uttlesford, Colchester and Tendring District Councils, with Colchester as the Lead Authority. It remains the intention for the partnerships to commence in April 2011, but this may well be difficult to achieve. I will be presenting a report to the next Cabinet with details of how this partnership process is developing.

Local Highways Panel

Members continue to give considerable time to the Panel to discuss and prioritise schemes, despite the lack of funding in the first year which was disappointing. At the last Panel meeting on 3 February I invited members to give ideas on improving the

effectiveness of the Panel and I also propose to speak with county colleagues to learn from other Panels elsewhere in Essex.

Development Control Performance at Quarter 3

NI157A – Determination of “Major” category planning applications within 13 week turnaround time:

Year-end Target	81%
Performance at Q3	85%

Comment

Major applications are defined as residential schemes of 10 units or more or where the site area is greater than 0.5 hectares; non-residential it is floor space greater than 1000 square metres on sites greater than 1 hectare. The likelihood though is that the performance figure may be lower in 2011-12 because some Major applications are awaiting the signing of Section 106 agreements before the planning permission can be issued. Still, 17 out of 20 have been dealt with in the statutory 13 week period, which is above the target requirement and still represents a very pleasing performance.

NI157B – Determination of “Minor” category planning applications within 8 week turnaround time:

Year-end Target	80%
Performance at Q3	82.46%

Comment

Minor applications include where the number of new houses to be built is between 1 and 9 or in other cases, floor space to be built is less than 1000 square metres or site area less than 1 hectare. The performance is holding up, just showing a small fall on the previous quarter, but still above previous years performance. So far, 235 out of 285 applications in this category have been decided in time. This years small change to delegated powers, where the number of resident objections received changed from 1 to 2 before they were reported to a planning committee, may be responsible to a better performance as well as officer focus on achieving what in the past has been a very challenging target.

NI157C – Determination of “Other” category planning applications within 8 week turnaround time:

Year-end Target	94%
Performance at Q3	92.24%

Comment

Other applications are the remainder, but are the highest in terms of number of applications received, mainly because they include householder applications. It is generally those cases that are triggered to go to committee that go over time, but

overall a large number, totalling 975 out of 1057 applications, have been decided in time.

LPI 45 – Appeals against planning application refusals which have been Allowed:

Year-end Target	28%
Performance at Q3	34.6%

Comment

I am afraid that Committee reversal of officer recommendations is impacting on this performance. Of the 52 appeals decided, 18 have been allowed, of which 11 were committee reversals. The year end target is unlikely to be achieved.

Summary

We are still on course to hit two of the KPI's, though in both cases it will be close.