

Report to the Council

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Anne Grigg

Date: 20th February 2007

Subject: Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Item: 6 (j)

Recommending:

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

Development Control Performance - October to December 2006

Development Control performance exceeded the BVPI targets in two categories of planning applications.

Major Applications

Performance during this quarter saw 50% of applications decided within the 13 week timescale compared with the target of 60%.

This category relates to relatively few applications - only 14 applications in the last quarter, and therefore is liable to fluctuation.

The applications that were over the target, included, inter alia, three that were subject to negotiations regarding a Section 106 Agreement; one that had an objection from the Lee Valley Park Authority that can only be overcome by reference to the Government Office for the East of England.

Performance for the financial year 2006/07 cumulative for the first three quarters - 64% compared with the target of 60%

Minor Applications

Performance during this quarter saw 69% of applications decided within the 8 week timescale compared with a target 65%.

Performance for the financial year 2006/07 cumulative for the first three quarters - 73% compared with a target of 65%

Other Applications

Performance during this quarter saw 91% of applications decided within the 8 week timescale compared with the target of 80%

Performance for the financial year 2006/07 cumulative for the first three quarters - 91% compared with a target of 80%

Appeal Information

I was concerned that notification of Appeals could be missed. Following my request, information on Appeals now also appears at the end of the Weekly List of Planning Applications (Green Sheets) in addition to the Council Bulletin. This will assist in raising Members awareness of Appeals that have been registered.

Loughton Town Centre Enhancement - Trees

Progress with this has been delayed as Essex County Council Highways declined to accept/register the area of land in question as they considered there was insufficient evidence in respect of ownership to do so. We are still undertaking investigations regarding the area of land at Centric Parade to establish whether trees may be planted there. Ownership up to the frontage of the shops has now been established, and, subject to legal advice, it is hoped that trees may be planted in this area of land. In addition, a radar check on services will be undertaken to ensure there is adequate space for planting.