

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Quarterly Statistics

In the third quarter of 2005, the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire decreased by 12% over the corresponding period in 2004. In England there was a 8% decrease.

The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 77% compared with 80% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 91% compared with the national figure of 89%.

The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 89%. On average authorities in England delegated 87% of decisions to officers. The Government has set a target of 90%.

On the “excluding major and minor applications” where the Government target is 80% in eight weeks, the Council achieved 86% whilst on the “minor” category where we are urged to decide 65% in eight weeks the Council achieved 66%. The more difficult target is the Government’s 60% in thirteen weeks for major applications. Here the Council achieved 61% which is the first quarter that the Council has achieved this target, a sign of the priority which has been given to these applications since April 2005.

The graphs, which accompany this report, illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 30th September 2005 and the quarter July to September 2005.

Major Applications

On 5th November 2004 the Government issued its proposed planning best value performance standards for 2005/06. South Cambridgeshire was one of 77 authorities specified as expected to determine 57% of major applications within thirteen weeks in 2005/06. The authorities were identified on the basis of their performance in the year ending June 2004 falling below 40%. The Authority was not named in the “minor” or “other” categories.

In the year ending June 2004, South Cambridgeshire determined 32% of major applications within 13 weeks. This increased to 39% in the year ending March 2005. Since the beginning of 2005/06 56% have been determined in less than 13 weeks.

This improvement has been achieved by continual and careful monitoring of progress of each application, greater priority being afforded to them and use of conditions, if necessary, to ensure that Section 106 obligations are secured before any development commences.

There remains an outstanding backlog of some 21 undetermined major applications, which already exceed the 13 week determination period, together with the six Northstowe applications. Although some will be withdrawn, the majority will be determined albeit outside the 13 week period. So although every effort is being made to determine new major applications within 13 weeks, the overall percentage will continue to be depressed until this backlog has been substantially reduced.

Retrospective Applications

In response to a recommendation from Scrutiny Committee (17th April 2003), the number of retrospective applications are to be recorded.

Thus in the third quarter of 2005, the number of retrospective applications submitted was 19. This represented 3.3% of all applications submitted during that quarter. Of the 16 retrospective applications which have been determined, (One is still in progress and two are county matters) 87.5% have been approved and 12.5% refused. During the quarter 82% of all applications were approved.

Enforcement Statistics (Quarter ending September 2005).

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Enforcement Notices	1	(8)
Stop Notices	0	(2)
Planning Contravention Notices	16	(5)
Breach of Condition Notices	0	(0)
Amenity Notices	0	(0)
Number of Complaints	110	(104)
Prosecutions	3	(0)
Injunctions	1	(0)

Trees and Landscaping Statistics (Quarter ending September 2005)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Applications for work on Statutorily Protected Trees

(Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas)

Number of applications – Received	142	(136)
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Landscaping

Number of landscaping conditions received from DC	107	(87)
Number of weekly actions	753	(730)
Number of schemes submitted	165	(169)
Number of schemes finalised and approved	61	(35)
Number of landscaping conditions currently active (excluding Cambourne work)	885	(947)
Number of breach of condition notices requested	13	(11)

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1986

Background papers in respect of this report for the purposes of the above Act are available for inspections in accordance with the provision of that Act:

- a) Any planning application, including plans and any accompanying letter or document from the applicant.
- b) Any letter or representation received in connection with a matter reported.
- c) Any Structure Plan, Local Plan or Policy Document referred to in a report.
- d) Any agenda, report or minutes of a meeting of the Council referred to in a report.
- e) Any other publication, document or report referred to in the report.

Files on individual items on the agenda are available as required from the following individuals:

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