

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Quarterly Statistics

In the fourth quarter of 2005, the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire decreased by 1.7% over the corresponding period in 2004. In England there was a 7% decrease.

The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 78% compared with 81% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 88.6% compared with the national figure of 90%.

The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 88%. On average authorities in England delegated 89% 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 83% whilst on the "minor" category where we are urged to decide 65% in eight weeks the Council achieved 72%. The more difficult target is the Government's 60% in thirteen weeks for major applications. Here the Council achieved 53%.

The graphs, which accompany this report, illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 31st December 2005 and the quarter October to December 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 thirteen weeks. This increased to 39% in the year ending March 2005. In the year ending March 2006, 62% have been determined in less than thirteen weeks. This achieves the Best Value Performance Indicator.

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.

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 fourth quarter of 2005, the number of retrospective applications submitted was 31. This represented 5.3% of all applications submitted during that quarter. Of the 24 retrospective applications which have been determined, (Three are still in progress and four have been withdrawn) 66.7% have been approved and 33.3% refused. During the quarter 80% of all applications were approved.

Enforcement statistics (Quarter ending December 2005)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

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

Trees and Landscaping Statistics (Quarter ending December 2005)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Applications for work on Statutorily Protected Trees

(Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas)	
Number of applicants – Received	(142)

Landscaping

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

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 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:

Mrs Melissa Reynolds	(01954) 713237	Mr Andrew Moffat	(01954) 713169
Mr Nigel Blazeby	(01954) 713165	Mr David Rush	(01954) 713153
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David B Hussell, Development Services Director