

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**REPORT TO:** Development and Conservation Control Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2006

**AUTHOR/S:** Development Control Quality Manager

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### **PERFORMANCE CRITERIA - FOR INFORMATION**

#### **Quarterly Statistics**

1. In the first quarter of 2006, the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire increased by 11% over the corresponding period in 2005. In England there was a 2% decrease.
2. The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 77% compared with 81% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 88.8% compared with the national figure of 90%.
3. The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 87%. On average authorities in England delegated 86% of decisions to officers. The Government has set a target of 90%.
4. On the "excluding major and minor applications" where the Government target is 80% in eight weeks, the Council achieved 85% 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 61%.
5. The graphs, which are available in electronic form and included in the bulletin, illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 and the quarter January to March 2006.

#### **Major Applications**

6. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2004 the Government issued its proposed planning best value performance standards for 2005/2006. South Cambridgeshire was one of 77 authorities specified as expected to determine 57% of major applications within thirteen weeks in 2005/2006. 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.
7. 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, 61% have been determined in less than thirteen weeks. This achieves the Best Value Performance Indicator.
8. 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

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

Thus in the first quarter of 2006, the number of retrospective applications submitted was 19. This represented 2.8% of all applications submitted during that quarter. Of the 16 retrospective applications which have been determined, (three are still in progress) 75% have been approved and 25% refused. During the quarter 80% of all applications were approved.

## Enforcement Statistics (Quarter ending March 2006)

10. Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Enforcement Notices	4	(7)
Stop Notices	0	(1)
Planning Contravention Notices	8	(1)
Breach of Condition Notices	0	(0)
Amenity Notices	0	(1)
Number of Complaints	104	(81)
Prosecutions	1	(0)
Injunctions	0	(1)

## Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1986

11. 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.

12. 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
Mr Paul Sexton	(01954) 713255	Mr Bob Morgan	(01954) 713395
Mrs Jane Green	(01954) 713164		

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**FOR INFORMATION**