

1 November 2006

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Quarterly Statistics

In the second quarter of 2006, the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire decreased by 7.5% over the corresponding period in 2005. In England there was a 1% decrease.

The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 79% compared with 83% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 89% compared with the national figure of 91%.

The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 90%. On average authorities in England delegated 90% 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 85% whilst on the "minor" category where we are urged to decide 65% in eight weeks the Council achieved 72%. For Major applications, where the target is 60% in thirteen weeks, the Council achieved 88%.

The graphs illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 30th June 2006 and the quarter April to June 2006. These have been produced in electronic form.

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. For 2006/07 the Authority was one of 70 expected to reach 60% determination rate within 13 weeks.

In the year ending June 2004, South Cambridgeshire determined 32% of major applications within thirteen weeks. This increased to 40% in the year ending June 2005. In the year ending June 2006, 72% 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, particularly by the appointment of a Major Developments Champion, 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 second quarter of 2006, the number of retrospective applications submitted was 12. This represented 1.8% of all applications submitted during that

quarter. Of the 9 retrospective applications which have been determined, (three are still in progress) 88.9% have been approved and 11.1% refused. During the quarter 79% of all applications were approved.

Enforcement statistics (Quarter ending June 2006)

Enforcement Notices	10
Stop Notices	0
Planning Contravention Notices	5
Breach of Condition Notices	2
Amenity Notices	0
Number of Complaints	119
Prosecutions	1
Injunctions	1