

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

6 April 2017

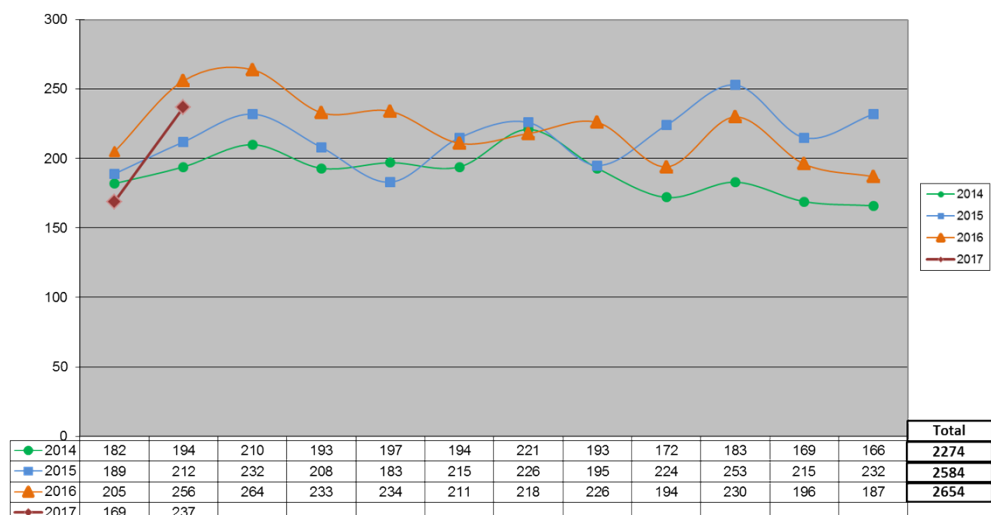
### COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period 10 February to 24 March 2017

#### 1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

##### Planning Applications

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



February planning applications continued at a high level exceeding last year's monthly average.

Officers have been working as part of a Norfolk wide group with the National Planning Advisory Service (PAS) seeking to improve the processes in the Development Management service. The working group have been looking at bench marking across the Norfolk planning authorities, reviewing best practices and providing some consistency in the application processing. For example how we validate applications and how we word planning conditions.

##### Government White Paper

As mentioned in my previous report to Council, the Governments white paper entitled "Fixing the Broken Housing Market" sets out the Governments strategy for significantly increasing the delivery of housing within Britain. The white paper contains a number of significant challenges and I am in the process of

arranging a members briefing to go through both the white paper and the latest thinking on Neighbourhood Plans included in the white paper.

### **Local Plan**

The Local Plan Task Group continues to develop the Plan Review to 2036. It has recently reviewed the process of creating the Housing Numbers required and the current housing numbers for The Borough based on the latest data from various Government Offices.

The Task Group is now about to look at the recent Government White Paper and the impact it has the Local Plans.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Community Infrastructure Levy successfully commenced on 15 February. Although there have been minor implementation issues, the process is now established and working well.

The Parish Clerks have been advised of a series of new web pages helping Parish Councils understand various aspects of the scheme including, CIL payments, spending and reporting.

### **Neighbourhood Plans**

There continues to be a heavy interest in developing Neighbourhood Plans. Examination of the Walpole Cross Keys and the West Winch / North Runcton neighbourhood plans will be soon taking place.

### **A47 Alliance**

At its meeting on 3rd March 2017, the A47 Alliance agreed its priorities for A47 improvements from 2020 to 2025. The A47 Alliance will continue lobbying to government with the aim of securing government funding for these priorities.

The priorities include Tilney to East Winch Dualling, Norfolk, Guyhirn to Wisbech Dualling, Cambridgeshire, Junction improvements at: A1101 Elm High Roundabout and B198 East and West, Cambridgeshire.

If Government commits to funding these schemes, construction could commence between 2020 and 2025.

### **Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Council  
Cabinet  
Cabinet Sifting  
Cabinet Briefings

Local Plan Task Group  
Various meetings with Officers  
Meetings with Leader  
Planning Committee  
Regeneration and Development Panel  
Environment and Community Panel  
Self Build and Custom Build Task Group  
A47 Alliance  
Wisbech Access Strategic Steering Group