

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

8th April 2021

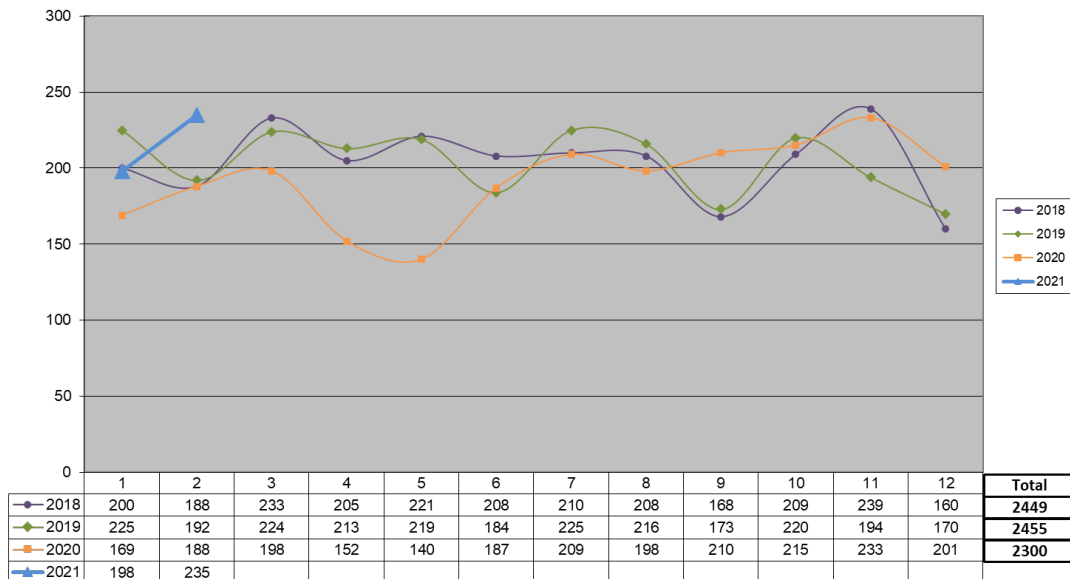
COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period from 15th February 2021 to 26th March 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Although the total number of applications processed in 2020 was lower than the previous year, the total number of applications for the last quarter of 2020 was higher than in the previous two years. 2021 has continued in a similar vein with applications received in the first two months already up 76 on last year. There has been a significant increase in householder applications over recent months

Application numbers remain high, and there are a number of major applications under consideration. Combined with staff sickness and a staff vacancy this has had an impact on the service, and we are currently asking for a 4 week extension to minor and major applications upon validation.

Rest assured that we are taking steps to deal with this issue, and we have now employed the services of two temporary planning officers to assist with the determination of planning applications, and a Senior Planner is due to start back at the Authority on 10 May. In addition, we are recruiting a temporary member of staff in Planning Administration to help speed up the validation process.

Major and Minor dwelling applications received comparison

	1/3/18 – 28/2/19	1/3/19 – 28/2/20	1/3/20 – 28/2/21
No. of Major dwelling applications rec'd	29	27	24
No. of Minor dwelling applications rec'd	414	427	326
No. of Householder applications rec'd	704	647	782

*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units

Major dwelling applications = over 10 units

2020 performance for determining planning applications

	National target	Performance
Major	60%	100%
Non – Major	70%	97%

Appeal Performance – decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate 1/3/20 – 28/2/21

	Dismissed	Allowed
Planning appeals	35	14
	71%	29%
Enforcement appeals	6	0
	100%	0%

The national average for planning appeals allowed is around 34%.

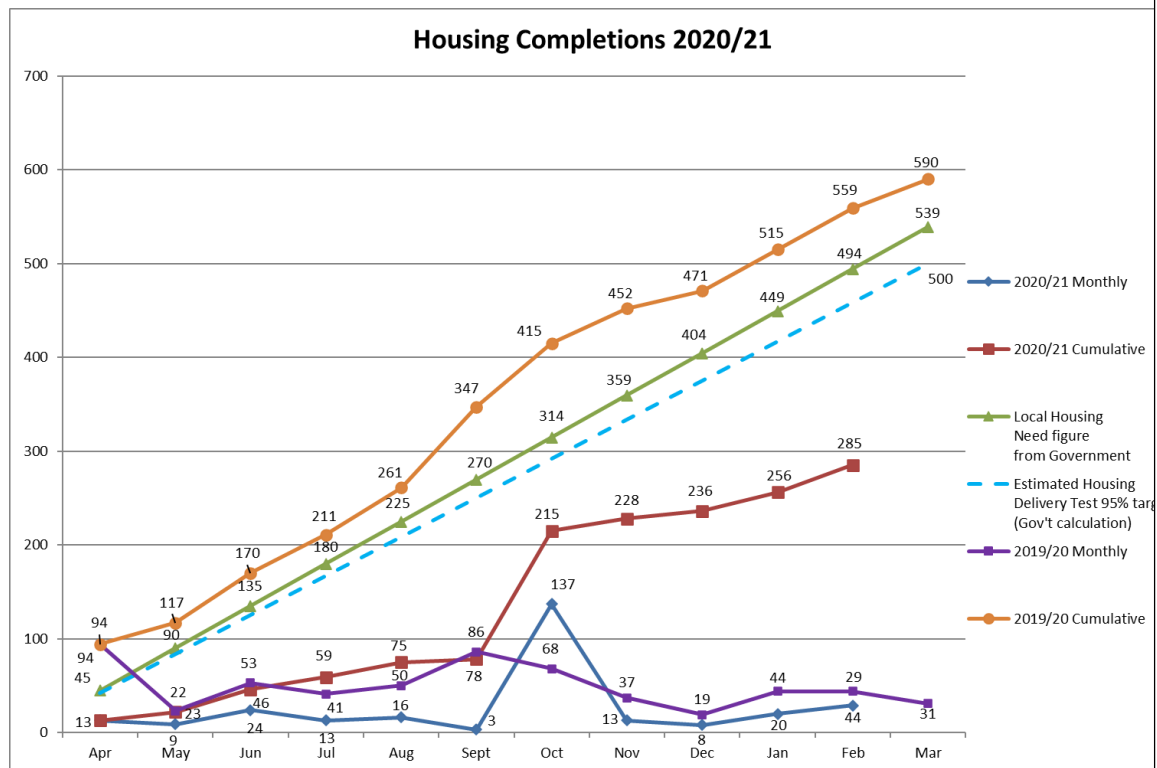
Revenue income

Income for 2020/21 – based on revised budget of £1,423,000 (original budget £1,163,650)

Projected	Actual	Variance with projected
Apr 20 – Feb 21	Apr 20 – Feb 21	
£1,304,417	£1,375,826	+ £71,409

Housing Completions

Completions are still considerably lower in comparison to the same time last year. 285 completions between April 20 and Feb 21 compared to 559 for the same period in 2019/20.



Local Plan Review

- Officers are working to conclude the Local Plan Viability Assessment and the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Review. These are significant documents required for the Examination.
- A further meeting of the Local Plan Task Group is planned for 14 April.
- A Cabinet date of 15 June is targeted, with a series of Briefings in the lead up to that date.

New Homes Bonus – Government consultation

- Government is considering changes to the current system of payments. Officers are preparing a technical response to it. The Local Plan Task Group will receive details.

Neighbourhood Plans

- Significant stages have been reached for Heacham, Hunstanton and Terrington St. John where plans will be published for formal consultation in early April.
- The Castle Acre and Tilney All Saints plans are at Examination.

Meetings Attended (via Teams Zoom and Youtube)

Portfolio Meetings,
 Planning Committee
 Planning Committee Sifting
 Cabinet
 Various Meetings with Officers

Cabinet Sifting
 Cabinet Briefings