

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 February 2017

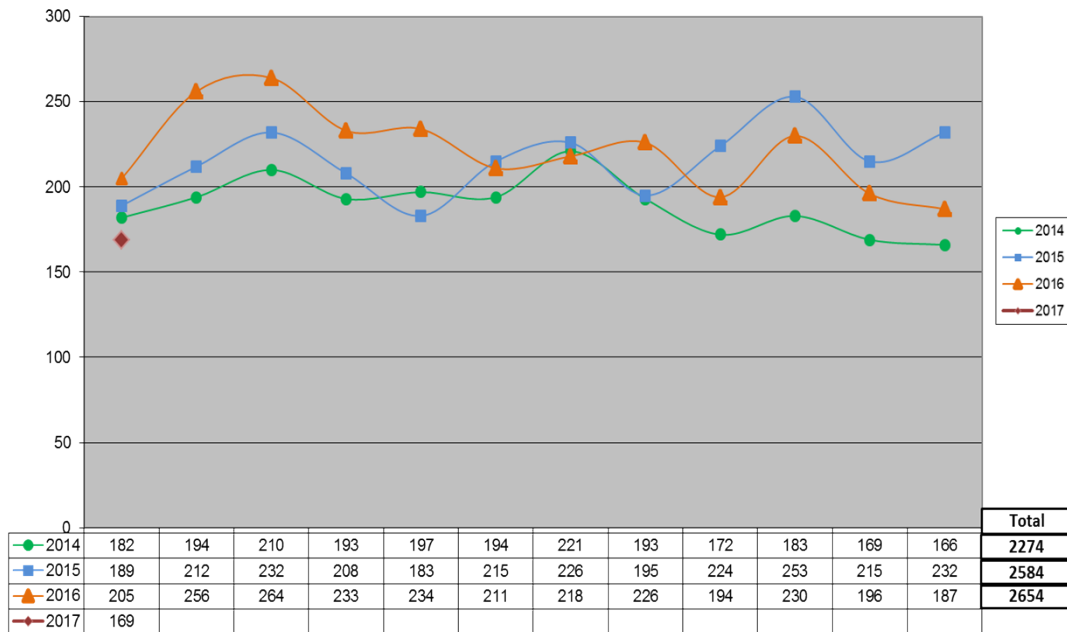
COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period 19 January 2017 to 10 February 2017

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning Applications

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Traditionally January is a low month for applications and application numbers were down 17% this month compared to January 2016, but overall numbers received by the Council in this financial year to date are closely tracking the previous financial year.

Government White Paper

On the 7th February the Government published a much awaited White Paper entitled “Fixing the Broken Housing Market” The white paper contains a large number of changes intended to boost the supply and range of housing available.

To quote from Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, who wrote the forward to the paper

“It covers the whole building process, from finding sites to securing local support and permission as well as getting homes built quickly and sold on fair terms. But also goes further, seeking to build consensus for a new , positive, mind set to house building. A can-do approach that simply does not tolerate failure.”

The Council will have until the 2nd May to respond to these proposed changes, although because of the significance of these changes I shall be arranging for a full briefing to be made available to all members of the Council in the near future.

Local Plan

The Local Plan Task Group continues to develop the Plan Review to 2036.

The Task Group has been considering Local Health capacity with the Commissioning Group, the Settlement Hierarchy and the process for analysing housing site coming out of the “Call for Sites”.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy starts on 15 February. The introduction of CIL is covered in detail on the Borough Council's web site.

A briefing on the introduction of CIL has been given to the Planning Committee. We will also be offering a similar briefing to Parish Clerks and Parish Councils in the near future.

Neighbourhood Plans

There continues to be a surge of interest in developing Neighbourhood Plans . Officers have recently been talking to to Snettisham; Brancaster; West Lynn; Hunstanton; Holme; and Castle Acre. Gayton and East Winch are in the

pipeline. There is an ever increasing emphasis on the role of these plans.

Custom and Self Build

The Task Group is looking at both policy approaches to the subject and practical steps that the Borough Council as a land owner might take.

This is another subject that has (in the eyes of Government) the potential to become a significant source of housing supply

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Council
Cabinet
Cabinet Sifting
Local Plan Task Group
Various meetings with Officers
Meetings with Leader
Planning Committee
Regeneration and Development Panel
Self Build and Custom Build Task Group