CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

9th July 2020

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period to 26 June 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

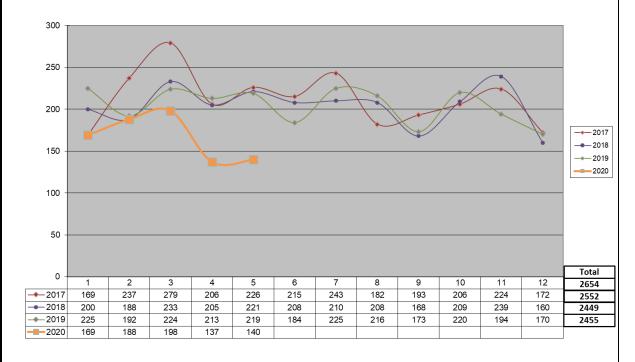
Planning Department

Planning officers continue to work remotely but are now carrying out site visits, observing social distancing rules. They are having meetings via Teams and Zoom. Planning admin are working from the Town Hall currently, which also acts as a base for officers undertaking site visits and picking up files or other items they may need.

Planning applications received

The year started with a similar trend to the previous year, but we have seen a decline since the outbreak of Covid-19. However, figures at 25th June indicate planning applications received are starting to recover, 140 planning applications todate with a projected month end of 165.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Revenue income

Income at the end of financial year 2019/20

	Final income	Projected	Variance
Total	£1,131,741	£1,162,650	-£30,909

Income for 2020/21

	April 2020	May 2020	Estimated income at	Total	Projected Apr - Jun	Variance April – 25 th
			25 th June			June
Total	£112,816	£128,849	£103,472	£345,137	£290,913	+£54,224

Despite the decline in applications the income has held up well.

Housing Completions

22 completions in April / May 2020 compared to 117 in April / May 2019. Completions have increased for June, 24 completions at 25th June although this is still lower than the June 2019 figure of 53. Covid-19 has and continues to have a major impact on housing completions. As more restrictions are lifted and the larger housing developers return to construction sites hopefully completions will start to increase. The Government has yet to announce if the Housing Delivery Test figures will be altered to reflect the impacts of Covid-19.



Appeal Performance – decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate 1/1/20 – 31/5/20

	Diamiasad	Allowed	
	Dismissed	Allowed	
Planning appeals	13	2	
	87%	13%	
Enforcement appeals	2	0	
	100%	0%	

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

Local Plan Review

Work is progressing well on a revised plan document to present to the Task Group for consideration. Meetings (virtual) started again on 1 July and discussed the project plan (our Local Development Scheme). Allocating land for development is clearly important to CoVid19 recovery.

Housing numbers

The Task Group will be asked to consider an update in the light of latest Government advice. 19/20 was a good year for completions (591 against a 550 target), but it remains to be seen what 20/21 will bring. The Borough is still required to prepare an Action Plan in relation to Government Housing Delivery Test. Whilst our results improve, we are still in the less than 95% test result category.

Neighbourhood Plans

Several changes have been introduced to neighbourhood planning in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic including

Where the local planning authority has issued a decision statement (as set out under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) detailing its intention to send a neighbourhood plan to referendum, that plan can be given significant weight in decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application.

All neighbourhood planning referendums that have been recently cancelled, or are scheduled to take place, between 16 March 2020 and 5 May 2021 are postponed

The Planning Policy Team continue to assist a large number of parishes and towns with their plans. Recent activity includes:

- 1. A 'health check' for the draft Hunstanton plan
- 2. Examiners report received for Upwell
- 3. Approaching final drafts for Castle Acre and Thornham
- 4. Holme still awaits the holding of a Referendum
- 5. Draft plans prepared at Old Hunstanton and Terrington St John
- 6. Final stages of a review at Brancaster
- 7. Continuing dialogue with Grimston / Roydon and Congham and Gayton

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

In line with Government advice we have extended payment periods for schemes due to pay CIL in the period since March for 3 months. As the number of permissions liable for CIL grows we are fielding an increasing number of enquiries and questions from developers.

The CIL Governance and Spending scheme has been considered by the CIL Task Group which has recommended a process and priorities to the R+D Panel for ultimate consideration / approval by Cabinet. This represents some 9 months work by the Task Group to present very detailed proposals.

Meetings Attended (via Teams Zoom and Youtube)

Portfolio Meetings,
Planning Committee
Planning Committee Sifting
Cabinet
Cabinet Briefings and Updates
Cabinet Sifting
Various Meetings with Officers
Regeneration and Development Panel

