

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

1st December 2022

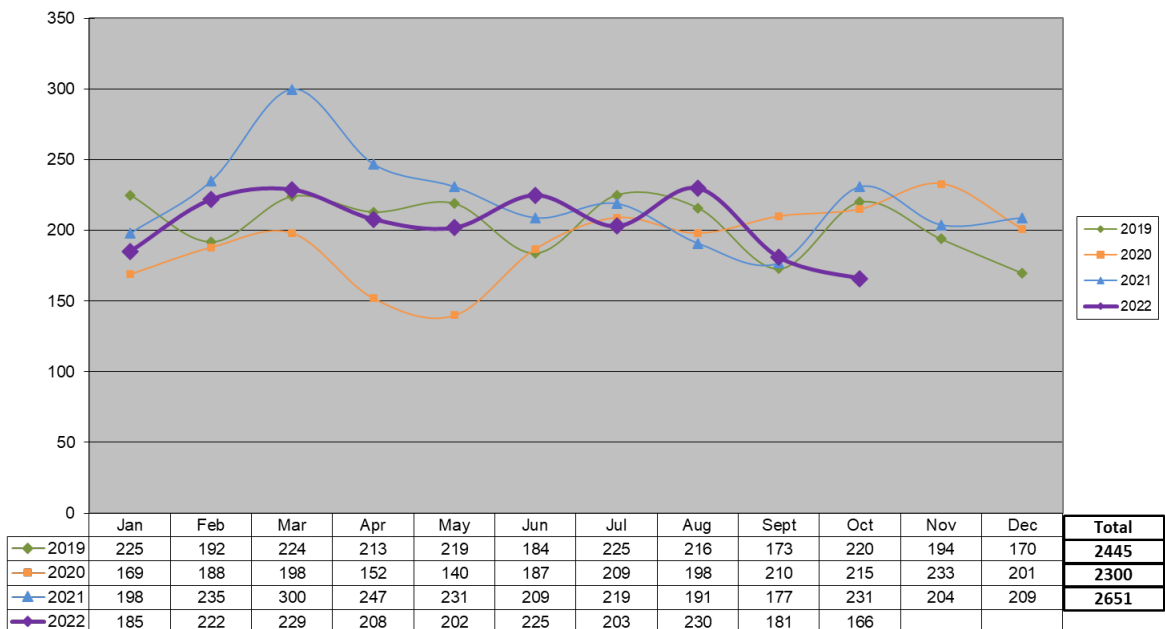
COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

For the period from 2nd October 2022 – 19th November 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning and Discharge of Conditions applications received

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Applications received for each month up to the end of August of this year have been relatively consistent. However, we have seen a reduction in both September and October, and this may be indicative of a slowdown in the economy. Despite this, officers are still dealing with high caseloads, with a large number of applications still in the system awaiting determination. I am pleased to report that the backlog with validating applications has improved, applications are now being validated within 5 days.

Progress with recruitment

We have been unsuccessful in appointing to the Technical Support Team Leader post. We will review again in the coming months but if we continue to see a downturn in application numbers then this post may not be required.

The new Enforcement Officer commenced work on the 17th November, and interviews are scheduled for the Enforcement Support Officer post.

A new Conservation Officer has been appointed and they will commence work on the 30th January 2023.

The ecologist and replacement arboricultural officer posts are out to advert, as are the planner posts that we have been unable to recruit to previously.

An additional contractor recruited for 12 weeks from 16th Nov 2022 until 8th February 2023.

Major and Minor dwelling applications received comparison

Major, Minor and Householder applications all dropped compared to the same period last year. However, householder applications are still higher than the same period in 2019/20.

| | 1/11/19 – 31/10/20 | 1/11/20 – 31/10/21 | 1/11/21 – 31/10/22 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| No. of Major dwelling applications rec'd | 19 | 29 | 17 |
| No. of Minor dwelling applications rec'd | 327 | 338 | 299 |
| No. of Householder applications rec'd | 700 | 910 | 780 |

*Minor dwelling applications = up to 10 units

Major dwelling applications = over 10 units

2021/22 performance for determining planning applications 1/11/21 – 31/10/22

| | National target | Performance |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Major | 60% | 89.7% |
| Non – Major | 70% | 89.2% |

Appeal Performance – decisions made by The Planning Inspectorate 1/11/21 – 31/10/22

| | Dismissed | Allowed |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Planning appeals | 24 | 8 |
| | 75% | 25% |
| Enforcement appeals | 6 | 1 |
| | 86% | 14% |

The higher the number of appeals allowed, the more The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is going against the council's decisions, so a low figure of appeals allowed (upheld) is clearly preferable. For context the national average for planning appeals allowed annually has historically been around 34% post NPPF.

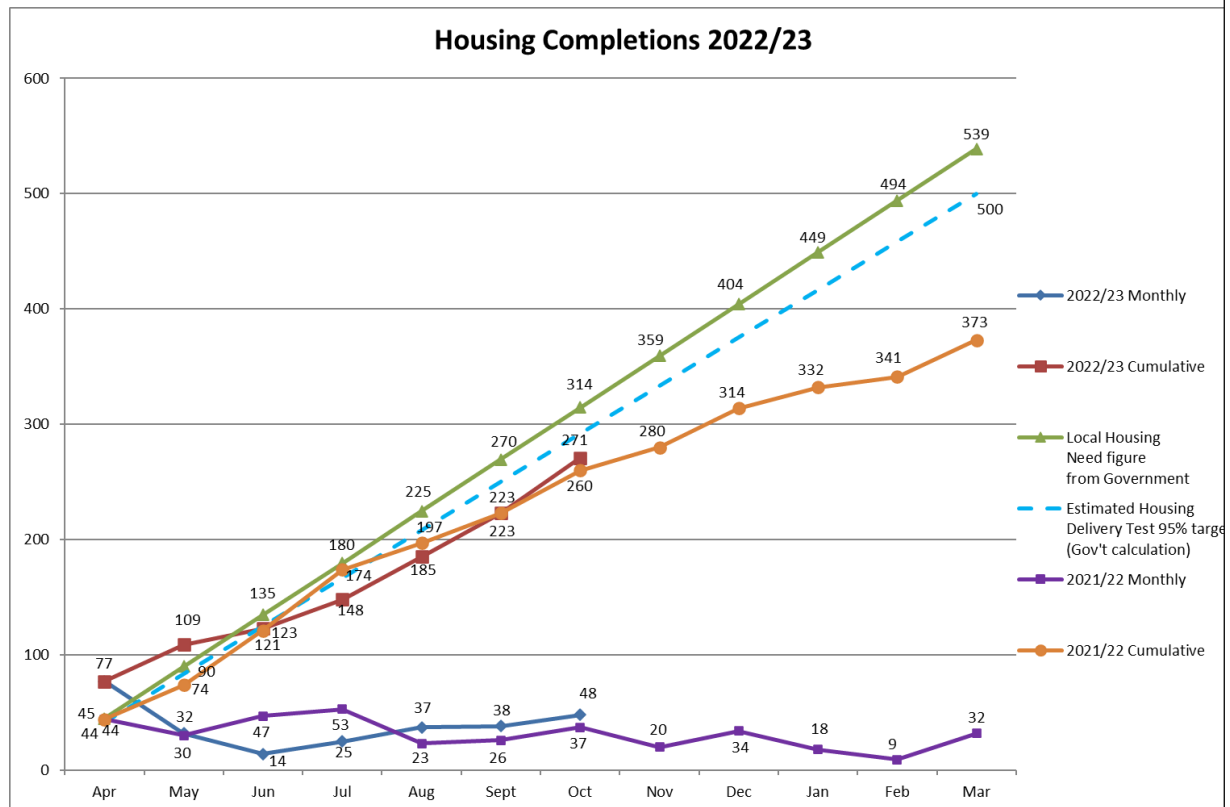
Revenue income 2021/22

Income continues to exceed projected for the financial year 2022/23.

| Projected | Actual | Variance with projected |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| April 22 – Oct 22 | April 22 – Oct 22 | |
| £682,500 | £1,049,452 | +£366,952 |

Housing Completions

Housing completions are slightly higher than the previous year but still below projected Local Housing Need Figure, 48 completions in October 2022.



Parish Council Update Sessions

Officers held two update sessions on the evenings of 12th and 18th October. Both sessions were well attended and positive feedback has been received. We will continue with these update sessions on an annual basis.

Local Plan

The policy team is working hard on the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQ's), which have been raised by the Local Plan Inspectors. The Examination Hearings are due to start on the 6th December, with the first session being the 6-8 December, the second session 10-12 January '23, and the third session 25-26 January '23. All will be held at the South Lynn

community centre, with the sessions starting at 10.00. Full details of the Examination process and details are available to view in the planning pages of the council's website.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The next round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applications will open on 1 January and community groups will have until 1 February to apply.

CIL funding is drawn from a levy on development in the borough and can be used for a variety of projects that improve community assets.

For community projects, sums of £2,000-£30,000 may be applied for. They should be in one of the following areas:

- education – local initiatives
- health
- economic development
- community facilities
- green infrastructure
- open space and leisure
- community transport

Larger, infrastructure projects can also be funded for more than in the areas of 18+ adult education, green infrastructure and leisure time activities.

South East King's Lynn Growth Area Framework Masterplan consultation

Following the close of the West Winch Masterplan Consultation, stakeholder comments have been assessed and the document is being amended and will be reviewed at the Local Plan Task Group Meeting of 29th November 2022.

The public consultation on the West Winch Housing Access Road runs from 14th November 2022 until 8th January 2023. Various exhibition events are being undertaken as follows:

- West Winch Primary School, PE33 0LA - Wednesday 23 November, 4pm to 9pm
- The Village Meeting Place, North Runcton, PE33 0RB - Saturday 10th December, 10am-4pm
- West Winch Primary School, PE33 0LA - Wednesday 4 January, 4pm to 9pm

Further information can be found on the WWHAR public consultation pages below;

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/kings-lynn/west-winch-housing-access-road>

<https://www.pinpointcloud.co.uk/WestWinchA10/>

Medworth

The council submitted its Relevant Representations to the Planning Inspectorate, following

consideration of these at the Planning Committee meeting on the 7th November.

Regeneration

Southgates Masterplan update

The Southgates Masterplan Development Public Consultation took place from 3rd October – 31st October 2022. The public consultation began on the 3rd October with a virtual presentation and Q&A session, this presentation was available online throughout the public consultation. Three drop in consultation events took place in Events Trailor on the Tuesday Market Place along with a permanent exhibition held at Stories of Lynn. The information boards and Draft Masterplan Development document were available to view and download along with the survey from the BCKLWN website and Vision King's Lynn website.

Approximately 100 people attended the drop in events, 275 people viewed the virtual presentation and 128 respondents completed a questionnaire. The quality of the survey responses is very good, people often spent up to half an hour speaking to officers and consultants at the drop in event as a result the survey responses were very detailed and considered.

An overwhelming majority of respondents, 81%, agreed with the level of ambition proposed by the Masterplan, with 77% of respondents agreeing with the proposed vision to re-route the road from under the South Gate. Almost every respondent considered the South Gate to be a valuable heritage asset to King's Lynn with 87% agreeing that they would like to see poor quality buildings replaced with high quality ones that would enhance local character of the area. Traffic, parking, and increasing green spaces were all highlighted as important to the respondents. Changes are being made to the Masterplan to reflect the consultation responses- for example ensuring that existing access to residential areas are retained and improved.

Meetings Attended (including Teams Zoom and YouTube)

Portfolio Meetings, Development and Regeneration

Planning Committee

Planning Committee Sifting

Regeneration and Development Panel

Corporate Performance Panel

CIL Spending Panel

Cabinet

Cabinet Siting

Cabinet Briefings

Full Council

Various Meetings with Officers

Town Fund Project Board

Norfolk Strategic Planning Forum

South Gates Project meeting

West Winch Project Consultation

King's Lynn Town Deal Status Update – 17 November 2022

| BUSINESS CASE | BUSINESS CASE APPROVAL STATUS | PROGRESS UPDATE |
|---|---|---|
| PROJECT 1 Youth & Retraining Pledge | Approved – in delivery phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning of activities has begun with providers on framework Initial recruitment of young people has commenced Continuing networking with organisations that work with young people that are NEET |
| PROJECT 2 Public Realm | Approved – in delivery phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art work brief developed and preparing for project call to artists & commissioning. Rail Station Street Furniture installation complete Revised design & build procurement approach underway for Pop up kiosks – planning application pending Purfleet Arch design progressing with suppliers to check cost & buildability. |
| PROJECT 3 Multi User Community Hub | Approved – first annual payment pending | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Case Summary Document approved. Site acquisition near completion Heads of Terms to be agreed for funding agreement with BCKLWN Procurement of D&B contractor underway Next phase of consultation to commence |
| PROJECT 4 Riverfront Regeneration | Approved – first annual payment pending | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions and due diligence continue with interested parties for Sommerfeld & Thomas site Business Case Summary Document approved Procurement of external PM underway. |
| PROJECT 5 Active & Clean Connectivity | Approved – first annual payment pending | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Travel Hub; Invu commissioned to prepare RIBA stage 3 for Baker Lane site. Motability ways appointed Travel Plan engagement June/July/August 2022. Capacity for 2 further businesses to be recruited. Business Case Summary Document approved. Heads of Terms to be agreed for funding agreement with BCKLWN for LCWIP schemes Progressing scope of behaviour change programme |
| PROJECT 6 St George's Guildhall and Creative Hub | Approved – in delivery phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLHF stage 1 application feedback Communications Plan updated for next phase DLUCH approval of Summary Document & first annual payment received. Progression of Meanwhile uses of centre. CIO submission to Charity Commission. Founding directors appointed. Procurement of lead design team for RIBA stage 2 & 3 to commence |