

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE – 16 JUNE 2020

MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT

REPORT OF THE LEAD PLANNING MANAGER

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

1.1 A monthly update report to ensure that the Committee is kept informed on key matters including:

- Proposed training
- Any changes that impact on National Policy
- Any recent Planning Appeal Decisions
- Relevant Planning Enforcement cases on a quarterly basis
- The latest data produced by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee note the update report.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No – for information report for Planning Committee	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	28 January 2020	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
LEGAL ISSUES	No	Any legal issues are covered in the report.

OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	No other significant impacts, risks or opportunities have been identified.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	District-wide application.

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 Future Training** – Changes to Planning Committee were approved at the 26 March 2019 meeting of the Council to reduce committee size from 49 potential members to 21 members. As part of these changes an update report will now be brought to each meeting of the Committee. The intention has been that with a reduced size of Committee additional training will be provided throughout the year, namely before each Planning Committee (starting at 5:30pm). The sessions may well change depending on what issues are on the agenda.

Please note that given the current public health situation, we are investigating how to do training remotely. We will confirm once agreed.

- 4.3 Changes in National Policy** – there are no substantive changes in Government Policy that will impact on any decisions of the Committee.
- 4.4 Planning Appeal Decisions** – every Planning Appeal decision will now be brought to the Committee for the Committee to consider. There have been no appeal decisions since last Planning Committee.
- 4.5** We are still awaiting the 2 Crematoria applied for some time ago, and the decision is still awaited. It was due by 12 September 2019. We have sent a further email to PINS for an update since last Planning Committee in light of the queries raised by Councillors last month. At the time of writing this report, we have not received an update from PINS.
- 4.6** The Secretary of State for Transport has now made an order granting development consent West Midlands Interchange (WMI). Documents can be seen here : <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/west-midlands-interchange/> Officers are now in the process of considering the decision to understand next steps. The Legal Challenge period expires on 15 June 2020.
- 4.9 Relevant Planning Enforcement cases on a quarterly basis** – 46 planning enforcement cases have been logged for investigation since lockdown began and cases are being progressed efficiently. The Planning Enforcement target of 80% of cases being logged and investigated within 12 weeks of logging is being achieved and currently stands at 92%.
- 4.10 The latest data produced by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government** – As members will recall MHCLG sets designation targets that must be met regarding both quality and speed of planning decisions. The targets are broken

into Major and Non major development. If the targets are not met then unless exceptional circumstances apply MHCLG will “designate” the relevant authority and developers have the option to avoid applying to the relevant designated Local Planning Authority and apply direct, and pay the fees, to the Planning Inspectorate. Details can be seen at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760040/Improving_planning_performance.pdf

- 4.11 We will ensure that the Committee is kept informed of performance against the relevant targets including through the MHCLG’s own data.
- 4.12 For Speed – the 2020 target for major developments is that 60% of decisions must be made within the relevant time frame (or with an agreed extension of time) and for non-major it is 70%. For Quality – for 2020 the threshold is 10% for both major and non-major decisions. Current performance is well within these targets and the position as set out on MHCLG’s website will be shown to the Committee at the meeting – the information can be seen on the following link tables:
- 151a – speed – major
 - 152a – quality – major
 - 153 – speed – non major
 - 154 – quality – non major

The link is here – <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>

The latest position is on the MHCLG website and the key figures are below:

Speed

151a – majors – target 60% (or above) – result = 89.4% (data up to December 2019)

153 – others – target 70% (or above) – result = 86.3% (data up to December 2019)

Quality

152a – majors – target 10% (or below) – result = 5.4% (date up to September 2018)

154 – others – target 10% or below – result = 1.1% (date up to September 2018)

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

N/A

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A