

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills
Executive Director, Environment & Economy**

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	9 May 2016
Subject:	Report on Performance of Handling Planning Applications by the County Council as Planning Authority for 2015/2016

Summary:

This report provides information of planning application determination performance during the financial year 2015/16. The report confirms the time taken to determine planning applications and the extent of formal enforcement action undertaken during the last financial year.

Recommendation:

That the report is noted and appropriate publicity is given of the Council's performance in determining planning applications during the last financial year.

Discussion

1. This report sets out information regarding the handling of planning applications in its role as Local Planning Authority and formal enforcement activity during the last financial year. Table 1 below shows the number of planning applications received for the last five years.

	County Matters received	County Council received	Total
2015-16	60	57	117
2014-15	83	53	136
2013-14	77	116	193
2012-13	67	72	139
2011-12	68	57	125

2. For the last financial year the number of "County Matter" applications (minerals and waste) determined was 57. Councillors will be aware that "County Matter" applications are classed as 'major' applications for the purpose of national reporting. The Government target is that 65% of such applications are determined within 13 weeks. During the last financial year

of the 57 applications determined 48 were determined within 13 weeks giving a performance of 84%, well above the national target of 65%.

3. County Council applications (Regulation 3) are not subject to any external monitoring but it is considered to ensure a good standard of performance is maintained an internal monitoring target for applications of this nature is also set. Consequently a monitoring target of determining 80% of Regulation 3 applications within a period of 8 weeks is set. For the last financial year 45 Regulation 3 applications were determined of these 29 were approved in 8 weeks giving a percentage rate of 65%. Whilst this figure is slightly below the prescribed target rate of 80% the applications that were determined outside the target range generally missed the target by only a couple of weeks thus not causing a significant delay in bringing the project forward.
4. Appendix A details 13 County Matter applications, in hand on 1 April 2016, that have exceeded the 13 weeks target but remain undetermined. Of these two have subsequently been determined, others are waiting for the conclusion of a Section 106 Agreement and six relate to a major waste management project that is subject to an Environment Statement and required additional information to be submitted. Extensions of time have been sought with the applicants to agree a further period of time to determine the applications beyond 13 weeks.
5. In respect of formal enforcement action the following notices have been served in the last financial year:-
 - 3 x Enforcement Notices
 - 2 x Stop Notices
 - 3 x Temporary Stop Notices
 - 5 x Planning Contravention Notices
 - 2 x Breach of Condition Notices.
6. Formal enforcement action is only used when all negotiations have failed and only as a last resort. The level of formal enforcement action reflects the Council success in taking a proactive position of monitoring minerals and waste sites and also a number of successful prosecutions in recent years which have been publicised and act as a deterrent to minerals and waste operators as they will be aware that if they breach planning control they will be faced with the financial consequences of doing so.

Comment

7. The team that processes planning applications is currently carrying one vacancy with consultancy support being used to cover the vacant post. The combination of having the majority of posts filled together with a much higher rate of County Matter applications being determined under delegated powers than in the past has enabled a high percentage of applications to be determined within the prescribed period of 13 weeks. Over the last year 61% of County Matter applications and 86 % of County Council applications have been determined under delegated powers. Whilst the percentage of

Regulation 3 applications has not been achieved within the required target time only a small proportion have missed the target and where the target has been missed it has only been by a short period of time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the report is received and an appropriate publicity is given that the Council is determining planning applications ahead of the relevant Government target.

Appendix

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	County Matter applications, in hand on 1 April 2016, that have exceed the 13 weeks target but remain undetermined
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This report was written by Neil McBride, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or dev_pcg@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Appendix A

A list of County Matters we had in hand on the 1 April 2016 which were over 13 weeks old

County Matters

N23/27/64/0385/14	To extract sand and gravel from land to the west of Whisby quarry (adjacent to Swinderby road and beehive lane); to utilise the existing quarry infrastructure, plant site and access onto eagle road to facilitate the development; and to restore the site to a mixture of water bodies, grassland, woodland and agriculture at Whisby Quarry, Eagle Road, Whisby
(E)N199/1519/14	Relocation of the Proposed Wash Plant for Use with the Existing Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Operations at Highfield Quarry, A1028, Bluestone Heath Road, Welton le Marsh – Determined 13 April 2016
(E)S176/0840/15	Proposed western quarry extension (in the parish of Tattershall Thorpe) and eastern quarry extension (in the parishes of Tumby and Coningsby) at Woodhall Spa Quarry, Tattershall Thorpe
(E)N163/2338/14	To vary conditions 5 and 15a of planning permission (E)S163/2206/02: to revise scheme of restoration at South Thoresby Quarry, Haugh Lane, South Thoresby
N74/1446/15	To vary condition 3 of planning permission N74/1238/12 to enable tonnage of waste material received at the site to be increased from 65,000 tonnes to 260,000 tonnes per annum at Wilsford Heath Materials Recycling Facility, High Dike, Ancaster
N74/1447/15	To vary condition 7 of planning permission N74/1374/10 to allow materials deliveries to take place between 0600 to 1900 hours Mondays to Fridays at Wilsford Heath Materials Recycling Facility, High Dike, Ancaster
N74/1450/15	To vary condition 8 of planning permission N74/1232/12 to allow materials deliveries to take place between 0600 to 1900 hours Mondays to Fridays at Wilsford Heath Materials Recycling Facility, High Dike, Ancaster
N74/1451/15	To vary condition 9 of planning permission N74/1238/12 to allow materials deliveries to take place between 0600 to 1900 hours Mondays to Fridays at Wilsford Heath Materials Recycling Facility, High Dike, Ancaster
N74/1452/15	To vary condition 2 of planning permission N74/1296/13 to allow materials deliveries to take

	place between 0600 to 1900 hours Mondays To Fridays at Wilsford Heath Materials Recycling Facility, High Dike, Ancaster
N74/1453/15	For the erection of: a subdivided building for the packaging and storing of gypsum; a subdivided building for the recycling of mattresses, processing of waste plastics and storage of recyclable plastic product; an open storage area for wrapped s.r.f. bales, a site office building with car parking area; external skip storage; private carriageway with weighbridge, barrier and hardstanding; excavation of reed bed and attenuation pond drainage system; and landscaping comprising formation of bunding and woodland planting scheme at Land north of Wilsford Heath Waste Management Facility, High Dike, Ancaster
S26/1611/15	For the extraction of limestone and importation of sustainable inert fill to achieve a beneficial restoration of the site at Proposed Quarry, Gorse Lane, Denton, Grantham
(E)S66/0066/16	Installation of an agricultural dryer with associated feed hopper, storage bay, hardstanding and landscaping at Clapgate Farm, Somersby Road, Ashby Puerorum – Determined 21 April 2016
(E)S176/189/0443/16	Section 73 application to vary conditions 4(a) and 23 of planning permission (E)S189/1353/99, as amended by planning permission (E)S176/1876/03 at Woodhall Spa Quarry, Tattershall Thorpe

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