

AGENDA ITEM 11(d) - Planning

Amendment

At the end of the first sentence in paragraph 1 add the following words

“as a result of the Nitrates Directive and ongoing staff vacancies, both being exacerbated by the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. This required applications with significant economic benefits to the city to be prioritised over routine applications. As a consequence although national speed requirements have consistently been met until 2020, the proportion of applications determined in time fell to 76% in the second quarter of 2020.”

Delete the second sentence of paragraph 1

Delete the second sentence of paragraph 2

Replace the first two sentences of paragraph 3 with the following words

“Council supports the decision to support the service with additional outside resources to reduce the backlog but recognises that this alone will not be sufficient to maintain an exemplary planning service. It therefore agrees with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning:”

Replace the words after Department in the first bullet point with

“introduce performance monitoring against defined targets for all parts of the development management procedures.”

Replace the words after public in the second bullet point and replace with

“, and reports to future full council meetings on the implementation of measures to improve the speed and quality of the development management procedures.”

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Hugh Mason

Seconded by (Name) Councillor David Fuller

The Motion to therefore read (see overleaf):

Council notes the extensive backlog of unregistered planning applications that has built up as a result of the Nitrates Directive and ongoing staff vacancies, both being exacerbated by the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. This required applications with significant economic benefits to the city to be prioritised over routine applications. As a consequence although national speed requirements have consistently been met until 2020, the proportion of applications determined in time fell to 76% in the second quarter of 2020.

Council considers that being able to make planning decisions in a consistent and timely manner is critical if it is to achieve its ambitions for the regeneration of the city and for it to become a hub for businesses in emerging sectors.

Council supports the decision to support the service with additional outside resources to reduce the backlog but recognises that this alone will not be sufficient to maintain an exemplary planning service. It therefore agrees with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning:

- That the Planning Department introduce performance monitoring against defined targets for all parts of the development management procedures;
- That the Cabinet member work with the Planning Department to ensure greater transparency for both Councillors and the public, and reports to future full council meetings on the implementation of measures to improve the speed and quality of the development management procedures.