

Committee: Planning Committee
Date: 21 June 2023
Title: Quality of Major Applications
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Purpose

1. To report to Planning Committee the applications that have been considered both as Delegated and at Planning Committee which contribute to the data considered by DHLUC as to whether a Local Planning Authority falls within the criteria to be designated.
2. There are four criteria where a Local Planning Authority may be designated - Quality Major; Quality Speed; Quality Non-Major and Speed Non-Major.
3. This report specifically considers the Quality of Major Applications and covers the period 2017 - 2024. The Quality of Major Applications is for decisions made within a two-year period with appeal decisions up to and including the 31 December of the two-year period.
4. Therefore, the periods covered in this report are as follows:
 - *April 2017 - March 2019 (appeal decisions made by 31/12/2019)*
 - *April 2018 - March 2020 (appeal decisions made by 31/12/2020)*
 - *April 2019 - March 2021 (appeal decisions made by 31/12/2021)*
 - *April 2020 - March 2022 (appeal decisions made by 31/12/2022)*
 - *April 2021 – March 2023 (appeal decisions made by 31/12/2023)*
 - *April 2022 – March 2024 (appeal decisions made by 31/12/2024)*
5. The Planning Advisory Service provided each Local Authority with a 'Crystal Ball' (basically a spreadsheet) where the data can be added each month/quarter to monitor whether there is any risk of designation.

6. Below shows the periods from April 2017 within the two-year DLUHC monitoring periods.

	All Major Decisions	Refusals	Appeals	Dismissed	Allowed	Pending	Result
Apr 2017 - Mar 2019	76	29	17	8	7	2*	9.21%
Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	79	46	34	17	13	4**	16.46%
Apr 2019 - Mar 2021	74	38	27	13	13	1***	17.57%
Apr 2020 - Mar 2022	68	31	19	7	8	4****	11.76%
Apr 2021 - Mar 2023	74	30	18	3	5	10	6.76%
Apr 2022 - Mar 2024	40	11	8			8	0.00%

*Pending decision falls outside of the criteria window of appeal decision made by 31/12/2019.

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***Pending decisions fell outside of the criteria window of appeal decisions made by 31/12/2021.

****Pending decisions fell outside of the criteria window of appeal decisions made by 31/12/2022

To note – there is a variation in the period Apr 2021 – March 2023. Following a review of all the data, one major application had not been pulling through and therefore the information was not accurate. This has now been rectified and shows a slight decrease from previously recorded data.

7 Cost of appeals per year*

Year	Legal including Awards of Costs	Consultants
2017 - 2018	£102,660	£33,697
2018 - 2019	£ 21,325	£10,241
2019 - 2020	£182,013	£78,776
2020 - 2021	£144,117	£70,481
2021 - 2022	£129,453	£152,057
2022 - 2023	£306,407.36	£169,873.42
2023 - 2024		

*Not including the Stansted Airport Inquiry.

Please note that Inquiry/Hearing cost may not be held in the same financial year as the application decision.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Committee notes this report for information.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Planning Committee
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health & Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
3	3	3	Action Plan & Pathway work

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact - action may be necessary

3 = Significant risk or impact - action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project