

Committee: Planning Committee
Date: 27 September 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	4	7	7	9.46%
Apr 2022 - Mar 2024	64	12	29	18	1	10	1.56%

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

**Pending decisions fell outside of the criteria window of appeal decisions made by 31/12/2020.

***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. This may change. The published figure is less than 10% and a discussion is taking place with DLUHC Statisticians.

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.

8. Pending Appeals

8.1

Reference	Address	Type of Appeal	Hearing /Inquiry Date
UTT/20/2105/OP	Land To The North Of De Vigier Avenue Saffron Walden	Written Representations	
UTT/21/1833/FUL	Land West Of Thaxted Cutlers Green Lane Thaxted	Public Inquiry	26 September 2023 / 11 days
UTT/21/2376/FUL	Land To The West Of High Lane Stansted	Written Representations	
UTT/21/3272/OP	Land South Of Stortford Road Little Canfield	Hearing	1 August 2023 / 1 day
UTT/22/1275/OP	Land At Parsonage Farm Parsonage Farm Lane Great Sampford	Hearing	4 October 2023 / 1 day
UTT/22/1718/FUL	Land West Of Colehills Close Middle Street Clavering	Written Representations	
UTT/22/0391/OP	Highwood Farm Stortford Road Great Dunmow	Written Representations	
UTT/22/1404/OP	Land South Of Braintree Road Dunmow	Hearing	22 August 2023 / 1 day
UTT/22/3094/FUL	Land To The North Of Birchanger Lane Birchanger	Hearing	16 November 2023 / 1 day

Recommendation

9. 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