

Committee: Planning Committee
Date: 15 January 2025
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. To note – Apr 2022 – March 2024 has now been updated to reflect MHCLG guidance whereby decisions and appeals for variation/removal of conditions are not taken into consideration in respect of Quality Performance.

	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							11.1%
Oct 2021 – Sep2023	72	29	16	7	9	0	12.5%
Jan 22 – Dec 23	68	22	12	6	5	1	7.35%
Apr 2022 - Mar 2024	71	22	12	6	3	3	4.23%

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

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Designation data does not include S73 applications to Vary/Remove conditions. The table has now been updated and this data has been removed.

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	£84,854.48	£40,800.78
2024 – 2025	£46,000.00	£25,947.00

**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	Dates of Hearing/Inquiry – if known
UTT/22/3470/OP	Land North Of Baynard Avenue Baynard Avenue Flitch Green CM6 3FD	Hearing	04 December 2024
UTT/23/2575/FUL	Cricket Willow Field Sparrows End London Road Newport	Written Representations	
UTT/23/2964/OP	Highwood Farm Stortford Road Great Dunmow	Written Representations	
UTT/23/2962/DFO	Land To The West Of Thaxted Road Saffron Walden	Hearing	11 Feb 2025
UTT/24/0741/FUL	Land Known As 7 Acres Warish Hall Farm Parsonage Road Takeley	Written Representations	

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