

Committee: Planning Committee

Date: 30 July 2025

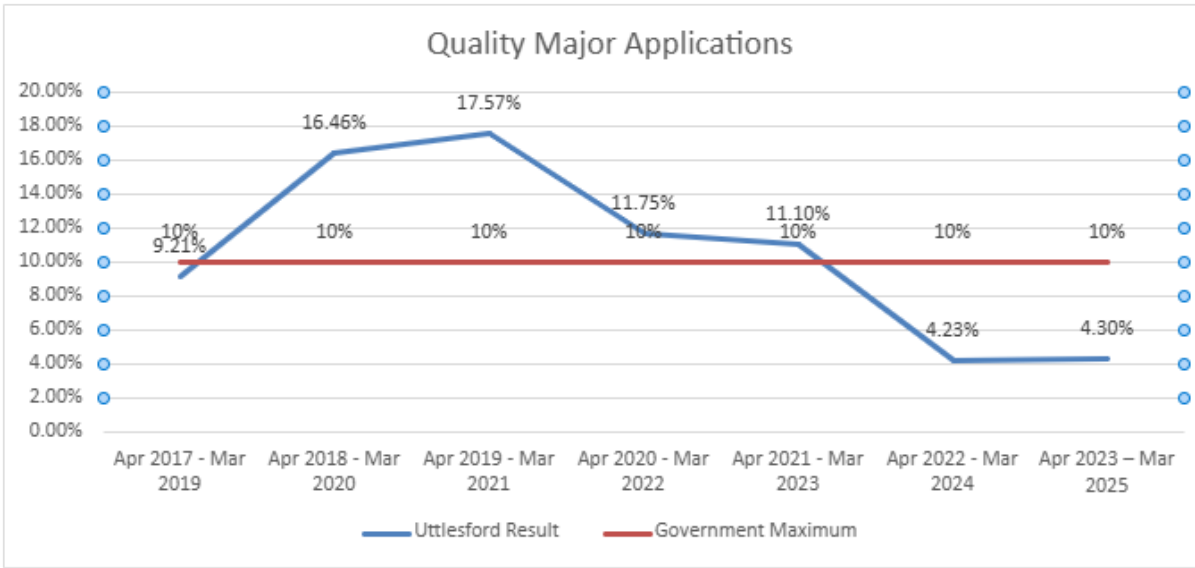
Title: Quality and Speed of Major and Non-Major Applications

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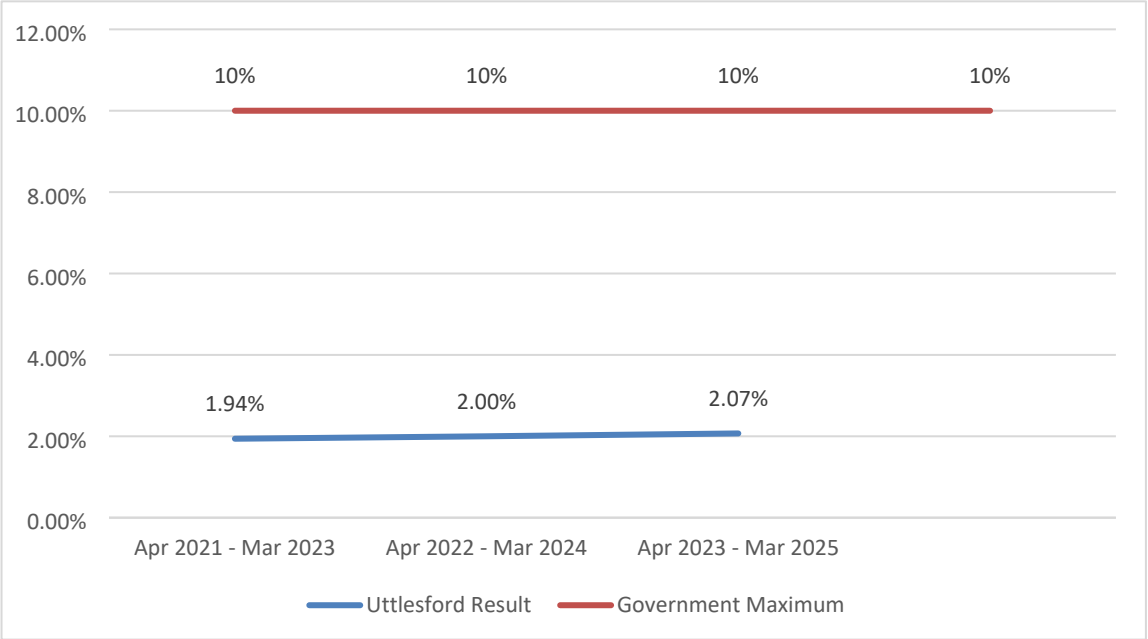
Purpose

1. To report to Planning Committee the applications that have been considered at Planning Committee which contribute to the data considered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as to whether the Local Planning Authority (LPA) falls within the criteria to be designated.
2. There are four criteria where a LPA may be designated - Quality Major; Speed Major; Quality Non-Major and Speed Non-Major.
3. On the 6th June 2025 the council received a letter confirming that the 'Special Measures' had been removed with immediate effect. The council is no longer designated. This report gives an overview of all four areas where the LPA could fall within the criteria to be designated.
4. 'Quality' of Major and Non-Major applications covers a two-year period plus nine months to allow for appeal decisions. Whilst 'Speed' of Major and Non-Major now covers a period from 1st October through to 30th September. This came into effect in 2024 and the first period to be monitored will be 01/10/2024 – 30/09/2025.
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 four potential designation areas as graphs, quality of major covering from April 2017 through to March 2025; quality of non-major covers a period of April 2021 through to March 2025. Whilst the speed graphs for both major and non-major covers from when the new criteria was announced to cover one year from October 2024.

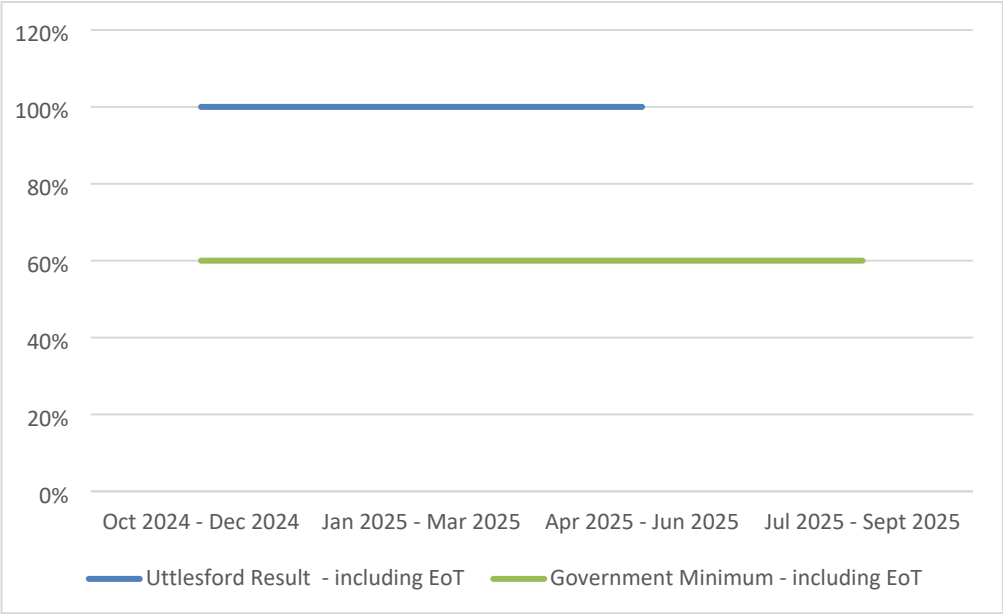
Quality of Major Decisions



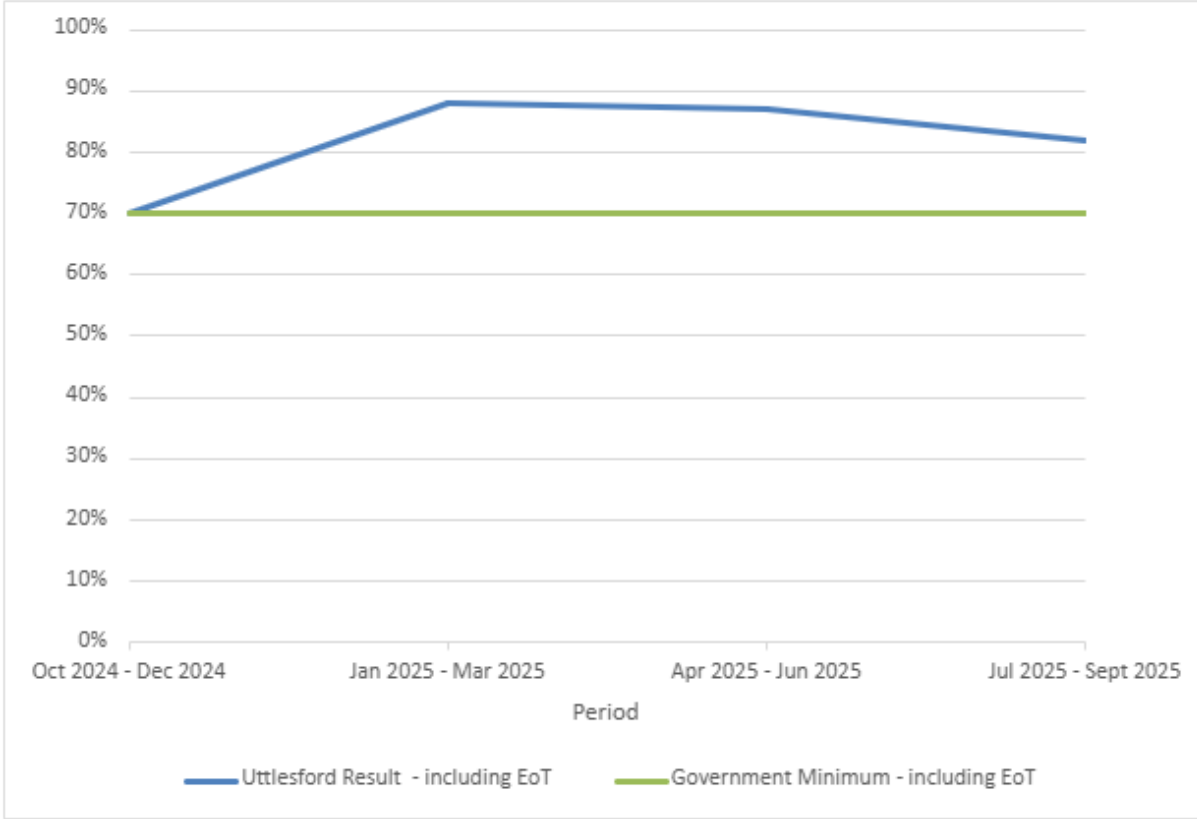
Quality of Non-Major Decisions



Speed of Major Decisions



Speed of Non-Major Decisions – 01/10/2024 – 17/07/2025 (date report updated)



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Cost of Major 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	[£55,200.00 all recovered] = £0	[£25,947.00 + £19,800.00 recovered] = £6,147

*Not including the Stansted Airport Inquiry.

Please note that Inquiry/Hearing costs may not arise in the same financial year as the application decision.

8. Pending Major Planning Appeals

8.1

Reference	Address	Type of Appeal	Dates of Hearing/Inquiry – if known
UTT/23/2496/FUL	Land West of High Street Stebbing	Written Representations	
UTT/24/3061/OP	Land North Of Wicken Road And West Of School Lane Newport	tbc	Appeal Lodged
UTT/24/2359/FUL	Land To The East Of May Walk Elsenham Road Stansted	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
2	2	3	Performance Improvement Action Plan in place

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact - action may be necessary

3 = Significant risk or impact - action required

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