

**Committee:** Planning Committee

**Date:** 8 April 2026

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

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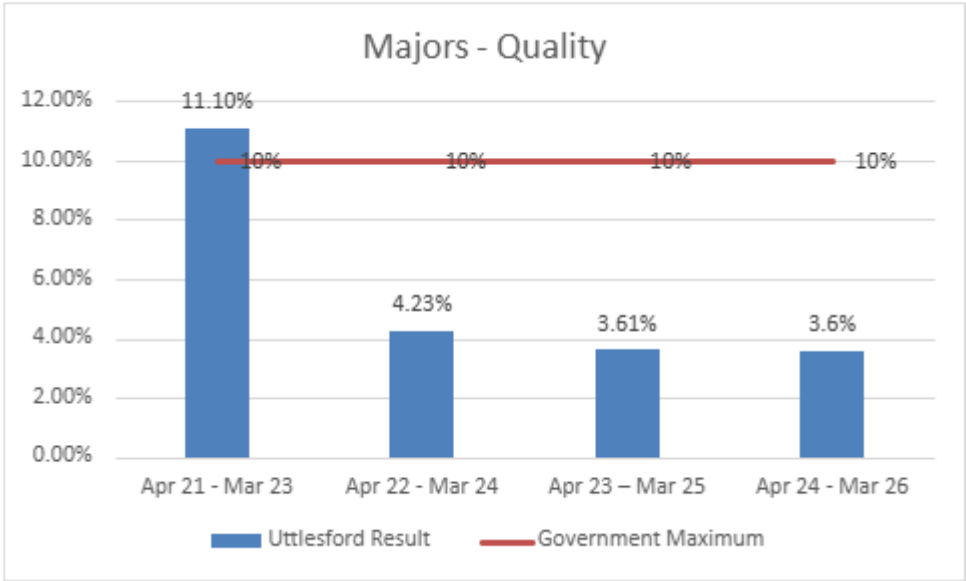
**Item:** 3

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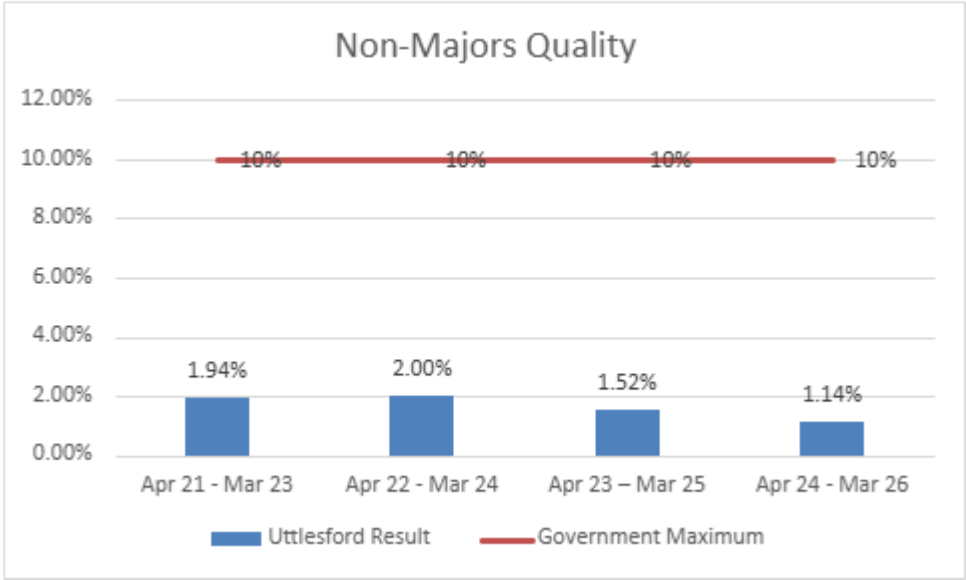
## **Purpose**

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> October through to 30<sup>th</sup> September. This came into effect in 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 four potential designation areas as graphs, quality of major covering from April 2021 through to March 2026; quality of non-major covers a period of April 2021 through to March 2026. 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.

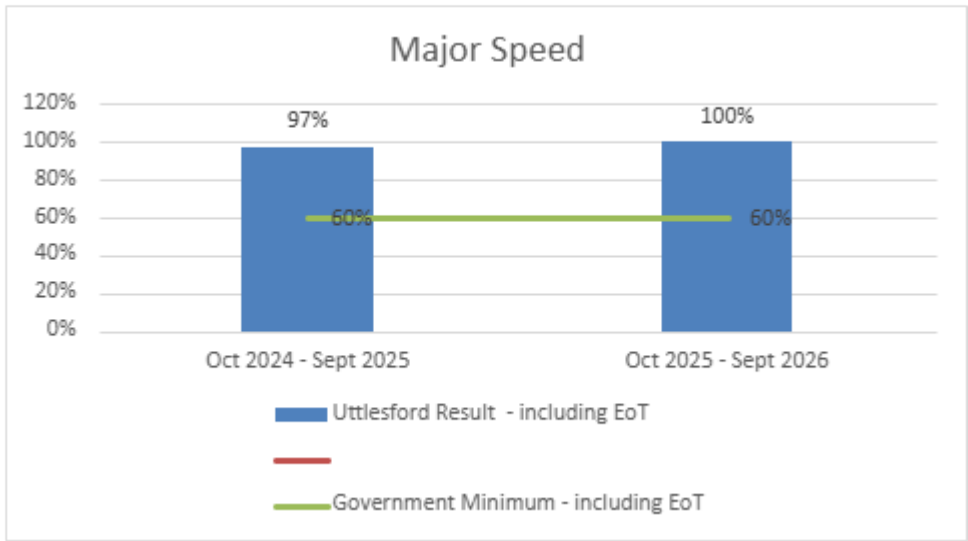
Quality of Major Decisions to 25/03/2026



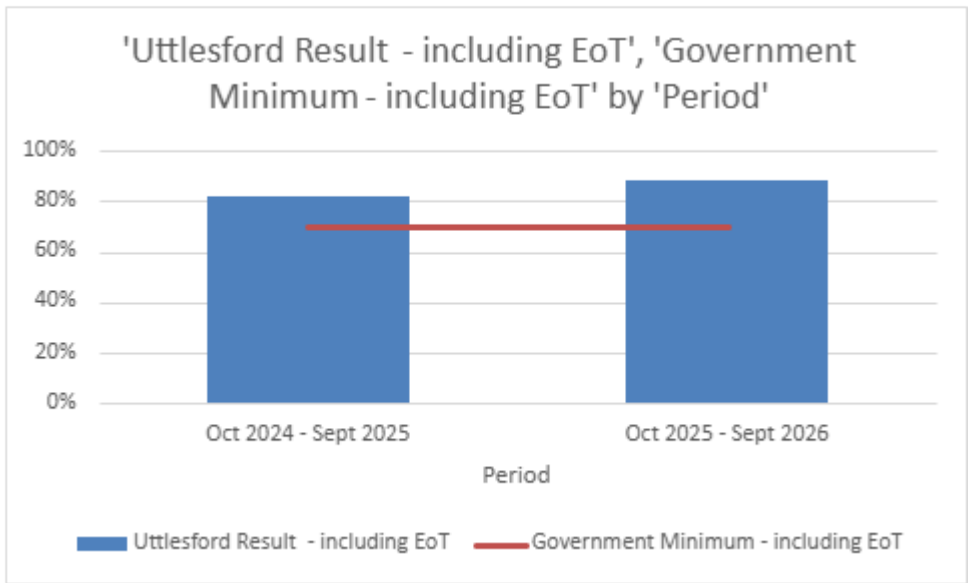
Quality of Non-Major Decisions to 25/03/2026



Speed of Major Decisions – to 25/03/2026



Speed of Non-Major Decisions - to 25/03/2026



7 Cost of Major appeals per year\*

Year	Legal including Awards of Costs	Consultants
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
<b>2025 - 2026</b>	-	-

*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/25/1224/FUL	Land Near Pelham Substation Maggots End Road Manuden And Berden	Construction of a solar photovoltaic ("PV") farm with associated infrastructure	Lodged

### 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	1	2	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