

Deputy Leader: Planning Portfolio Statement 2018/19



INTRODUCTION

East Staffordshire Borough Council has three Corporate Priorities:

- **Value For Money Council Services:**
Protecting your money
- **Promoting Local Economic Growth:**
To benefit local people by turning aspiration into reality
- **Protecting and Strengthening Communities:**
Love where you live

The following statement sets out how the Deputy Leader for Planning and officers within this portfolio area will contribute to achieving these priorities, as well highlighting key achievements from 2017/18

However the activities outlined in the statement are often cross-cutting themes with overlaps into other areas, and throughout the statement there may be examples of joint delivery with other Executive Members as well as managers from other sections.

Each of the statements made by the individual portfolio holders will then be collated to form the basis of East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan for 2018/19.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017/18

Over the past 12 months, the Council has been working hard to improve its services and is currently on track to achieve around 93% of this portfolio's milestones set for 2017/18 by the end of this financial year.

Some of these achievements are highlighted in the following section.

Continued Improvement in Planning Services

The Council has continued with its multi-disciplinary team development, and through the combination of development and, where appropriate, through commissioning, it has been able to be flexible and resilient to market changes and challenges. It has continued to monitor determination of planning applications and has ensured that performance is maintained and improved.

A review of the current pre-application charging mechanism, along with an investigation into charging for invalid applications, has been undertaken. The Council has also carried out a review into its partnership arrangements to ensure that it is receiving value for money with the various groups and organisations in which it participates.

The Council has also continued to improve Member engagement and Member knowledge with Planning through a series of briefings as well as ensuring that there is Member engagement on key sites and Reserved Matters applications.

Commissioning Services

The Council has built on its established commissioning approach and has identified operational areas where this could prove useful. This included looking at how the provision of conservation services and expertise could be provided by working in collaboration with a neighbouring authority. This led to the appointment of an officer, hosted by South Derbyshire District Council, providing support to the team one day per week.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Council has continued to build on the experience it has gained over the past few years, supporting the significant programme of Neighbourhood Plans across the Borough.

Progressed Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

The Council has introduced a new Parking Standards SPD which was adopted during the year. It also started extensive work on the Open Spaces SPD, including engaging a consultant to undertake baseline work and liaison with community and sports clubs.

Local Land Charges

The Council has continued to work with the Land Registry with their planned migration to a centralised system.

Reacted to Government Legislative Changes

There are a number of Government legislative changes that emerged which required changes to the way the Planning Service operates in the future. This included the white paper "Fixing Our Broken Housing Market", changes to the Brownfield Sites Register, Permission in Principle, revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and changes to the way Five Year Land Supply is calculated. The Council has worked to understand how these will impact on the service and has performed and delivered against them.

Monitored the Local Plan

Progress against the Local Plan has been proactively monitored and biannual reports have been formally provided in addition to briefings given to Members throughout the year.

Continued to Work Proactively with the Delivery of Strategic Sites

The Council has continued to work proactively and engage with the applicants and the agents on all aspects of strategic planning, the determination of

applications and the discharge of conditions on Branston Locks, Land South of Branston and Uttoxeter West.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018/19

The Council is determined to continue to build on its successes during 2017/18 as it moves forward into the 2018/19 financial year. It will continue to improve performance, service delivery and value for money through delivery of the Council's three Corporate Priorities. Achievement of these priorities will be supported by the Planning portfolio through delivery of the objectives detailed in the following section. The specific performance indicators identified to measure these objectives are referenced in the paragraphs below.

Informing Elected Members (Target P01)

Elected Members are integral to the smooth delivery of Planning Services and in order to ensure they are up to date with national policy, revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local initiatives and system changes, the Council will provide regular Member briefings. It will also ensure that the Section 106 database is provided as an annual update.

Always Working Smarter (Targets P02; P03; P04; P05; P06; P07; P08)

The Council will continue to embrace the "Smarter Working" agenda. It will begin by introducing the new charging regime and seek to identify any other commercialisation opportunities. The Council will carry on digitising planning information and services, whilst continuing to improve on historical data quality. It will work closely with the Chairman of the Planning Committee to identify opportunities for improvements to its wider business and reporting processes and committee management functions, thus ensuring the Council is efficient and transparent. The Council will also investigate the use of "Permission in Principle" (PiP) with reference to the Brownfield Site Register. Whilst carrying out these initiatives, the Council will continue to achieve top quartile performance in accordance with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidelines.

Local Land Charges (Target P09)

The Council will continue to prepare for the transfer of the Local Land Charges register to the national Land Registry in the future, and continue to improve the quality and digitisation of our data.

Planning Legislative Changes (Target P10)

The Council will continue to keep abreast of national legislative changes, ensuring it proactively engages with Government consultations and making certain that it complies in accordance with any changes and requirements, which will include a Duty to Cooperate Statement; a Statement of Common Ground which the Council may need to publish after the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as well as other changes emerging from revised NPPF. Following on from last year's requirement for the Brownfield Site register to be made publicly available, the Council will be updating and republishing this in accordance with the statutory guidelines.

Campaign for Improvements to Burton Train Station (Target P11)

This year the Council will work closely with key partners to get everyone together locally to agree an action plan in order for partners to campaign for improvements to the train station in Burton.

Guidance to Support Planning Services (Targets P12; P13; P14; P15)

This year the Council will look to finalise work on the Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document and bring it forward for adoption in 2019. The Council will update guidance that safeguards the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which has been designated under Habitats Regulations for its unique heathland habitat. The Council will also devise Borough-wide planting guidance, derived from the "i-Tree study", and introduce new Heritage Impact Assessment guidance notes.

Keep a Watching Brief on Local Development (Targets P16; P17)

The Council will continue to monitor and report on the delivery of sites against the Local Plan so that any issues are flagged up and worked on as soon as

possible. It will continue to work actively with Members, agents and the community with the delivery of strategic housing and employment sites.

A Protocol for Neighbourhood Planning (Target P18)

The Council will introduce a new protocol for Neighbourhood Planning which will outline the services that it will offer in order to fulfil the duty to support and guide Neighbourhood Planning. This will include Neighbourhood Plans (and reviews), Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

Delivering Improvements to the Washlands (Target P19; P20)

The Council, through its Planning Policy team, will this year develop a Washlands Strategy which will outline the type of features and enhancements it wishes to see created and developed on this locally important and popular floodplain. In addition to this the Council, through its Enterprise team, will also be working closely with key partners, including developing a detailed business case for delivering improvements to the Washlands area to create a more aesthetically appealing and interesting attraction for residents and visitors.

MEASURES AND TARGETS FOR 2018/19

The Planning portfolio has identified a number of measures and targets for 2018/19 which will contribute to the delivery of the objectives detailed above. These are set out in the following tables.

Value for Money Council Services

Ref	Measures	Target 2018/19
P01	Improve Planning Awareness with Members	At Least 2 Briefings Delivered to Elected Members During the Year (March 2019)
P02	Continue to Develop SMARTER Working Practices for Planning	Introduce the New Charging Regime (April 2018)
P03	Continue to Develop SMARTER Working Practices for Planning	Seek to Identify Any Other Commercialisation Opportunities (December 2018)
P04	Continue to Develop SMARTER Working Practices for Planning	Investigate and Report on the use of Permission in Principle (PiP) (September 2018)
P05	Continue to Develop SMARTER Working Practices for Planning	Digitised Planning Information Progress Report (March 2019)

Promoting Local Economic Growth

Ref	Measures	Target 2018/19
P06	Major Planning Applications Determined Within 13 Weeks	Top Quartile as Measured Against Relevant DCLG Figures
P07	Minor Planning Applications Determined Within 8 Weeks	Top Quartile as Measured Against Relevant DCLG Figures
P08	Other Planning Applications Determined Within 8 Weeks	Top Quartile as Measured Against Relevant DCLG Figures
P09	To Carry Out Necessary Work With Reference to the Transfer of the Local Land Charges Register to the Land Registry	Completed in Accordance With Any Legislative Requirements (March 2019)
P10	To Carry Out Necessary Work With Reference To Planning Legislative Changes	Completed in Accordance With Any Legislative Changes And Requirements (March 2019)
P11	Campaign for Improvements to Burton Train Station	Agree an Action Plan with Key Partners to Campaign for Improvements to Burton Train Station (March 2019)
P12	Deliver Supplementary Planning Documents	Adoption of Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document (March 2019)

Protecting and Strengthening Communities

Ref	Measures	Target 2018/19
P13	Guidance to Support Planning Services	Introduce New Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Guidance (April 2018)
P14	Guidance to Support Planning Services	Devise Borough-wide Planting Guidance (June 2018)
P15	Guidance to Support Planning Services	Introduce New Heritage Impact Assessment Guidance Notes (April 2018)
P16	Delivery of Strategic Housing and Employment Sites	Strategic Site Progress Report Prepared (December 2018)
P17	Monitor Local Plan Performance	Annual Monitoring Report Prepared (November 2018)
P18	Guidance to Support Planning Services	Introduce New Protocol to Neighbourhood Planning (June 2018)
P19	Delivering Improvements to the Washlands	Adoption of a Washlands Strategy (September 2018)
P20	Delivering Improvements to the Washlands	Work With Partners to Develop a Detailed Business Case for Delivering Improvements to the Washlands (September 2018)