

Planning Policy

What we've achieved

The focus of the next two years will be the delivery of the review of the Local Plan.

- The Council has a Five Year land supply, which has recently been successfully defended on appeal
- A new Register of Brownfield Sites has been published. This is required by legislation and includes details of brownfield sites which are suitable for development
- A Self-Build Register is in place
- Review of Open Space designations
- Review of employment land supply in the district
- Supporting Neighbourhood Plans
- Commissioned a Landscape Sensitivity appraisal to inform the Council's approach to renewable energy and other policies.
- Detailed appraisal of potential development sites is underway
- Norfolk Strategic Framework

Challenges for the service

- Consultation Draft of the Local Plan (Proposed Quarter 1 2019)
- Completion of the site appraisal work
- Review of the Development Management policies
- Engagement of the local communities during the process
- Ownership of the process and documents by Members
- Adoption of the new Local Plan proposed in mid-2020.



Development Management

What we've achieved

This area has been the focus of a Business Process Review over the past couple of years, resulting in a major restructuring of the service and the introduction of a workflow system.

- Process approximately 2000 applications per annum
- Setting up a new householder team to focus on the turnaround of these applications
- Setting up a multi-skilled Planning Processing Unit ensuring validation of applications with three working days
- Significant improvements in our development management performance
- Introduction of new validation requirement (July 2017)
- New pre-application advice service (Phase 1) is in place
- Set up Enforcement Panel to assist the Combined Enforcement Team progress with planning enforcement cases

Challenges for the service

- Maintaining high level of performance
- Back office system change
- Roll out of 'paperless' working across the team
- Developing our Career-Grade and Trainee Planners

Major Projects

What we've achieved

This team supports the development and appraisal of major development proposals and applications from initial site allocation and pre-application stages through to on-site delivery and condition monitoring.

- Improved performance in relation to the Government performance targets
- Working across the organisation on the Council's wider corporate priorities – delivery of affordable housing schemes, delivery of key capital projects – provision of new £11million leisure centre at Sheringham, proposed Tennis Academy at Cromer
- Representing the community interest in major infrastructure projects - offshore wind energy schemes proposed by Orsted (Hornsea Project Three) and Vattenfall (Vanguard and Boreas), Sandscaping scheme at Bacton
- Defending the Council's and communities position in key legal challenges

Challenges for the service

- Delivery of the next phases of the pre-application advice service
- Supporting delivery of the Council's asset strategy through the planning process
- Processing of major planning applications – such as a 900 home development at Fakenham on an allocated site and proposals coming forward for up to 600 homes in Cromer in advance of the new Local Plan