

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
- Set up a new householder team to focus on the turnaround of these applications
- Set 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

Aims of the service

- Maintaining high level of performance
- Back office system change
- Roll out of 'paperless' working across the whole 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, Sandscaping sea defence
- 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 community's position in key legal challenges

Aims of 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

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.
- 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
- Part of the Norfolk Strategic Framework

Aims of the service

- Consultation Draft of the Local Plan (Proposed Spring 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.

