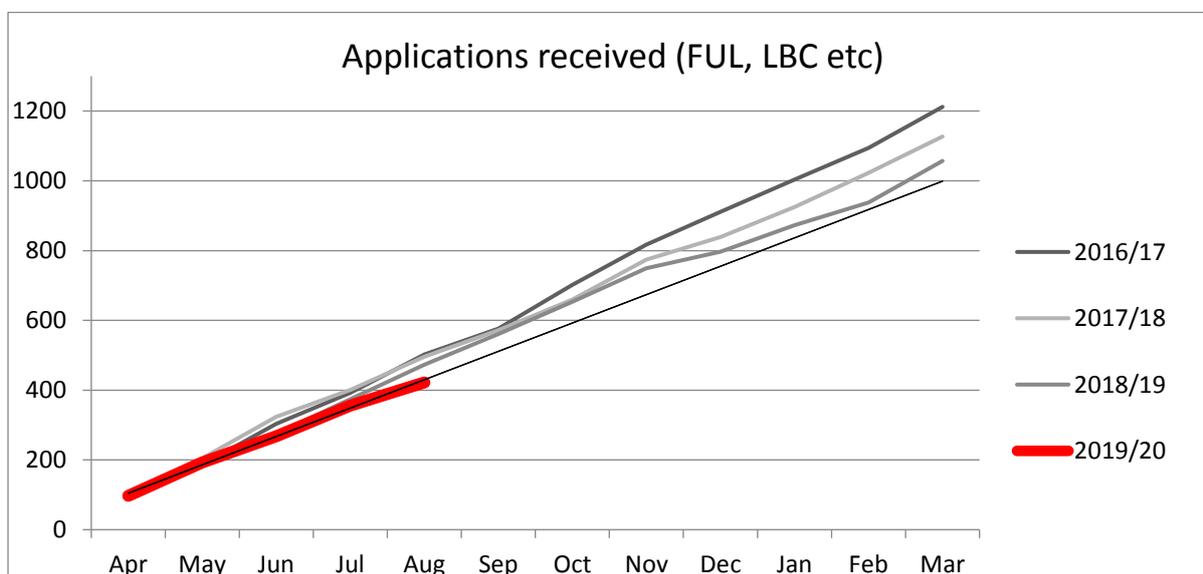


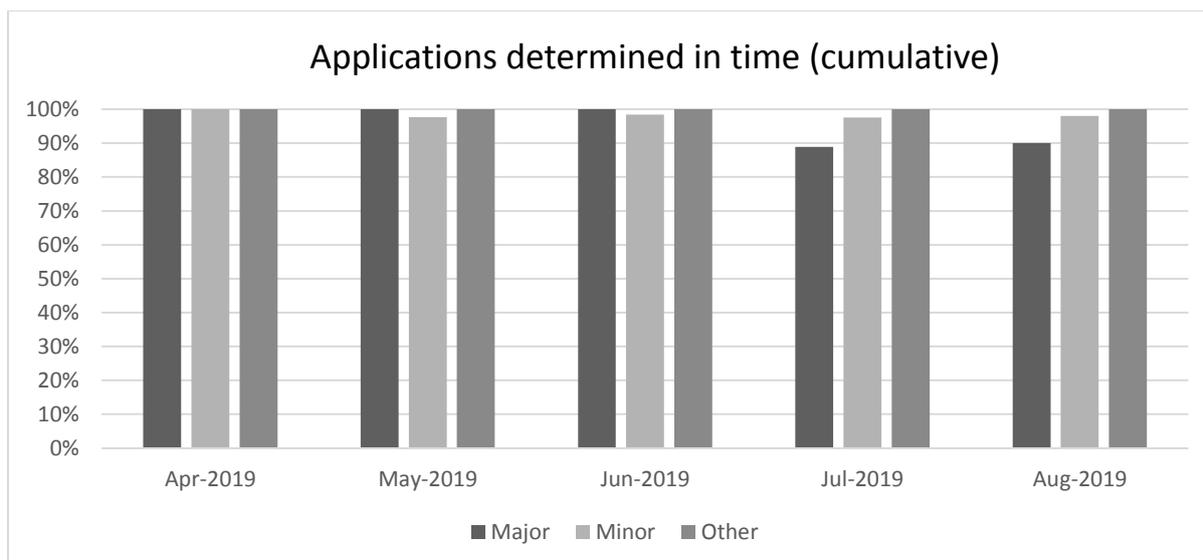
Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 8 October 2019
Subject: Chairs report for Planning and Licensing Committee	Wards Affected: All
Committee Chair: Cllr Olivia Sanders	
Report of: Caroline McCaffrey – Development Management Team Leader (Planning) Paul Adams – Principal Licensing Officer	Public
Report Author: Name: Caroline McCaffrey - Development Management Team Leader (Planning) Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: caroline.mccaffrey@brentwood.gov.uk Name: Paul Adams - Principal Licensing Officer Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: paul.adams@brentwood.gov.uk	For Note

Development Management

The total number of all applications (including conditions discharge etc) received between April and August was 15% lower than the same time last year and the narrower measure of applications (FUL, LBC etc) was 11% down on last year (see chart below).



The percentage of planning applications decided within time remains at around the highest levels recorded for the department (see chart below). This performance is close to the highest figures achieved across the country.



As well as monitoring the speed of determinations, the Secretary of State also operates a 'quality' assessment of decisions – effectively an appeal decision failure rate. The rate of 'lost' appeals remains very low and comfortably below national limits – for both Major and non Major developments. Officers continue to focus on ensuring this is the case as those planning authorities that exceed the maximum rates risk losing control over determining future applications and possible intervention by the Secretary of State to raise performance. There is no danger of that occurring in Brentwood although this requires ongoing vigilance.

There are an increasing number of larger developments coming forward as pre application discussions and applications, with more to come in relation to the emerging local development plan. This is partly the reason that planning income is above target, though pre app fees and charges are being reviewed with regard to the appropriate level of resources required for the mix of proposals coming forward. The team is using 'Design Review' panels, successfully used elsewhere and advocated in the NPPF, during the pre app process to raise the quality of these larger developments.

The Development Management team is currently recruiting replacement and additional staff. Two officers are entering the final year of a two years Masters course in Planning, another officer is starting the second year of the day release planning degree course and a fourth is beginning the second year of a planning apprenticeship BTEC course. Planning agent's at a recent forum provided positive feedback with regard to how the team operates.

Licensing

The licensing Committee members have received comprehensive training in all aspects of licensing from a leading licensing Barrister. The Licensing Sub-Committee has been busy with hearings for applications under the Licensing Act 2003 and Taxi related matters, with the appeal against the decision to revoke the licence for The

Raj, for immigration employment offences, will be heard mid October by the Magistrates Court.

The full committee has considered the situation with the significant presence of Uber in the Borough, and have written to Uber asking them to apply with Brentwood or withdraw. They have also considered the response from Uber and are writing again to them to clarify the committees position. Officers are continuing to work with TFL compliance teams on enforcement around the borough for both Brentwood and TFL taxi's.