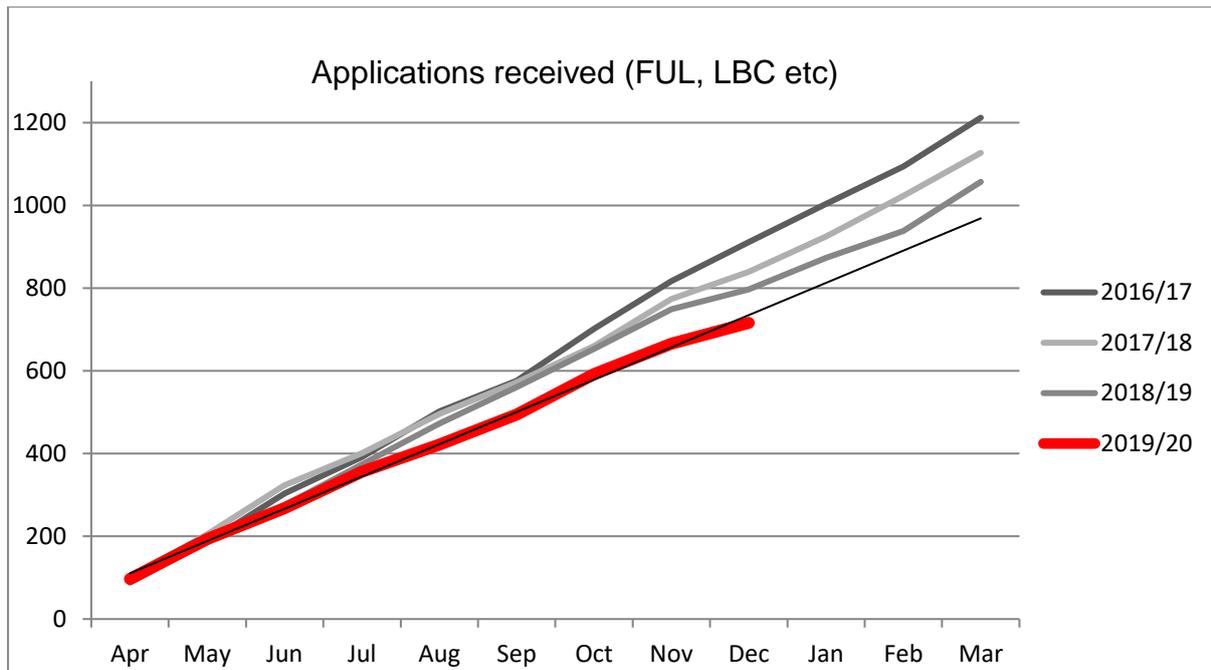


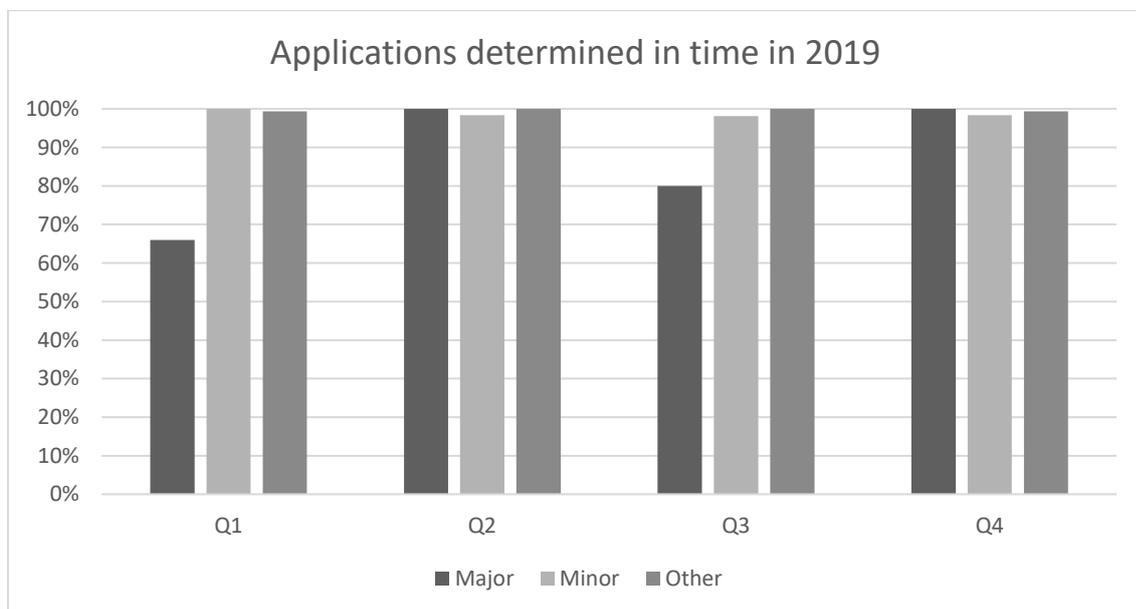
Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 22 January 2020
Subject: Chairs report for Planning and Licensing Committee Committee Chair: Cllr Olivia Sanders	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Caroline McCaffrey – Development Management Team Leader (Planning) Phil Drane – Director of Strategic Planning Paul Adams – Principal Licensing Officer	Public
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Development Management

The reduction in the total number of all applications (including conditions discharge etc) received between April and December has reduced slightly to 14% less than the same time last year and the reduction in the narrower measure of applications (FUL, LBC etc) has dropped slightly to 10% down on the same period 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 remains close to the highest figures achieved across the country.



As well as monitoring the speed of determination applications, 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. Overall about four out of five appeals since April have been dismissed.

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 level of resources appropriate for the complexity of proposals coming forward.

The Development Management team recently promoted two planning assistants to planning officer posts following a competitive recruitment process. These internal candidates were particularly impressive against the external candidates.

Planning Policy

The Local Development Plan is progressing towards submission later this month, further details are provided under the Chairs report for Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee.

Planning & Licensing Committee approved consultation on the Essex Coast Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS), proposed to eventually be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document by the local authorities involved. A small area of Brentwood Borough is affected (North of Ingatestone). The work aims to deliver the mitigation necessary to avoid significant adverse effects from 'in-combination' impacts of residential development that is anticipated across Essex; thus protecting the Habitats (European) sites on the Essex coast from adverse effects, i.e. people visiting the coast. Consultation is underway and ends on 21 February 2020.

The Committee also approved responses to two consultations recently - the latest proposals from Highways England at M25 junction 28; and the Castle Point Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Licensing

The Licensing sub committees have been busy with both applications under the Licensing Act 2003 and applications and disciplinary matters relating to taxi drivers and operators. The appeal in relation to the revocation of the licence at a restaurant due to the employment of illegal workers has been concluded with the courts upholding the decision to revoke the licence.

We are still awaiting the revised guidance on taxi licensing following government consultation, which will feed down into a review of local policy once it is received.

The refusal of Uber's London Operators licence is being closely monitored and will be considered again by the committee where necessary.