

AGENDA ITEM 7: QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE AND RESPONSES: FULL COUNCIL – 10 DECEMBER 2020

QUESTION:

Councillor Morton to the Executive Member for Customer Engagement & Member Champion for Breckland Sustainability Strategy:

Can the Cabinet member for Sustainability confirm that an application for funding under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme, which closes on 4th December, was made?

Monthly electricity consumption figures show that unmetered street lighting accounts for over a third of our annual usage at 593721? KWh for year ending March 2020. It is encouraging to see the March 2020 figure of 42664 is 12000 down on the previous year. Can the member for Climate Change confirm if this is expected to continue and what has contributed to this dramatic reduction of 22%?

RESPONSE:

I can confirm that the Council is part of a countywide application which is being made to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

In relation to metered street lighting, the council has been undertaking an ongoing programme of work to replace its end-of-life street lights with more energy efficient LED units. This is attributing to the reduction that you are seeing and is likely to contribute to a further reduction, however, at some point this will plateau once the replacement programme is concluded.

QUESTION:

Councillor Wickerson to the Executive Member of Planning:

Firstly, thanks to Simon Wood for responding to my Question without Notice from the last Full Council meeting, which in itself was helpful but did generate further questions which I hope can be answered in writing accordingly.

Can we please see a comparative report showing similar figures for the past 10 years to enable a full picture of the historic extent of Planning Enforcement workload?

In addition, it would be helpful to understand how many of the “closed” cases related to genuine Enforcement issues which required full Officer time as opposed to those that were immediately “closed” as not genuinely falling under the auspices of Planning Enforcement.

RESPONSE:

The figures requested are attached (below). They date from 2012 in terms of the total number of cases closed each year. From 2014 these are broken down to identify the reason why a case has been closed.

In order to establish how many of the “closed cases related to genuine Enforcement issues which required full Officer time as opposed to those that were immediately “closed” as not genuinely falling under the auspices of Planning Enforcement” would involve going into each case and establishing the sequence of events and nature of each one. This would run to nearly 4000 cases and would take several days.

QUESTION:**Councillor Birt to the Executive Member for Customer Engagement & Member Champion for Breckland Sustainability Strategy:**

After some difficulty and delay I have now received the electricity consumption figures which formed the answer to my question raised at the 24 September meeting. These figures are a useful measure to help show our progress in reducing our climate impact. It has been agreed that I will receive regular updates and I suggest these be more widely disclosed to Members and Residents via our website.

This measure is an important 'Key Performance Indicator' but is only a start.

1. What other KPIs will we be able to use?
2. Will data from these KPIs be made available immediately, even if it is provisional or incomplete?

RESPONSE:

As part of this programme of work we will develop a set of indicators that will measure the success of the work that is being undertaken. As the Council's strategy and initial programme of work is not due to be agreed until January it is a little premature to set out how we intend to measure the success of our interventions. We will look to deliver a number of high-level measures or performance indicators that will monitor how the benefits identified are being realised after this, these will form part of the Council's performance reporting arrangements already in place that are regularly reported quarterly to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.

QUESTION:**Cllr Birt to Executive Member for Planning:**

I would have liked to have asked this question of the Local Plan Working Group; however, they have not met for many months so that has not been possible.

Referring to the Breckland Local Plan, Local Development Scheme (LDS) section 2.3; it states we must keep the LDS under review and the LDS will be monitored on an annual basis, part of which includes a Monitoring Report.

It has been a year since we adopted the Local Plan, so a Monitoring Report is due. Please would the Executive Member for Planning give us a summary of its findings and release the Monitoring Report for inspection.

RESPONSE:

In the last 2 quarters of 2018/ 2019 the Council concentrated its resources on securing the adoption of the Breckland Local Plan which was achieved in November 2019. Monitoring work for 2019/2020 has been delayed mainly due to the pandemic. The housing monitoring has recently been completed and a Five-Year Housing Supply Statement has been produced. This would normally take around 3-4 months to finalise but was done in less than 6 weeks from start to finish.

The annual monitoring for employment and town centres for the year ending 2020 is undertaken by Norfolk County Council and was not undertaken due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic. There is no indication yet as to when they will resume.

It is hoped to produce short Annual monitoring reports for both 2018/ 2019 and 2019/2020 in the next quarter subject to site visits taking place.

Planning Enforcement stats 2012 to 2020 (partial year)

2020 (up to 01/12)

Number of cases received **391**

Cases Closed **363**

De minimis 1

No Breach Established 209

Not Expedient 2

Notice Issued/Complied with 1

Plan App Validated 45

Permitted Development 25

Refer another service 27

Remedied Informal 42

Use/Op Dev. Lawful 3

2019

Number of Cases received **386**

Cases closed **388**

Condition Discharged 1

De minimis 1

No Breach Established 197

Not Expedient 41

Notice Issued/Complied with 7

Plan App Validated 55

Permitted Development 13

Refer another service 36

Remedied Informal 23

2018

Number of Cases received **332**

Cases closed **329**

Condition Discharged 1

De minimis 4

No Breach Established 132

Not Expedient 35

Notice Issued/Complied with 4

Plan App Validated 47

Permitted Development 27

Refer another service 29

Remedied Informal 38

Use/Op Dev. Lawful 4

2017

Number of Cases received **359**

Cases closed **350**

De minimis 4
No Breach Established 130
Not Expedient 42
Notice Issued/Complied with 6
Plan App Validated 54
Permitted Development 33
Refer another service 24
Remedied Informal 45
Use/Op Dev. Lawful 5

2016

Number of Cases received **377**

Cases closed **384**

Condition Discharged 1
De minimis 8
No Breach Established 135
Not Expedient 32
Notice Issued/Complied with 6
Plan App Validated 56
Permitted Development 50
Refer another service 18
Remedied Informal 52
Use/Op Dev. Lawful 12

2015

Number of Cases received **340**

Cases closed **360**

Condition Discharged 9
De minimis 2
No Breach Established 75
Case Complete/Closed 3
Not Expedient 25
Notice Issued/Complied with 8
Plan App Validated 54
Permitted Development 62
Refer another service 41
Remedied Informal 73
Use/Op Dev. Lawful 4

2014

Number of Cases received **435**

Cases closed **478**

No Breach Established 15

Case Complete/Closed 410

Not Expedient 6

Notice Issued/Complied with 1

Plan App Validated 4

Permitted Development 8

Refer another service 7

Remedied Informal 11

New Ocella system implemented during 2013 by Chris Curtis and Laura Steward with new reports. Cases prior to 2014 have limited information.

2013

Number of Cases received = **413**

Cases closed **136**

2012

Number of Cases received = **530**

No record of number closed. Although during 2013 Chris Curtis purged the live cases and reduced live numbers.