



| <b>Report of:</b>   | <b>Meeting</b> | <b>Date</b>     |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| Councillor Richard Rendell,<br>Chair of the Planning<br>Committee | Council        | 25 January 2024 |

## **Planning Committee: Periodic Report for 2023**

### **1. Purpose of report**

**1.1** To enable myself as Chair of Planning Committee to inform the Council of the current position on issues being dealt with by the Planning Committee.

### **2. Council priorities**

**2.1** Innovative and customer focused, deliver high quality, value for money services that meet the needs of our customers.

### **3. Recommendation**

**3.1** That Council note the report and the work of the Planning Committee.

### **4. Background**

**4.1** Annually the Chair of the Planning Committee provides an update report to Council on the work of the Planning Committee and the wider context of the council's Planning Service.

### **5. Key issues and proposals**

**5.1** Whilst most planning applications are decided under delegated powers, applications of most strategic or local significance or which are or most likely to be controversial are brought to the Planning Committee for a decision as well as those which have been subject to a request in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation. Over the year from 1 December 2022 to 1 December 2023, approx. 97% of all applications have been decided under delegated powers.

**5.2** Between 1 December 2022 and 1 December 2023, a total of 1,125 applications of all types were received (of which 27 were defined as 'major' developments). 90 applications were withdrawn or returned. For

the same period over the previous year 1,201 applications of all types were submitted (33 of which were 'major' developments).

- 5.3** Between 1 December 2022 and 1 December 2023 there have been 10 meetings of the Planning Committee which in total have considered 28 applications. Of those 28 applications, 19 (68%) were subject to a member request under the provisions of the Scheme of Delegation, although it is considered that some of these could have been brought to the Committee in any event owing to their strategic nature or by reason of their planning history. Of all the applications determined by the Planning Committee, one was granted planning permission contrary to the recommendation of the Head of Planning and Regeneration and 2 were refused contrary to the recommendation of the Head of Planning and Regeneration.
- 5.4** Between 1 December 2022 and 1 December 2023, a total of 15 appeals were decided. Of those 15, 7 appeals (47%) were allowed and 8 appeals were dismissed. The Government monitors the performance of local planning authorities across a number of measures. In relation to appeals, the proportion of decisions on applications that are subsequently overturned at appeal should be no higher than 10% over a two year period. Wyre Council are not currently at risk of breaching this rule.
- 5.5** Since May 2023 there have been a number of changes to key documents such as the Council's Scheme of Delegation as it related to the call-in procedures and the 'Local Code of Good Practice for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process'. Following the local elections in May 2023 the Planning Committee has gone through a considerable change of membership. I was elected Chairman and Lady Dulcie Atkins was elected as my deputy with five new members from a committee of 12. There has been a considerable learning and development requirement, with training provided for new and returning committee members.

## **6. Alternative options considered and rejected**

- 6.1** No alternatives considered.

| <b>Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications</b> |  |
|---|--|
| Finance   | No financial implications arising from this report.      |
| Legal   | No legal implications arising from this report.          |
| Climate Change  | No climate change implications arising from this report. |

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There

are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

| risks/implications     | ✓ / x |
|------------------------|-------|
| community safety       | x     |
| equality and diversity | x     |
| health and safety      | x     |

| risks/implications | ✓ / x |
|--------------------|-------|
| asset management   | x     |
| ICT                | x     |
| data protection    | x     |

### Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

| report author | telephone no. | email  | date       |
|---------------|---------------|--|------------|
| Steve Smith   | 01253 887243  | <a href="mailto:steve.smith@wyre.gov.uk">steve.smith@wyre.gov.uk</a> | 08/12/2023 |

| List of background papers: |      |                                |
|----------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| name of document           | date | where available for inspection |
| None                       |      |                                |

### List of appendices

None