

# **PLANNING PERFORMANCE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 16 February 2021  
(7:15 - 8:28 pm)

**Present:** Cllr Muhammad Saleem (Chair), Cllr John Dulwich (Deputy Chair), Cllr Sanchia Alasia and Cllr Faruk Choudhury

## **1. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

## **2. Review of Planning Decisions**

The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to consider and report back to the Planning Committee on an annual basis of a random sample selected by himself and the Deputy Chair of twenty delegated planning decisions, taken from the total number of those decisions between 1 July 2020 and 31 January 2021 as detailed in Appendix 3 to the covering report.

In doing so the Sub-Committee examined and evaluated a number of them to assess whether the relevant planning policies and criteria had been applied correctly in each case, as well as reviewing planning appeal performance and scrutinising those decisions which had been overturned as detailed in Appendix 2. The sample date period had been chosen so as to establish an accurate benchmark of performance having regard to the new Planning team, new software as well as new ways of working.

The Deputy Chief Planning Officer presented the report providing an overview of all decisions taken within the period which showed that when considered against latest MHCLG quarterly performance figures produced for all 342 local authorities in England, LBBDD were placed joint 1<sup>st</sup> both nationally and in London and 54<sup>th</sup> nationally and 3<sup>rd</sup> in London respectively for taking major and non-major development decisions 'within time'. Although there are no national benchmarking indicators for certificates of lawful development and prior notifications, the performance levels of determination 'within time' for both were 99.7% and 100% respectively. The overall position indicated that the Borough's performance was now on a significant upturn.

The report included a breakdown within the date period of approvals/refusals across various application types, and in that respect commentary around household applications, and reasons as to why approvals (59%) were significantly lower than neighbouring authorities.

Appendix 1 contained a bundle of the twenty delegated planning decisions which included an overview title page, key drawings, the officer delegated report and decision notice. Members accordingly selected a sample number of these decisions which the Deputy Chief Planner then summarised the background and decision taken on each, and to which the Sub-Committee were satisfied that the relevant planning policies and criteria had been applied correctly in each case.

A full report detailing the Sub Committee findings from the evaluation will be presented to the Planning Committee for noting in April 2021.

