

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Note: Planning Development Management Performance – Cabinet Discussions/Recommendations

Purpose of the briefing note: To update the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&S) Committee on the Cabinet discussions and recommendations regarding the Planning Development Management Performance report.

- 1.1 The Planning Development Management Performance report was presented to Cabinet on 12th February 2025. This briefing note summarises the discussion and recommendations of Cabinet, so Place O&S Members can consider their views at the Place O&S meeting on 20th March 2025.
- 1.2 Cabinet made the following points:
 - a. Councillor L Watson introduced the report and commented that it contained a comprehensive review of the Planning team's management and achievements since 2015. The motion approved for comprehensive review is a commitment to continuous improvement. Councillor L Watson stated that the Power BI Dashboard had increased transparency.
 - b. Councillor Morris-Cook stated that she was surprised to note the amount of decisions made by the Conservatives against officers recommendations that impacted the green belt. Councillor Morris-Cook also noted that one particular developer came up repeatedly. Councillor Morris-Cook highlighted that the report showed complete transparency.
 - c. Councillor L Watson commented that the Planning Committee have been great this year and have received lots of training.

- 1.3 Cabinet agreed the recommendations as follows:

'2.1 Cabinet noted the findings of the report on the performance of Thurrock Council's Planning Department, covering the period from 2015 up until November 2024, including the analysis of applications received, those dealt with by delegation, those progressed to committee, and those passed or rejected contrary to officer recommendations.

2.2 Cabinet noted the contents of the raw data contained in Appendix A.

2.3 Cabinet agreed the contents of this report as a response to the motion set out at paragraph 2.1 of this report.'

For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:

Name: Lucy Smith

E-mail: lucy.smith@thurrock.gov.uk