

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE 2023-2024

National Performance Monitoring

The performance of local planning authorities in determining major and non-major development is assessed and published on a quarterly basis by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The assessment of performance is judged against two measures:

1. the speed with which applications are dealt with
 - measured by the proportion of applications that are dealt with within the statutory time (13 weeks for major planning applications, 8 weeks for all others) or an agreed extended period; and,
2. the quality of decisions made by local planning authorities
 - measured by the proportion of decisions on applications that are subsequently overturned at appeal.

Where an authority is designated as underperforming against the criteria, applicants have the option of submitting their applications for major and non-major development directly to the Planning Inspectorate.

The current thresholds for designation are as follows:

Speed of major Development	60% of applications to be determined in time/within agreed extended period
Speed of non-major Development	70% of applications to be determined in time/within agreed extended period
Quality of major Development	No more than 10% of total number of decisions made being overturned at appeal
Quality of non-major Development	

(Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-planning-performance-criteria-for-designation>)

Speed of Decisions:

The table below sets out the performance of each Hertfordshire Local Planning Authority against this measure, both for major and non-major developments – ie the proportion of applications determined within the statutory period or within an extension agreed with the applicant.

Major			Non-Major		
	%	Volume		%	Volume
Hertsmere	94.7%	36/38	Three Rivers	97.7%	1711/1752
Three Rivers	92.0%	26/28	Watford	96.4%	1115/1157
<i>England Average</i>	<i>87.7%</i>		Hertsmere	94.8%	1559/1644
Stevenage	87.1%	27/31	Welwyn-Hatfield	93.5%	1430/1529
Welwyn-Hatfield	86.4%	38/44	North Herts	93.1%	1913/2055
North Herts	83.3%	45/54	Stevenage	90.2%	596/661
Broxbourne	81.1%	37/42	<i>England Average</i>	<i>86.8%</i>	
St Albans	80.4%	45/56	Broxbourne	85.9%	965/1124
Dacorum	75.6%	31/41	East Herts	78.7%	2251/2859
Watford	73.7%	14/19	Dacorum	75.7%	1693/2236
East Herts	71.6%	53/74	St Albans	68.2%	2106/3089

(Source: Tables P151a and P153 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>. Updated April 2024 with data for the period January 2022 to December 2023)

The Development Management section currently has three internal performance indicators relating to the speed of decision making, and on average over the past five years has determined at least 90% of all applications within their determination period or any extension to this period agreed with the applicant.

Quality of Decisions:

The table below sets out the performance of each Hertfordshire Local Planning Authority against this measure – ie the proportion an authority's total number of planning decisions being overturned at appeal.

Major			Non-major		
	%	Volume		%	Volume
Stevenage	0%	0/27	North Herts	0.4%	10/2350
Dacorum	0%	0/36	Stevenage	0.5%	4/768
St Albans	1.4%	1/69	Broxbourne	0.5%	6/1214
North Herts	1.9%	1/53	St Albans	0.8%	33/3899
<i>England Average</i>	<i>2.3%</i>		<i>England Average</i>	<i>0.9%</i>	
East Herts	3%	2/66	Dacorum	1.0%	28/2684
Hertsmere	4.4%	2/45	Hertsmere	1.1%	21/1891
Welwyn-Hatfield	4.5%	2/44	Three Rivers	1.2%	25/2016
Watford	5.3%	1/19	Welwyn-Hatfield	1.4%	26/1811
Broxbourne	6.8%	3/44	East Herts	1.8%	55/3058
Three Rivers	17.2%	5/29*	Watford	2.0%	27/1325

(Source: Tables P152a and P154 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>. Updated April 2024 with data for the period April 2021 to March 2023)

*TRDC have disputed these figures with DLUHC, as TRDC have classified one of the appeals as non-major. This would change our performance to 13.8%.

DLUC are in correspondence with TRDC in respect of our performance against the major appeals measure, and confirmed in May 2024 that we would not be Designated at this time but are being monitored.

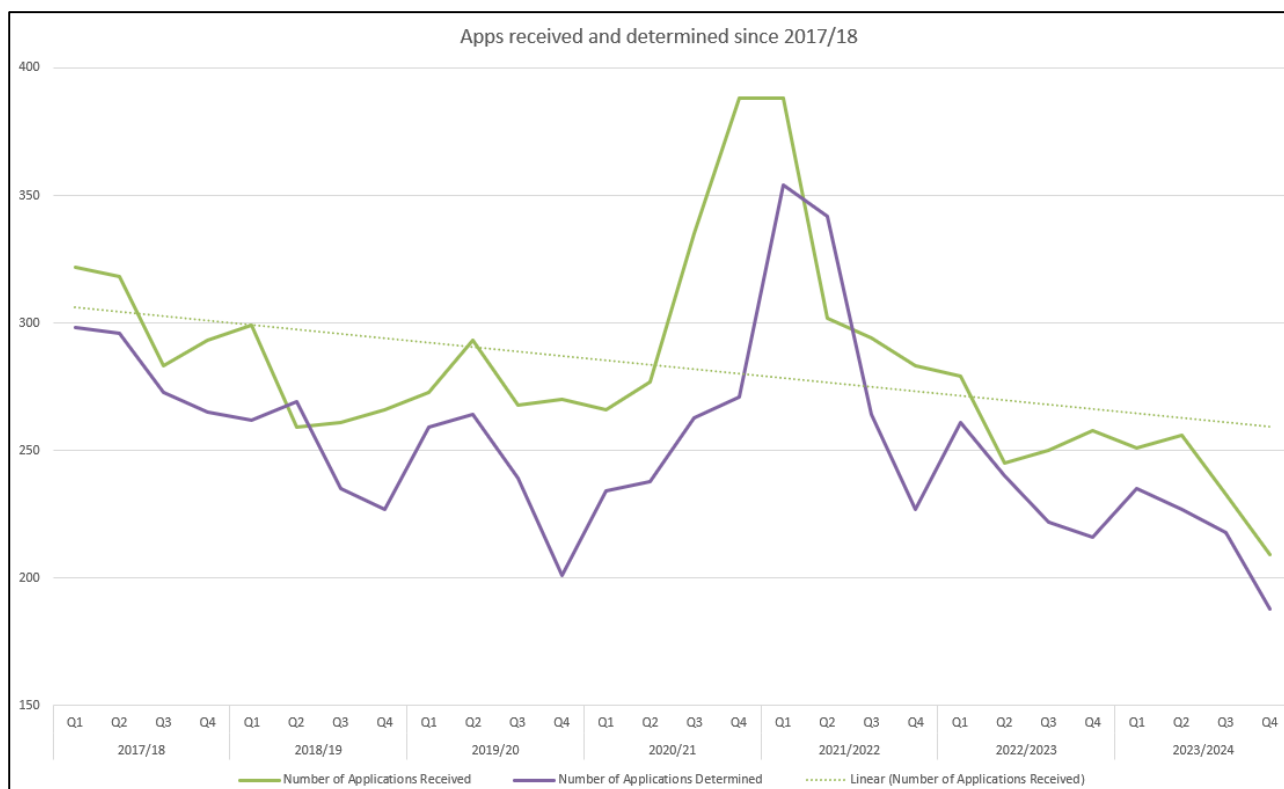
The Development Management section has two internal performance indicators relating to appeals. One of these matches the above. The second reviews the proportion of appeals which are allowed. On average over the last 5 years 36% of all appeals have been allowed.

Other National Reporting

In addition to the above, TRDC reports on a quarterly basis to DLUHC statistics relating to the number of planning applications processed.

The graph below shows the number of applications received and determined by quarter for the past six years, from Q1 2017 up to Q4 2023/2024. This shows the change in work volumes following the onset of the Covid Pandemic and the first national lockdown in Q1 2020/21.

Planning Officer numbers have remained stable in the last few years and the department have recruited a Validation Officer to support the technical aspects of validating planning applications.



On average 78% of planning applications received relate to alterations or extensions to individual houses.

On average 94% of planning applications are determined under delegated powers, with the remainder being reported to Planning Committee.

The graph above does not include lawful development certificates, non-material amendments, discharge of condition or prior approval applications. These amount to an additional 100 applications per quarter on average.

Our performance against internal performance indicators is reported via the committee process on a quarterly basis.

In addition, we offer a paid-for [pre-application advice](#) service and currently deal with on average 150 pre-application requests per year, relating to developments ranging from domestic extensions to large scale housing developments. Users can obtain detailed written assessments and feedback on their schemes, are able to request a meeting, and can pay for additional follow-up written advice on minor changes to their schemes.