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## UPDATE ON APPEAL DECISIONS

To: **Planning Committee – 17 June 2015**

By: **Planning Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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**Summary:** This report advises Members on the planning appeals that were decided during the period from April 2014 to March 2015 (inclusive), including the decision of each appeal.

### For Information

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 Applicants for planning permission have the right of appeal when the council refuses planning permission or when the council has failed to decide an application within the statutory time period which, in most cases, is 8 weeks or in the case of major applications 13 weeks.

#### **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 The annex to this report lists each of the applications that were decided at appeal between the months of April 2014 and March 2015 (inclusive). The annex identifies the site, proposal as well as the outcome of the appeal.

2.2 The number of appeals decided over the period was **38**.

2.3 The Council has been successful in defending the majority of appeals for the period.

2.4 The figure for the appeals that were allowed is 31.5% which falls just short of the 30% target that we aim to achieve.

#### **3.0 Options**

3.1 Members note the report

#### **4.0 Corporate Implications**

##### **4.1 Financial**

4.1.1 None relating to this report. Appeals are generally dealt with by Planning Officers and the cost absorbed within the cost of the service. In the case of Public Inquiries and occasionally hearings legal assistance will be necessary and this incurs additional costs. Furthermore, the Council can be liable to claims for costs at appeal when, for example, it is judged by the Planning Inspector that the council has acted unreasonably.

##### **4.2 Legal**

4.2.1 None

### **4.3 Corporate**

4.3.1 The Corporate target for appeals is for no more than 30% to be allowed. The current position for the period referred to in this report is 31.5% of appeals have been allowed and as such we have fallen just short of the target.

### **4.4 Equity and Equalities**

4.4.1 There are no equity or equality issues directly in relation to this report. However, in general the Planning Applications section is carrying out monitoring of planning applicants and agents in order to help us to understand the diversity of our customers and to help us to ensure that service we provide takes account of the needs of our customers.

### **5.0 Recommendation(s)**

5.1 Planning Committee note this report

Contact Officer: Simon Thomas – Planning Manager

### **Appendices**

Annex 1 Appeals Decided between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015