

Report To:	PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date:	22 MARCH 2023
Heading:	UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS
Executive Lead Member:	COUNCILLOR SARAH MADIGAN, EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of current government consultations

Recommendation(s)

To Note the proposed potential changes.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To bring to Members attention the current consultations.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

N/A

Detailed Information

The Consultation indicates an uplift of Planning Fees which includes 35% for majors and 25% on minor and other types of application with any additional funds raised by the proposed fee increases to be ring fenced for use by local authority planning teams. This is intended to be performance related. The consultation asks for views on the use of a range of proposed new quantitative metrics, which include:

- The average time taken to validate applications;
- The number of extension of time agreements;
- The average number of weeks taken to respond to suspected planning breaches;

- The proportion of open planning enforcement cases that are over six months old;
- The percentage of delegated and committee decisions;
- The percentage of committee decisions to refuse permission against the advice of officers that are subsequently allowed at appeal.
- introduce a prior approval fee for the permitted development right allowing the Crown to develop sites within the perimeter of a closed defence site
- build planning capacity and capability within local authorities, including challenges in recruitment and retention, and how these can be addressed
- reduce the Planning Guarantee from 26 weeks to 16 weeks for non-major applications
- improve the quality of the local authority planning service by monitoring more performance measures.

The consultation is available to view at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/increasing-planning-fees-and-performance-technical-consultation>

The deadline for comments to be submitted is by 25 April 2023 any comments you wish us to consider and raise should be forwarded by 10 April 2023

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Reporting these potential changes since they may have an impact on the service. At a future date.

Legal:

There are no Legal issues arising from this report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk: N/A

Risk	Mitigation
N/A	N/A

Human Resources:

No implications

Environmental/Sustainability

None

Equalities:

None

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

(if applicable) N/A

Reason(s) for Exemption

(if applicable) N/A

Background Papers

(if applicable) None

Report Author and Contact Officer

Mick Morley

Development Team Manager

01623 457538

mick.morley@ashfield.gov.uk

Robert Docherty

Executive Director - Place