

## Turnaround in planning performance

Following our intensive efforts to improve our planning performance, we're pleased to announce that The Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Rachel Maclean MP, will not designate our council for its planning performance on non-major applications.

She has reviewed the actions we've taken to improve our planning performance and wishes to support this improvement. The minister also recognises that designation would undermine the progress our planning team has made.

For the last reported quarter (April to June 2023) our performance on non majors was at 82% within time. This is well above the government's quarterly target of 70%. Our planning team has worked hard to speed up decision-making for applications on non-major development. Our performance has been above 70% for the past three quarters. The returns we've submitted to The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for this quarter (July to October) are also well above 70%.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Julia McShane said:

"This is the right outcome given the enormous effort made and the progress achieved by our planning team."

Lead Councillor for Planning, Environment and Climate Change, George Potter, said:

"My thanks go to the entire planning team for this impressive turnaround, which is down to their hard work and dedication. There is still significant work to do to maintain and better our improved performance, but we can take pride in the remarkable progress we've made under very challenging circumstances."

DLUHC will continue to monitor our performance. We will stay focussed on improving the service that local people and applicants expect from us.

