

KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
11 OCTOBER 2005
REGULATORY COMMITTEE 13 OCTOBER 2005

Annual monitor of member decisions

Report by Ted Howles, Planning Services Manager

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to provide members with information on the number of officer recommendations that were overturned by the Regulatory Committee in the last financial year and to consider the performance rate where refusals have been the subject of appeal.
- 1.2 The report also considers the recommendations agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting of 12 July 2005. These were as follows:
 - 1) The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board would continue to monitor the number of planning overturns.
 - 2) The Planning Services Manager to arrange post application site inspections to assess decisions made.
 - 3) Members be encouraged to consult with relevant officers about individual applications.
 - 4) The new training arrangements continue with all members.
 - 5) The Planning Services Manager presents an annual report to the Regulatory Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board each October on the above.

2. RESOURCE AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 No direct financial or staffing implications result from this report.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

4. OVERTURNS

Regulatory Committee Overturns

Year	Applications	Overturns Allowed	Overturns Refused	Overturns %	Appealed	Allowed %	Notes
Total 02/03	189	8	21	15%	14	79%	
Total 03/04	177	10	11	12%	11	64%	
Total 04/05	175	10	12	13%	8	50%	2 Awaited
05/06 1/2	76	2	1	4%	0	0%	1/2 year
Govt target						<25%	

- 4.1 The table above shows the committee overturns for the last three financial years and the first 6 months of the current financial year. This shows a clear trend for fewer overturns and an improved performance at appeal. It is too early to see the performance on appeal for this financial year but the indications are that the committee will be within the government's target of less than 25%.

5. POST APPLICATION SITE VISITS

- 5.1 No site visits have been made yet. It is suggested that the Regulatory Committee visit the following sites that were member overturns allowed on appeal; plus any other sites in this category suggested by members. Arrangements will be made for members to visit these sites as a group on a convenient day.

Sempringham Malborough – demolition of house and replacement flats
Salisbury Road Malborough – demolition of bungalow and replacement flats

6. CONSULTATION WITH OFFICERS

- 6.1 Consultation with officers has increased and members are becoming more involved in discussing applications with planning officers. This is improving member's understanding of the planning issues involved and therefore improving decision making at committee.

7. TRAINING

- 7.1.1 Two training sessions were held before the regulatory committee meetings in September and November 2004. These were considered to be useful sessions and therefore members will be asked to suggest topics for two similar sessions to be held during November and December this year.

8. ANNUAL REPORT

- 8.1 This report is the annual report for 2005. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to note its contents and members of the Regulatory Committee are asked in addition to agree arrangements for a post decision site visits and suggest topics for the next round of member training.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That members note this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

REPORT AUTHOR

Ted Howles
Planning Services Manager