

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH & PROSPERITY
ORIGINATING SECTION: PLANNING SERVICE

REPORT TO: Planning & Highways Committee

DATE: 21st January 2016

TITLE: APPEALS DECISIONS MONITORING REPORT

WARDS: All **COUNCILLORS:** All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present Members with an update on the decided planning appeals by the Planning Inspectorate for the calendar year of 2015. The update was presented to the Cross Party Working Member Group at their meeting on the 15th December 2015.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 A list of all of the planning appeal decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate against Blackburn With Darwen's decisions for the calendar year of 2015 are listed in the attached table.
- 2.2 In total 24 appeals have been determined. 22 appeals were against delegated decisions, and 2 appeals against Committee decisions.
- Total number of appeals dismissed = 12 (50%)
 - Total number of appeals allowed = 11 (46%)
 - Total number of split decisions = 1
- 2.3 Of the 22 appeals against delegated decisions, 54% were dismissed and 41% allowed. The 2 appeals against Committee decisions related to the applications at No.24 Pleckgate Road, Blackburn (10/14/0201), and land adjacent to No.91 Harwood Street, Darwen (10/14/0885), both allowed by the Planning Inspector for reasons stated in the attached table.
- 2.4 It is noticeable that there has been an increase in the number of appeals allowed over the last 12 months, and this is by virtue of the Planning Inspectorate being more pragmatic in their decision making, particularly relating to commercial developments i.e. change of use, shop fronts, etc. There is more emphasis on the Government's pro-growth agenda, and the NPPF's principle of "presumption in favour of sustainable development". With regards to the appeals allowed by the Inspectorate, and the reasons provided, these have been duly considered in detail by officers, and have been incorporated in the

decision making culture as part of the Planning Service's Performance Improvement Plan, in order to reduce the number of appeals, and subsequently the number of appeals allowed.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the report is noted

4.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

4.1 Please refer to the application file references.

CONTACT OFFICER: Gavin Prescott, Planning Manager, ext 5694
DATE PREPARED: 6th January 2016