

‘Designation’

What is it? and how to recognise, measure and avoid it (PAS support)

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March 2018

www.pas.gov.uk

What is PAS?

- Funded by MHCLG to support English planning authorities

“[PAS] exists to support local planning authorities in providing effective and efficient planning services, to drive improvement in those services and to support the implementation of changes in the planning system”

- We also work directly with councils
 - Part of the Local Government family
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Overview

1. Performance – what get's measured?
 2. Punishment – what happens if we fail?
 3. Potential – tools to help manage performance
 4. PAS support
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PAS Support

- Quarterly monitoring of all councils' performance
 - Self help; monitoring toolkit ('crystal ball')
 - 'get ahead of designation' events
 - DM Challenge
 - Committee peer challenge
-

Does it work?

Speed (non majors):

- Engaged 80 councils.
- All 37 receiving an 'intervention' = +16%
- Rest receiving advice = +10%
- Average improvement across England +4%

Speed (Majors)

- Engaged 31 councils
 - All 20 receiving and 'intervention' = +20%
 - Rest receiving advice = +15%
 - Average improvement across England +5%
-

Performance in planning

'Tables' 151, 152, 153 – it's a numbers game

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Statistical data set

Live tables on planning application statistics

From: Department for Communities and Local Government
Part of: Planning applications statistics
Published: 10 November 2012
Last updated: 10 August 2017 [see all updates](#)

Department for Communities and Local Government

Draft to lie for forty days, during which period either House of Parliament may resolve that the criteria for designation should not be approved.

Improving planning performance

Criteria for designation (revised 2016)

November 2016
Department for Communities and Local Government

...but how good are your numbers????!!

Table P151a: District planning authorities' performance - speed of major development decisions
England, April 2015 to March 2017 ^P

Planning authority	ONS Code	April to June 2015					July to September 2015					October to December 2015				
		Major decisions	Major decisions within 13 weeks ¹	PPA, EoT or EIA decisions ²	PPA, EoT or EIA decisions within agreed time	Imputed blank/No t-yes	Major decisions	Major decisions within 13 weeks ¹	PPA, EoT or EIA decisions ²	PPA, EoT or EIA decisions within agreed time	Imputed blank/No t-yes	Major decisions	Major decisions within 13 weeks ¹	PPA, EoT or EIA decisions ²	PPA, EoT or EIA decisions within agreed time	In bla
Yorkshire Dales National Park	E26000012	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	
Exmoor National Park	E26000002	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Peak District National Park	E26000006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Gedling	E07000173	2	0	2	2	8	6	2	2	2	3	0	3	3	3	
Three Rivers	E07000102	2	1	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	5	4	1	1	1	
Rotherham	E08000018	9	5	4	4	13	6	7	7	7	14	11	3	3	3	
Bury	E08000002	1	0	1	1	11	4	7	7	7	8	4	4	4	4	
Coventry	E08000026	15	13	2	2	10	8	2	2	2	20	16	4	4	4	
Sedgemoor	E07000188	14	8	6	6	13	8	5	5	5	12	11	1	1	1	
Adur	E07000223	4	1	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	
Haringey	E09000014	4	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	4	1	3	3	3	
Kingston upon Thames	E09000021	3	2	1	1	6	1	5	5	5	6	2	4	4	4	

Explanatory Notes TableP151a TableP151b

Performance in planning

- Councils assessed separately against ‘speed’ & ‘quality’:
 - speed of determining major applications
 - quality of decisions for major applications
 - speed of determining non-major applications
 - quality of decisions for non-major development.
 - Majors = district and county matters
 - Councils send data into MHCLG each quarter
-

Performance thresholds (speed)

- Assessment period; 2 years Oct 15 – Sept 17
 - Calculation:
 - %age of total decisions made within target time (taking account of Planning Performance Agreements, Extensions of Time)
 - Designation:
 - Non-majors anything less than 70%
 - Majors anything less than 60%
-

Performance thresholds (quality)

- Assessment period; 2 years April 15 to March 17 (to allow a 9 month lag time for appeals to be heard)
 - Calculate:
 - Total decisions made (majors/non majors)
 - Divided by no. appeals lost
 - E.g. 50 decisions, 3 appeals lost = 6%
 - Designation:
 - Anything above 10%
 - Committee issue / majors
 - More difficult to fix than speed
-

What happens & when?

Speed

- Councils at risk notified December 2017
- Contacted again in January and given 'at least' 2 weeks to 'respond'
- Designation final decisions – 'early' 2018

Quality

- Councils at risk notified last week (March 2018)
 - Response required April 16 2018
 - Designation final decisions – June 2018??
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Council 'response'

- provide evidence:
 - to correct data errors
 - not war & peace, clear succinct, to the point
 - set out exceptional circumstances that:
 - affects the reasonableness of the conclusions drawn from the data
 - performance impacted for reasons that were beyond council's control
-

Council 'response'

The five pillars:

- Recognised the issue(s)
 - Reasons – not excuses
 - Addressing the issue(s)
 - Affect e.g. on recent performance
 - Sustainable improvement (why you won't see us again)
-

What does designation mean?

- Applicants can choose to make their application to the Secretary of State, PINS (Planning Inspectorate) will provide a credible application process for applicants.
 - Certain application types excluded e.g. householders, prior approvals
 - Applicant has no right to appeal (only JR)
-

PINS / Council – main points

- PINS process, councils provide local plan & procedural information & are a ‘consultee’
- PINS do pre-app, PPA, EoT, validate, site visit
- PINS do statutory consultation, council does notifications & non-stat consultation
- PINS issue decision
- Council monitors implementation
- Major / ‘contentious’ development will involve a Section 62A hearing



PAS Support

- Quarterly monitoring of all councils' performance
 - Self help; monitoring toolkit ('crystal ball')
 - 'get ahead of designation' events Initial support focus; get the numbers right (data audit); help create 'narratives' in response to DCLG notice of designation; direct support
 - DM Challenge
 - Committee peer challenge
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PAS 'Crystal Ball'

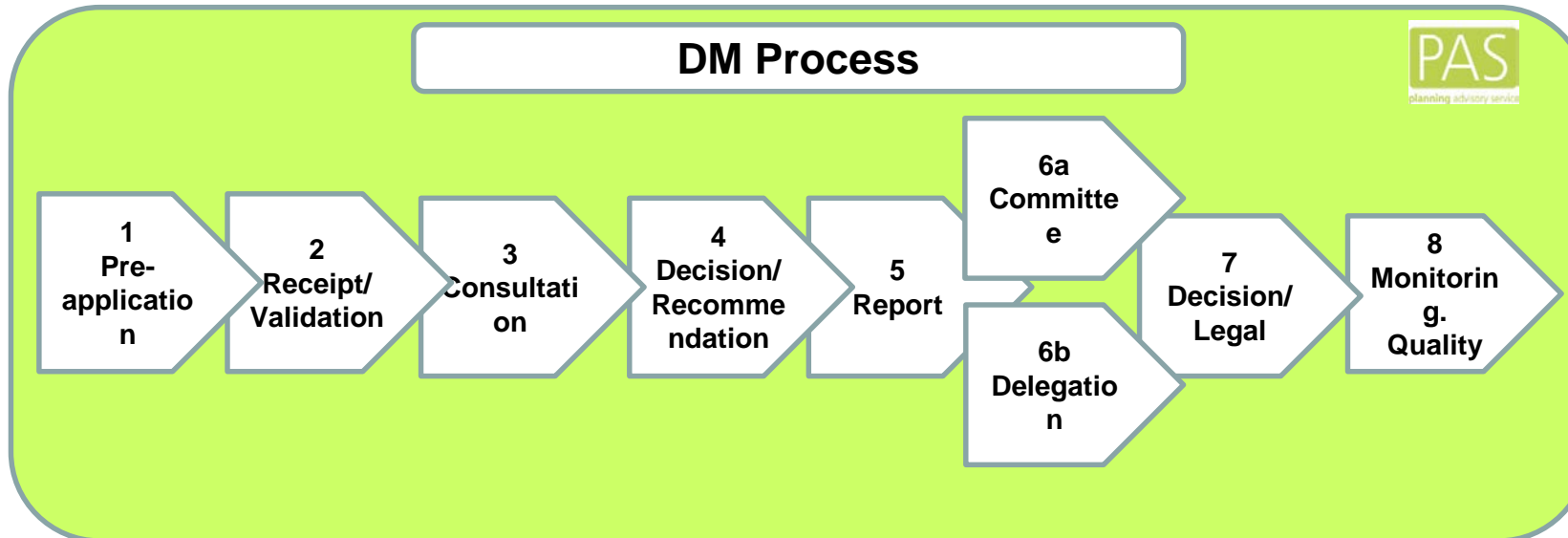
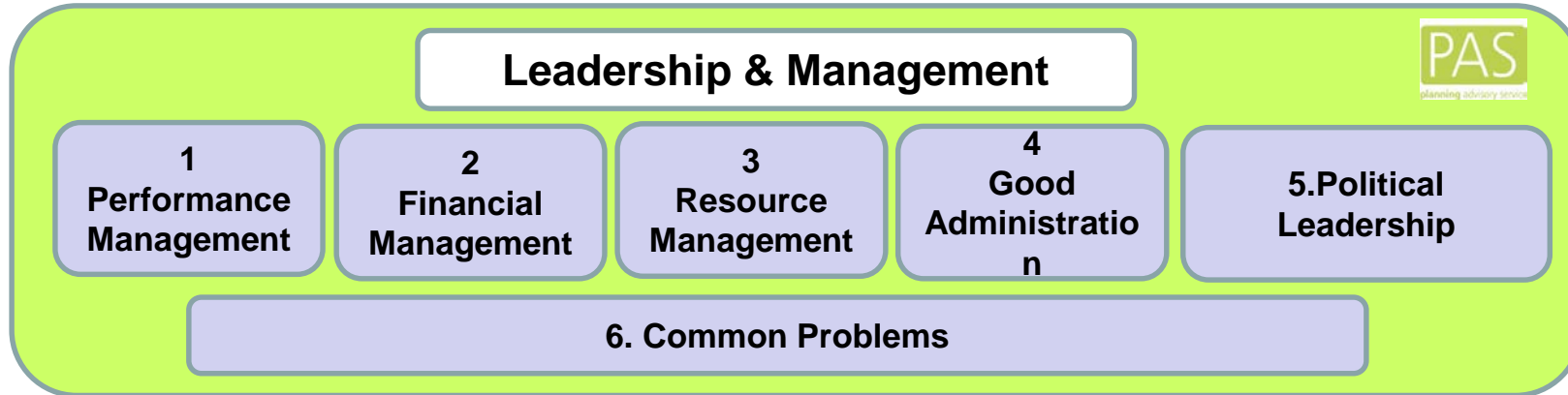
Council x		District matter Majors						Non-majors					
		All Major Decisions	Major Decisions within 13 weeks	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions in time	Out of time	Result	M&O Decisions	M&O Decisions within 8 weeks	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions in time	Out of time	Result
Quarter 01	Oct - Dec 2015	42	15	13	11	16	61.90%	348	169	3	3	176	49.43%
Quarter 02	Jan - Mar 2016	32	14	13	13	5	84.38%	350	199	28	28	123	64.86%
Quarter 03	Apr - Jun 2016	36	9	15	15	12	66.67%	349	181	45	45	123	64.76%
Quarter 04	Jul - Sep 2016	28	3	12	12	13	53.57%	329	153	82	82	94	71.43%
Quarter 05	Oct - Dec 2016												
Quarter 06	Jan - Mar 2017												
Quarter 07	Apr - Jun 2017												
Quarter 08	Jul - Sep 2017												
	total	138	41	53	51	46	66.67%	1376	702	158	158	516	62.50%
							Minimum level required 60.00%						Minimum level required 70.00%
Assessment is made late December 2017, for designation announcement early 2018													

PAS 'Crystal Ball'

		District matter Majors						Non-majors						
Council x		All Major Decisions	Major Decisions within 13 weeks	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions in time	Out of time	Result	M&O Decisions	M&O Decisions within 8 weeks	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions	PPA, EoT or EIA Decisions in time	Out of time	Result	
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Quarter 04	Jul - Sep 2016	28	3	12	12	13	53.57%	329	153	82	82	94	71.43%	
Quarter 05	Oct - Dec 2016	42	11	28	28	3	92.86%	365	164	122	122	79	78.36%	
Quarter 06	Jan - Mar 2017	32	3	23	23	6	81.25%	363	199	113	113	51	85.95%	
Quarter 07	Apr - Jun 2017	31	9	20	20	2	93.55%	415	241	107	107	67	83.86%	
Quarter 08	Jul - Sep 2017	37	12	23	23	2	94.59%	346	132	113	113	101	70.81%	
	total	280	76	147	145	59	78.93%	2865	1438	613	613	814	71.59%	
							Minimum level required	60.00%					Minimum level required	70.00%
Assessment is made late December 2017, for designation announcement early 2018														

PAS intervention

PAS 'DM Challenge' toolkit



PAS Support – DM Challenge

- DM Challenge Service Review Guide
- Structured: Leadership & Management, DM Process
- Structured: good practice ideas, series of questions and challenges
- *Councils to do the thinking themselves*
- Crib Sheet - capture thoughts, ideas, and questions

Move away from big process re-engineering consultancy projects...

...towards



- Identify key issues affecting performance
- Deliver on-site support with customer teams
- Focus on *immediate* actions for improvement



PAS Support

- **Committee challenge; people, process, protocols, appeals review:**
 - Purpose
 - Format
 - Process(es) & protocols
 - Decision making process
 - The ‘customer experience’
 - Roles & responsibilities
 - Quality and Improvement
-

Common issues

- Eye off the ball / 'sleep walk' into trouble
 - 2 year performance period: 1 good quarter makes little difference, **1 poor quarter takes time to recover from**
 - Focus on right decision, not quick decision
 - Not using tools, talking to PAS
 - Thinking that change and improvement requires a 'big project'
-

Small changes make a big difference

Save just 1 minute on a process...

...and after 1,000 applications have been processed...

you've saved 2 days.

PAS support summary

- Check your numbers
 - Process improvement
 - Performance frameworks
 - Quarterly monitoring on your behalf
 - Self help; monitoring toolkit ('crystal ball')
 - 'get ahead of designation' events
 - DM Challenge / Committee reviews
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Thank You !

Questions??

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