Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Rachel Maclean MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tom Horwood
Chief Executive
Waverley Borough Council
The Burys
Godalming
GU7 1HR

4th October 2023

Dear Tom,

Performance of Local Planning Authorities: Section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

I attach great importance to a strongly performing planning system. It is crucial for delivering our commitment to increase housing supply and delivering wider prosperity.

On 12 April 2023, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities wrote to you to express concern about the performance of Waverley Borough Council for the speed of decision-making for planning applications for non-major development. The Secretary of State advised that he expected the performance of your planning service to exceed our performance thresholds by June 2023 or he would use his powers to designate the authority later this year.

I have reviewed the actions your authority has taken to improve performance over consecutive quarters from October 2022 to June 2023 and am pleased to note that your performance on a rolling two-year average (71%), and your performance for the most recent quarter April to June 2023 (97%) is above the required threshold. I am therefore content not to designate your authority for poor performance at this time. I recognise that to do so may undermine the work your authority has already commenced and I wish to support your performance improvement.

I will continue to closely monitor the authority's performance. Should the authority not continue to demonstrate good performance in determining non-major applications at a level above the required average threshold, I will review whether to designate your authority for poor performance at a point in the future.

Should you have any queries about the subject of this letter, please contact Stephen Gee (Email: Stephen.Gee@levellingup.gov.uk).

RACHEL MACLEAN MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning