

# Four per cent speed improvement over the year

## Planning applications

In the fourth quarter of 2006, district planning authorities in England received 149 thousand applications for planning permission (Table 1); an increase of 1 per cent compared with the corresponding quarter in 2005. The largest increase in the number of planning applications received was in the South West and West Midlands (both 3 per cent). Other increases were in London and the South East (both 2 per cent). There were decreases in the number of planning applications received in East Midlands (-2 per

cent) and North West (-1 per cent).

## Planning decisions

District planning authorities decided 141 thousand planning applications in the fourth quarter of 2006; 1 per cent lower than the same quarter last year. The largest decrease in the number of planning applications determined was in East Midlands (5 per cent); others were in the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and West Midlands (all 3 per cent). However, the number of planning applications determined in London increased by 3 per cent and North East by 1 per cent when com-

pared with the same quarter last year. Householder decisions increased by 1 per cent from 69,400 to 70,400 and accounted for 50 per cent of all decisions. Decisions on dwelling applications, for both major and minor developments decreased from 20,000 to 18,300 and accounted for 13 per cent of the total.

## Applications granted

82 per cent of all decisions in the fourth quarter of 2006 were granted; no change when compared with the same period in 2005. Approval rates across the regions ranged from

76 per cent in London to 90 per cent in the North East.

## Speed of decision

In October to December 2006 district authorities, on average, determined 70 per cent of major applications within 13 weeks, 75 per cent of minor applications within 8 weeks, and 87 per cent of other applications within 8 weeks. This represents a 4 percentage point improvement in determining major applications when compared with the corresponding quarter a year ago. The figures remain unchanged for minor and other applications.

Also, in October to December 2006, 268 authorities (73 per cent of all authorities) made at least 60 per cent of their decisions on major applications within the 13 week period; 318 authorities (86 per cent) made at least 65 per cent of their

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## Quote of the Year

"I would tear down every building built by that pompous shit Richard Rogers" – former Oz editor and publisher of *MacUser* and much else, **Felix Dennis**, gets the *AJ's Astragal's* Outright Quote of the Year award.

## Favela dwellers subsidise Londoners

250,000 Londoners on income support will pay half-price fares on buses and trams from July 2007 courtesy of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. A deal signed by Mayor Livingstone on February 20th, the South American country will sell diesel fuel to London at a 20 per cent discount. In return, the GLA will send employees to Venezuela to advise on public transport, tourism, urban planning and the environment. Maybe they will add a subscription to *Planning in London?* Venezuela has similar deals in place to provide heating oil to New York and Boston.

## Energy steamroller

What is the impact to be on valuation and performance of investment property of the new Energy Performance Certificates? We need a toolkit particularly to deal with existing buildings subject to long leases. If I keep waiting for the train I can still get run over!" – Dr. Karen Sieracki speaking to London's Lambda Alpha chapter.

## The South East is England's most wooded region

Woodland covers 14 per cent of the South East, the most wooded counties being Surrey followed by West Sussex and Hampshire. The resident agent at the Godinton Estate, near Ashford, in Kent (who is a member of South East Wood Fuels Ltd), comments: "There are some 700 biomass boilers nationwide yet only around 20 in the South East."  
– *NFU South East*

Planning decisions granted & decided in 8 weeks and percentage of decisions delegated (DCLG Table 7)

London Boroughs .. incomplete data	Year ending 31 December 2006			October-December 2006			% delegated
	total decisions	percent granted	% in 8 weeks	total decisions	percent granted	% in 8 weeks	
City of London	143	73	310	86	415	82	44
Barking and Dagenham	27	74	209	85	572	97	6
Barnet	67	91	768	78	3,159	88	14
Bexley	23	96	439	87	1,678	93	4
Brent	58	67	462	74	2,427	86	15
Bromley	97	70	833	74	2,786	91	12
Camden	48	83	904	86	2,055	92	14
Croydon	146	68	900	80	2,300	91	28
Ealing	74	78	511	71	2,646	85	18
Enfield	81	80	795	89	2,138	96	27
Greenwich	70	76	532	89	1,362	94	12
Hackney	95	68	791	81	801	87	21
Ham and Fulham	34	79	480	87	1,651	94	5
Haringey	19	68	538	87	1,394	91	6
Harrow	49	55	553	67	2,107	85	20
Havering	35	86	511	95	1,899	98	5
Hillingdon	95	67	536	73	2,138	87	24
Hounslow	71	79	476	77	2,143	87	18
Islington	90	64	688	67	1,206	77	20
K&C	39	77	523	86	2,103	90	13
Kingston upon Thames	27	89	457	88	1,590	95	7
Lambeth	92	58	794	73	2,073	87	26
Lewisham	50	50	847	72	1,094	83	16
Merton	50	64	499	80	1,603	93	16
Newham	107	59	497	74	827	86	24
Redbridge	103	78	661	81	2,371	90	14
Richmond upon Thames	20	75	800	71	2,831	86	6
Southwark	102	48	614	66	900	79	32
Sutton	70	76	402	84	1,090	91	12
Tower Hamlets	55	38	461	79	506	83	14
Waltham Forest	31	68	625	75	959	84	8
Wandsworth	67	72	730	78	2,668	89	17
City of Westminster	72	81	2,431	71	4,119	82	24

Source: Source: DCLG ([www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk))

# areas within a UDC but figures outside the UDC's scope

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## Decisions by type and speed of decision year ending 31 Dec 2006 / Oct-Dec 2006 (DCLG Table 8)

London Boroughs	Total major decisions	% within 13 weeks	Total minor decisions	% within 8 weeks	Total other decisions	% within 8 weeks	Total major decisions	% within 13 weeks	Total minor decisions	% within 8 weeks	Total other decisions	% within 8 weeks
City of London	12	100	92	5	80	40	-	-	-	2	50	-
Barking and Dagenham		6	100	67	100	55	81	1	100	100	29	69
90Barnet	42	55	90	443	57	74	7	86	100	96	51	79
Bexley	12	33	100	84	44	87	2	50	100	19	42	95
Brent	39	38	69	192	41	72	9	11	89	42	33	69
Bromley	64	45	64	385	52	66	4	50	100	95	52	55
Camden	29	79	93	278	77	74	6	83	100	61	72	80
Croydon	120	41	68	571	49	80	24	42	75	160	49	81
Ealing	38	26	87	180	51	63	11	36	64	56	48	75
Enfield	46	52	78	384	46	91	19	37	79	89	47	93
Greenwich	34	35	76	96	22	71	7	43	71	28	32	68
Hackney	56	55	71	327	50	83	13	54	77	71	45	89
Hammersmith and Fulham	9	89	89	131	76	82	1	100	100	26	77	81
Haringey	13	46	92	263	44	84	5	40	100	64	36	86
Harrow	33	52	58	315	51	64	14	79	71	77	42	70
Havering	22	59	82	279	37	95	5	60	60	60	55	93
Hillingdon	41	66	61	258	39	72	10	60	80	49	41	65
Hounslow	42	31	83	186	44	75	11	45	82	49	41	69
Islington	41	39	66	308	58	64	11	18	82	79	63	62
Kensington and Chelsea	17	65	65	178	84	81	6	50	83	54	85	80
Kingston upon Thames	6	33	67	188	55	84	-	-	-	41	46	78
Lambeth	75	53	56	458	64	72	20	60	45	128	65	73
Lewisham	46	63	50	443	73	68	15	67	47	111	77	71
Merton	13	54	38	247	61	74	5	40	60	69	54	65
Newham	30	80	43	112	56	71	5	60	20	23	61	43
Redbridge	35	43	77	147	32	75	11	36	64	28	36	68
Richmond upon Thames	7	57	57	228	61	53	1	-	100	64	69	53
Southwark	67	55	51	229	48	66	19	58	42	52	62	44
Sutton	60	40	73	216	57	80	9	33	67	50	56	76
Tower Hamlets	36	64	31	134	74	67	10	60	40	33	73	79
Waltham Forest	19	32	84	347	53	71	4	-	100	92	54	76
Wandsworth	45	73	76	373	69	74	11	64	82	80	61	70
City of Westminster	16	81	81	772	79	64	4	75	100	192	84	59

Source: Source: DCLG ([www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk))

# areas within a UDC but figures outside the UDC's scope

\* incomplete data

decisions on minor applications within the statutory 8 week period; and 323 authorities (88 per cent) made at least 80 per cent of their decisions on other applications within the statutory 8 week period. The number of authorities meeting the performance target in October to December 2006 compared with performance in the same quarter a year ago, represents a 10 percentage point improvement on major applications, a 1 percentage point improvement on minor applications and a 4 percentage point improve-

ment on other applications.

In the year-ending December 2006, the proportion of authorities meeting the target on majors is 80 per cent; this is a 19 percentage point increase (296 authorities compared to 223) compared with the year-ending December 2005 figure. For minors, the actual performance is 89 per cent; an 8 percentage point increase (328 authorities compared to 296) whilst for others, actual performance is now 90 per cent; an increase of 5 percentage points (331 authorities compared to 309).

### Striptease

Cutting tax is like striptease. It should be obvious what is happening." – **Anatole Kaletsky** assesses the Budget in *The Times*.

### Bean counters

Some bean-counters insist that the Chancellor does not have the resources to cut tax. "They ignore one very crucial element in the medium-term outlook for the Exchequer. This is the astonishing rebirth of London as an international financial centre, a process that is destined to acquire yet more momentum over the next decade." – *ibid*.

### Environment to the rescue of the EU

"The EU has embraced greenery partly from conviction, partly to give itself a role in the world. Europe will rescue the environment from destruction; the environment will rescue Europe from irrelevance. But the EU would be a lot more relevant if its policies made better economic sense." – *The Economist*

### Flying into an environmental jihad

"(Airlines) are being made the whipping boys of an environmental jihad that is arrogantly intolerant of any explanation for climate change other than its own and which curtly dismisses the role that technological progress is already playing in cutting emissions." – **Tim Hames** in *The Times*.

### Motoring irony

Until the Guardian Media Group put its £75m stake in Autotrader up for sale last month, few Guardian readers will have appreciated that it was the motor trade which was subsidising its loss-making newspaper. "Puts all its jeremiads about global warming, polemics against 4x4s and Big Oil in a different light." comments **Martin Waller** in *The Times* (where else?).