

# Planning Applications April – June 2007

## Planning applications

In the second quarter of 2007, district planning authorities in England received 174 thousand applications for planning permission; an increase of 2 per cent compared with the corresponding quarter in 2006. The largest increase in the number of planning applications received was in London (9 per cent). Other increases were in the East of England (5 per cent), the South East (3 per cent) and in the North West (1

per cent). There was a decrease of -2 per cent in the number of planning applications received both in the North East and in Yorkshire and the Humber. Other decreases were in East Midlands, West Midlands and the South West (all -1 per cent).

## Planning decisions

District planning authorities decided 156,000 planning applications in the second quarter of 2007, 1 per cent higher than the same

quarter last year. The number of planning applications determined in London increased by 8 per cent and in Yorkshire and the Humber by 3 per cent when compared with the same quarter last year. However, there were decreases in a number of regions; the largest decrease was in the North East (4 per cent). Other decreases were in East Midlands and the South West (both -2 per cent) and in the East of England (-1 per cent).

Householder decisions decreased by 0.4 per cent from 81,500 to 81,200 and accounted for 52 per cent of all decisions. Decisions on dwelling applications, for both major and minor developments decreased from 20,100 to 19,500 and accounted for 13 per cent of the total.

## Applications granted

83 per cent of all decisions in the second quarter of 2007 were granted; an increase of 1 per cent when compared with the same period in 2006. Approval rates across the regions ranged from 77 per cent in London to 91 per cent in the North East.

## Speed of decision

In April to June 2007 district authorities, on average, determined 71 per cent of major applications within 13 weeks, 78 per cent of minor applications within 8 weeks, and 88 per cent of other applications within 8 weeks. This represents no improvement in determining major and other applications and a 2 percentage point improvement in determining minor applications when compared with the corresponding quarter a year ago.

Also, in April to June 2007, 283 authorities (77 per cent of all authorities) made at least 60 per cent of their decisions on major applications within the 13 week period; 335 authorities (91 per cent) made at least 65 per cent of their decisions on minor applications within the statutory 8 week period; and 331 authorities (90 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 April to June 2007

**Major and minor RESIDENTIAL decisions year ending 30 June 2007 / April-June 2007 (DCLG Table 8)**

London Boroughs	major residential decisions	% granted	% within 13 weeks	minor resi. decisions	% granted	% within 8 weeks	major resi. decisions	% granted	% within 13 weeks	minor resi. decisions	% granted	% within 8 weeks
Barking and Dagenham	5	100	80	102	54	79	-	-	-	24	46	67
Barnet	28	64	93	552	57	81	6	50	100	149	61	75
Bexley	19	47	79	91	38	85	5	80	60	27	37	74
Brent	28	36	71	195	39	69	6	83	33	51	51	69
Bromley	44	57	59	381	48	58	6	50	67	97	42	57
Camden	19	74	100	275	71	72	4	75	100	67	63	69
City of London	6	100	83	4	75	25	2	100	100	1	100	100
City of Westminster	15	93	80	782	82	64	5	100	80	124	85	48
Croydon	90	40	66	683	45	83	20	45	65	191	43	79
Ealing	31	32	81	191	55	73	7	43	100	44	66	70
Enfield	40	43	85	381	50	92	6	67	83	90	57	92
Greenwich	39	62	64	78	36	71	11	73	82	9	22	89
Hackney	46	59	70	303	51	88	7	57	86	71	46	93
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	100	100	133	76	84	-	-	-	30	77	83
Haringey	11	55	82	297	44	81	3	67	33	88	50	74
Harrow	35	63	57	330	38	72	7	29	57	90	28	84
Havering	26	42	81	275	43	92	9	44	89	74	36	92
Hillingdon	47	64	72	268	45	69	10	60	70	76	39	74
Hounslow	39	51	77	172	38	75	8	75	63	45	36	73
Islington	36	53	67	281	58	66	10	80	80	66	64	77
Kensington and Chelsea	17	59	76	180	84	76	1	100	100	45	91	71
Kingston upon Thames	3	33	67	164	54	75	2	50	50	42	52	79
Lambeth	65	65	54	553	65	72	8	88	63	168	62	78
Lewisham	34	65	41	470	76	70	5	80	20	147	78	70
London Thames Gateway	9	67	-	-	-	-	3	67	-	-	-	-
Merton	17	47	53	248	49	75	6	50	50	52	38	79
Newham	27	70	26	89	53	71	12	58	33	26	42	77
Redbridge	32	38	66	117	38	60	9	44	56	27	41	59
Richmond upon Thames	9	44	100	218	66	58	3	67	100	53	68	75
Southwark	51	73	33	232	56	59	13	85	31	59	61	61
Sutton	48	29	79	199	49	70	10	30	80	57	44	68
Tower Hamlets	35	57	46	181	78	79	9	67	56	53	79	83
Waltham Forest	21	43	71	382	53	72	5	40	60	106	50	62
Wandsworth	38	74	82	390	71	69	9	89	89	107	80	62

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

### Planning decisions by development type and speed of decision year ending 30 June 2007 / April-June 2007 (DCLG Table 7)

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	% delegated
Barking Dagenham	19	84	212	86	618	96	2	100	57	84	171	96	90
Barnet	52	88	953	82	3,367	89	13	100	260	79	849	90	92
Bexley	27	70	407	89	1,774	95	8	50	105	85	484	97	95
Brent	48	71	475	71	2,393	84	11	55	120	73	609	83	94
Bromley	99	70	846	70	2,730	86	15	67	259	66	761	83	85
Camden	32	84	944	84	2,181	89	6	100	241	85	616	90	96
City of London	195	76	356	81	411	81	56	79	108	83	93	82	97
City of Westminster	73	81	2,545	71	4,289	80	18	67	619	68	1,257	80	90
Croydon	113	66	1,004	84	2,208	93	29	62	290	81	567	90	95
Ealing	64	78	543	78	2,690	89	14	86	110	73	676	87	98
Enfield	61	87	747	89	2,115	96	7	71	162	86	550	93	97
Greenwich	62	65	476	88	1,369	93	15	67	109	89	357	94	93
Hackney	74	72	793	85	776	89	15	80	207	85	203	89	94
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	80	500	90	1,828	95	3	100	122	87	546	92	98
Haringey	17	65	548	84	1,498	90	5	20	147	78	385	89	97
Harrow	90	73	660	75	2,295	88	36	89	192	87	586	95	97
Havering	40	85	503	92	1,909	97	14	93	139	89	539	97	95
Hillingdon	99	72	549	72	2,249	87	17	71	149	74	653	89	95
Hounslow	64	77	474	79	2,194	87	15	73	123	80	496	86	89
Islington	69	62	666	69	1,303	81	14	71	161	80	280	89	92
Kensington and Chelsea	39	82	519	85	2,167	88	8	88	126	84	521	84	93
Kingston upon Thames	22	95	413	84	1,686	93	6	83	104	81	497	93	91
Lambeth	82	61	886	74	2,111	86	9	67	274	78	505	83	95
Lewisham	41	44	843	70	1,114	80	11	36	243	67	337	82	93
London Thames Gateway	20	10	-	-	4	-	6	17	-	-	-	-	-
Merton	53	64	520	80	1,814	92	16	63	129	84	527	93	98
Newham	85	44	431	76	805	86	23	39	94	76	194	87	94
Redbridge	83	72	565	68	2,423	85	13	54	141	57	640	81	91
Richmond upon Thames	21	90	897	79	2,879	89	4	100	267	90	816	92	95
Southwark	83	40	579	64	957	77	24	46	160	64	269	80	87
Sutton	61	80	412	76	1,119	90	11	82	119	74	323	92	92
Tower Hamlets	57	51	504	83	528	85	18	56	131	82	139	86	76
Waltham Forest	40	70	713	74	1,041	83	9	67	212	64	287	82	80
Wandsworth	62	74	754	76	2,829	88	14	86	206	70	810	84	84

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

compared with performance in the same quarter a year ago represents no improvement on major applications, a 4 percentage point improvement on minor applications and a decrease of 2 percentage points on other applications.

In the year-ending June 2007, the proportion of authorities meeting the target on majors is 84 per cent (309 authorities); this is a 7 percentage point increase compared with the year-ending June 2006 figure. For minors, the actual performance is 91 per cent (336 authorities); no improvement on the previous year whilst for others, actual performance is now 91 per cent (336 authorities); a decrease of 3 percentage points.

Table 7 shows the number of planning decisions on major, minor and other applications and the timescale by which they were decided in the year and quarter ending June 2007 by individual planning authority.

Table 8 shows the number of major and minor decisions on residential planning applications and the speed of decision in the year and quarter ending June 2007 for each district planning authority.

In April to June 2007, district authorities granted 67 per cent of major residential decisions and determined 68 per cent of them within 13 weeks. Also 64 per cent of minor residential application decisions were granted and 72 per cent

determined within 8 weeks.

#### Applications for determination

In April to June 2007, district planning authorities received 1,639 applications for determination on whether local authority approval is required for certain works. Local authorities decided to intervene in 247 cases (15 per cent).

#### Applications decided under delegated powers

The final column in Table 7 shows the percentage of applications decided by planning officers under a scheme of delegation and without referral to committee or councillors on such decisions. 362 authorities (out of 368) provided information on delegated decisions in this quarter.

On average, authorities delegated 91 per cent of decisions to planning officers.

In April to June 2007, the highest number of decisions under Article 21 was reported by Cambridgeshire (35).

This is available online at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/statisticsplanning/Q22007/>

# How quickly will I get a decision on my appeal?

## The current position on appeals as provided by the Planning Inspectorate

If your application for planning permission has been rejected we would encourage you to try to negotiate an amended scheme rather than submit an appeal. If you do decide to appeal, you should allow enough time to ensure that everything is submitted to us before the deadline. Where an appeal is the only way to proceed, we suggest that, wherever possible, you opt for the written representations method of determination.

### Planning appeals decided by the written representations method

In July 2007, 15 per cent of the planning appeals which were dealt with by the written representations method were decided within our target of 16 weeks. The average time we took to deal with appeals decided by this method in July was 22 weeks.

Our current estimate is that accompanied site visits will be held about 19 weeks from the official start date of the case. However, more complex cases may take longer.

### Planning appeals decided by the hearing method

In July 2007, 64 per cent of the planning appeals which were dealt with by the hearing method were decided within our target of 30 weeks. The average time we took to deal with appeals decided by this method in July was 29 weeks.

### Proposals for 10 or more dwellings

We have a target to open all hearings for 10 or more dwellings within 20 weeks of the official start date of the case and, in 80 per cent of the cases, to issue a decision within 10 weeks of the close of the hear-

ing. In July 2007 we opened 96 per cent of hearings within the 20 week target and issued 96 per cent of decisions within the 10 week target.

### Proposals for 9 or fewer dwellings and other development proposals

The timescale will depend on the nature and complexity of the proposal. We estimate that:

- \* appeals with a start date of January 2007 will be offered a date in November/December 2007;
- appeals with a start date of February 2007 will be offered a date in December 2007/January 2008;
- appeals with a start date of March 2007 will be offered a date in January/February 2008.
- appeals with a start date of April 2007 will be offered a date in February/March 2008.
- appeals with a start date of May 2007 will be offered a date in March/April 2008
- appeals with a start date of June 2007 will be offered a date in April/May 2008
- appeals with a start date of July 2007 will be offered a date in May/June 2008

### Planning appeals decided by the inquiry method

Proposals for 10 or more dwellings

We have a target to open all inquiries for 10 or more dwellings within 20 weeks of the official start date of the case and, in 80 per cent of the cases, to issue a decision within 10 weeks of the close of the inquiry. In July 2007, we opened 32 per cent of inquiries and issued 95 per cent of decisions within target.

Proposals for 9 or fewer dwellings and other development proposals

The timescale will depend on the nature and complexity of the proposal. We estimate that:

- appeals with a start date of January 2007 will be offered a date in November/December 2007;
- appeals with a start date of February 2007 will be offered a date in December 2007/January 2008;
- appeals with a start date of March 2007 will be offered a date in January/February 2008.
- appeals with a start date of April 2007 will be offered a date in February/March 2008.
- appeals with a start date of May 2007 will be offered a date in March/April 2008
- appeals with a start date of June 2007 will be offered a date in April/May 2008
- appeals with a start date of July 2007 will be offered a date in May/June 2008.

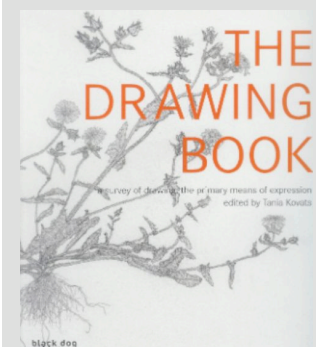
You will receive a decision within about 6 weeks of the close of the inquiry.

### Secretary of State cases (including called in and recovered appeals and Compulsory Purchase Orders)

We aim to open the inquiry within 22 weeks of the official start date of the case.

*This information was last updated on 21 August 2007. For updates see: [http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/planning\\_appeals/Planning\\_appeal\\_handling\\_times.htm](http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/planning_appeals/Planning_appeal_handling_times.htm)*

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Stanley Mathews

### ePiL Competition

Two books from Black Dog Publishing are up for grabs this month *The Drawing Book* is a magnificent volume on various drawing techniques and the **Cedric Price** book contains some interesting drawings too! The catch is that the winners have to review them for the next issue! Just email [planninginlondon.com](mailto:planninginlondon.com) with *epil competition* as the subject and say which book you would like to review. Don't forget to include your postal address.

### Reading is green

Chris Goodall, Green party candidate and author of *How to Live a Low-Carbon Life* reckons that taking a lot of exercise is not good for the atmosphere. "It means we consume more food. Eating less and driving to save energy would be a greener choice" he says. Goodall told *The Times*: "If you walked three miles you would use about 180 calories and would need about 100g of beef to replace the calories, resulting in 3.6kg of emissions: four times as much as driving". Shortening your life will save even more!