

Improvement in speed of major applications decided continues

Latest planning performance by London boroughs and English districts

OVERVIEW

Between July and September 2014, district level planning authorities in England:

- received 118,900 applications for planning permission, compared with 118,600 in the corresponding quarter of 2013;
- granted 95,600 permissions, up two per cent from the same quarter in 2013;
- granted 88 per cent of applications, unchanged from the same quarter of 2013;
- decided 78 per cent of major applications within 13 weeks or within the agreed time, up from 69 per cent a year earlier; and
- made 5 per cent more residential decisions than in the September quarter 2013

In the year ending September 2014, district level planning authorities:

- granted 351,500 permissions, up 1 per cent from the figure for the year to September 2013; and
- granted 88 per cent of decisions, unchanged from the previous year.

41,800 of these permissions were for residential developments: 5,400 for major developments and 36,400 for minors.

Of 9,600 applications reported for prior approval for permitted development rights during the July to September quarter of 2014:

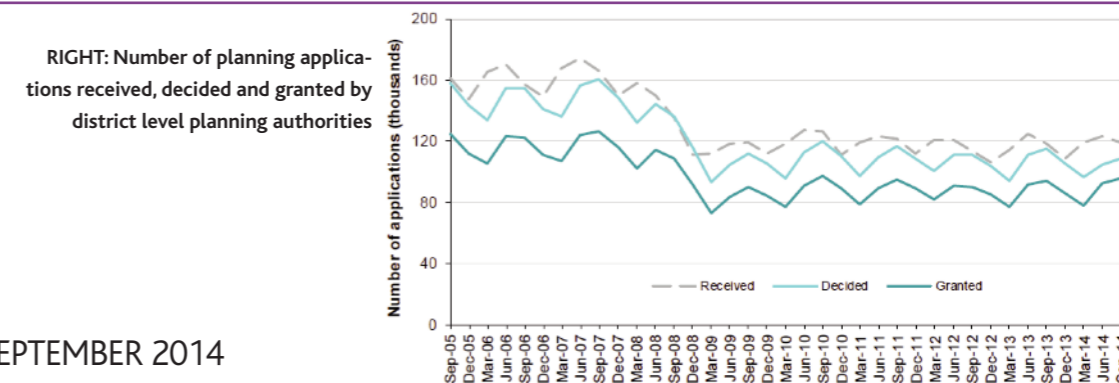
- prior approval was not required for 5,800, with permission being granted for 2,100 applications and refused for 1,700; and
- almost 72 per cent of applications related to larger householder extensions, with 11 per cent relating to applications for office to residential changes, the second largest category.

Planning decisions

In July to September 2014, authorities undertaking district level planning in England received 118,900 applications for planning permission, almost unchanged from the corresponding quarter in 2013 when they received 118,600 applications. In the year ending September 2014, authorities received 469,900 planning applications, an increase of 1 per cent compared to the year end-

Planning decisions by development type, speed of decision and local planning authority: London, JULY–SEPTEMBER 2014

Planning Authority	Major Developments					Performance Agreements		Minor Developments					Other Developments			
	Total major decisions	Number granted	Percentage granted	Percentage within 13 weeks or agreed time	Percentage over 13 weeks or agreed time	Total decisions	Decisions made within agreed time limit	Total minor decisions	Number granted	Percentage granted	Percentage within 8 weeks or agreed time	Percentage over 8 weeks or agreed time	Total other decisions	Number granted	Percentage granted	Percentage within week agreed time
London boroughs	359	327	91	81	19	140	130	6,424	5,092	79	69	31	13,248	10,831	82	79
Barking and Dagenham	9	7	78	100	-	2	2	43	38	88	56	44	110	96	87	61
Barnet	12	8	67	92	8	5	5	247	170	69	74	26	666	559	84	90
Bexley	9	8	89	67	33	-	-	85	67	79	81	19	350	303	87	90
Brent	6	6	100	50	50	2	2	229	181	79	48	52	304	234	77	58
Bromley	26	22	85	46	54	1	-	184	121	66	39	61	589	453	77	63
Camden	15	13	87	53	47	2	2	349	296	85	38	62	399	347	87	41
City of London	3	3	100	67	33	-	-	65	64	98	68	32	89	86	97	71
Croydon	1	1	100	-	100	-	-	213	148	69	70	30	394	313	79	79
Ealing	13	12	92	77	23	1	1	217	169	78	83	17	389	326	84	91
Enfield	8	8	100	88	13	1	1	137	91	66	69	30	311	230	74	79
Greenwich	17	15	88	100	-	6	6	136	104	76	74	26	288	248	86	89
Hackney	12	11	92	83	17	8	8	237	189	80	78	22	222	175	79	86
Hammersmith and Fulham	7	6	86	29	71	5	-	166	130	78	86	14	610	517	85	94
Haringey	2	2	100	-	-	2	2	111	85	77	75	25	365	323	88	82
Harrow	6	4	67	83	17	2	2	132	91	69	69	31	415	307	74	73
Havering	9	7	78	67	33	-	-	93	62	67	67	33	315	263	83	84
Hillingdon	25	24	96	100	-	16	16	137	88	64	72	28	443	283	64	93
Hounslow	5	4	80	60	40	3	1	104	85	82	66	34	431	329	76	68
Islington	7	6	86	71	29	5	5	243	187	77	79	21	363	288	79	87
Kensington and Chelsea	10	9	90	90	10	7	6	352	295	84	79	21	682	577	85	79
Kingston upon Thames	4	4	100	100	-	1	1	97	62	64	64	36	527	379	72	89
Lambeth	21	21	100	100	-	18	18	221	156	71	57	42	437	312	71	81
Lewisham	7	7	100	86	14	6	6	260	221	85	76	24	235	191	81	77
Merton	6	5	83	83	17	-	-	88	68	77	57	43	389	326	84	82
Newham	11	9	82	91	9	4	4	119	74	62	83	17	164	110	67	80
Redbridge	8	8	100	88	13	4	3	130	85	65	68	32	380	313	82	69
Richmond upon Thames	8	8	100	75	25	-	-	261	227	87	71	29	650	547	84	83
Southwark	14	14	100	93	7	8	8	193	173	90	87	12	277	247	89	89
Sutton	12	12	100	83	17	1	1	106	87	82	66	34	232	200	86	83
Tower Hamlets	16	14	88	75	25	6	6	164	142	87	88	12	193	161	83	87
Waltham Forest	5	4	80	100	-	2	2	125	81	65	88	12	201	140	70	91
Wandsworth	21	21	100	100	-	10	10	370	337	91	65	35	587	553	94	72
Westminster	24	24	100	79	21	12	12	810	718	89	67	33	1,241	1,095	88	67



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SOURCE: CLG Table P131 ... Not applicable or LA did not submit Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-planning-application-statistics>. Latest update: Dec 2014. Next update: March 2015

>>> ing September 2013.

Planning decisions

Authorities reported 108,400 decisions on planning applications in July to September 2014, 5 per cent lower than in the same quarter in the previous year.

This decrease was, however, largely due to a change in definition as a result of the review of the relevant statistical return, with applications which can neither be granted nor refused (e.g. notifications and certificates of lawful development) no longer being counted as decisions with effect from 1 April 2014.

In the year ending September 2014, authorities decided 413,500 planning applications, a decrease of 2 per cent compared to the year ending September 2013. This comparison is, however, also affected by the above definition change, albeit to a more limited extent.

Applications granted

In July to September 2014, authorities granted 95,600 permissions, up 2 per cent from the same

quarter in 2013. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions, excluding those which could neither be granted nor refused, the September quarter 2013. Overall, 84 per cent of major and minor decisions were granted. (Table P131)

Over the 12 months to September 2014, 351,500 applications were granted, up 1 per cent from the year to September 2013. Authorities granted 88 per cent of all decisions in the year to September 2014, unchanged from the year to September 2013.

Historical context

Since 2005, the numbers of applications received, decisions made and applications granted have each followed a similar pattern. As well as the usual within-year pattern of peaks in the Summer and troughs in the Winter, there was a clear downward trend during the 2008 economic downturn, with figures remaining broadly level since then.

Looked at another way, the number of applications received in the year to September 2014 was 469,900, up 1 per cent on the year to September 2013. This was still below the peak of 689,400 in


2004/05. The proportion of decisions granted in the year to September 2014 was 88 per cent.

Prior approvals for permitted developments

Following the creation of some additional permitted development right categories in May 2013 and consultation with local authorities, the Department increased the level of detailed information on prior approvals for permitted developments collected on the PS1 return with effect from 1 April 2014.


The results for the second quarter for which they have been collected (July to September 2014) are given in Experimental Tables E1 (local authority level figures) and E2 (England totals).

They show that, of 9,600 applications reported for the July to September quarter of 2014, prior approval was not required for 5,800, and that permission was granted for 2,100 applications and refused for 1,700. Almost 72 per cent of applications (6,900) related to larger householder extensions, with 11 per cent relating to applications for office to residential changes, the second largest category. ■

PRESENTED BY: 

SOAPBOX

TWO OPPOSING ARGUMENTS AND A CONVIVIAL DISCUSSION



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