

Planning Applications: June Quarter 2010, (England)

In the period April to June 2010 local authorities undertaking district level planning:

- received 127,100 applications, up by around 8 per cent when compared with the June 2009 quarter;
- decided (granted or refused) 112,400 applications, an increase of 7 per cent when compared with the June 2009 quarter;
- granted 91,000 applications, an increase of 9 per cent when compared with the June 2009 quarter;
- decided 12,800 applications for residential developments, up by 6 per cent compared with the June 2009 quarter;
- decided 1,200 major residential developments applications (10 or more dwellings), up by 9 per cent compared with the June 2009 quarter;
- decided 70 per cent of major applications within 13 weeks;

Authorities undertaking 'county level' planning decided 306 applications, a decrease of 2 per cent when compared with the same quarter a year ago.

30 September 2010



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planning

Introduction

This quarterly Statistical Release presents National Statistics on authorities that undertake district and county level planning activities in England. It covers information on planning applications received and decided including decisions on applications for residential developments (dwellings) and enforcement activities. Data are provided at national, regional and local authority level and are based on information for the June quarter 2010 reported to Communities and Local Government as at 23 August 2010. The *Background Notes* section provides more detail of the terms used within this release.

Due to seasonal variation, quarterly figures in this release are compared with the corresponding quarter in the previous year.

Authorities undertaking district level planning

A summary of the trends in applications, decisions and permissions granted is provided in Table A. More detailed figures are available in the accompanying 'Excel' tables (1 – 8).

Planning applications

In the June quarter 2010, authorities undertaking district level planning in England received 127,100 applications for planning permission (**Table 1**). This represents an increase of 8 per cent compared with the corresponding quarter in 2009. In the year ending June 2010, authorities received 475,500 applications, a slight increase on the year ending June 2009 figure of 475,400 applications.

Planning decisions

District level planning authorities decided 112,400 planning applications in the June quarter 2010, 7 per cent higher than in the same quarter last year. Seven regions and the National Park authorities saw an increase in the number of applications decided compared to the June quarter 2009, whilst the number fell in Yorkshire and the Humber (by 1 per cent) and remained unchanged in the North East. The largest increases were in London (14 per cent) and the South East (12 per cent). (**Table 2**).

In the year ending June 2010, 425,300 applications were decided, a decrease of 5 per cent compared with the corresponding period a year ago. All regions, including the National Park authorities, saw a decrease in the number of applications determined compared to the year ending June 2009. The largest decreases were in Yorkshire and the Humber (11 per cent) and the North East (10 per cent). The National Parks saw an overall decrease of 2 per cent (**Table 2YE**).

Applications granted

86 per cent of all decisions in the June quarter 2010 were granted, an increase of 2 percentage points when compared with the June quarter 2009. Approval rates across the regions ranged from 79 per cent in London to 94 per cent in the North East (**Table 2**). These percentages represent a 2 percentage point increase in the approval rate for authorities in the North East and a 3 per cent

increase for authorities in London when compared with the same quarter a year ago.

In the year ending June 2010, 85 per cent of all decisions were granted, an increase of 2 percentage points when compared with the year ending June 2009. Approval rates across the regions ranged from 79 per cent in London to 93 per cent in the North East (**Table 2YE**). These percentages represent a 3 percentage point increase in the approval rate for authorities in London and a 2 percentage point increase in the approval rate for authorities in the North East compared to the year ending June 2009.

Table A: District level planning applications received, decided and granted

Financial Year	Quarter	Received		Decided		Granted ¹	
		Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number ('000s)	% change on corresponding quarter last year
2005-06	June	170	-8%	164	-5%	130	-6%
	Sept	161	-8%	158	-11%	125	-11%
	Dec	147	-8%	143	-8%	112	-9%
	Mar	165	-3%	134	-4%	105	-5%
2006-07	June	170	0%	155	-5%	123	-5%
	Sept	157	-2%	155	-2%	122	-2%
	Dec	149	1%	141	-1%	111	-1%
	Mar	168	2%	136	1%	107	3%
2007-08	June	174	2%	156	1%	124	1%
	Sept	166	6%	160	3%	126	2%
	Dec	151	1%	148	5%	116	5%
	Mar	158	-6%	132	-3%	102	-5%
2008-09	June	150	-14%	144	-8%	114	-8%
	Sept	135	-19%	136	-15%	108	-14%
	Dec	111	-26%	116	-22%	91	-21%
	Mar	111	-29%	93	-29%	73	-28%
2009-10 ^P	June	118	-21%	105	-27%	84	-27%
	Sept	119	-12%	112	-18%	90	-17%
	Dec	111	0%	105	-9%	85	-7%
	Mar	118	6%	96	3%	77	5%
2010/11 ^P	June	127	8%	112	7%	91	9%
Year to Jun 2010 ^P		475	0%	425	-5%	342	-4%

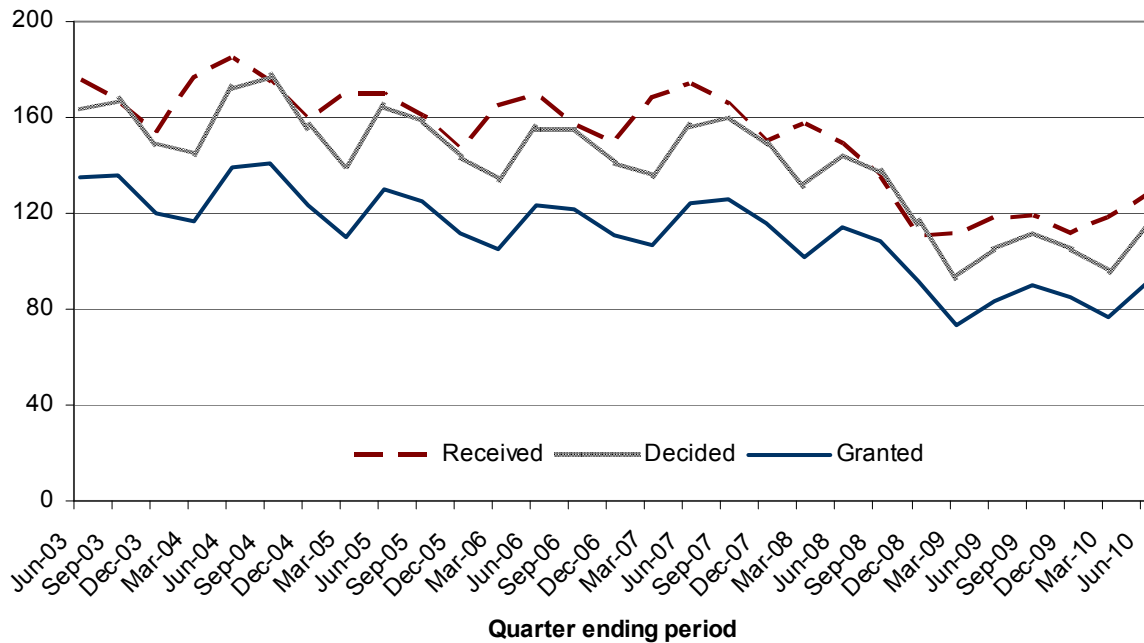
¹ Excludes planning applications which can neither be granted nor refused.

Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

Percentages are calculated using unrounded figures.

^P Provisional.

Figure 1: Number of planning applications received, decided and granted by district authorities



Speed of applications

In the June quarter 2010, 70 per cent of major applications were processed within 13 weeks compared with 71 per cent in the June 2009 quarter (**Table 2**). Also, 78 per cent of minor applications and 88 per cent of other applications were processed within 8 weeks.

In the year ending June 2010, 71 per cent of major applications were processed within 13 weeks. Also, 78 per cent of minor applications and 88 per cent of other applications were processed within 8 weeks (**Table 2 YE**).

In the quarter ending June 2010, district level planning authorities decided 63 per cent of large-scale major applications, and 72 per cent of small-scale major applications within 13 weeks (**Table 3A**).

In the year ending June 2010, district level planning authorities decided 62 per cent of large-scale major applications, and 73 per cent of small-scale major applications within 13 weeks (**Table 3A YE**).

Residential decisions

Decisions on all applications for residential developments increased from 12,100 in the June quarter 2009 to 12,800 in the June quarter 2010, an increase of 6 per cent. Major residential development increased by around 9 per cent compared to the June quarter 2009 (**Table 3**).

The number of residential developments decided decreased by 13 per cent from 57,400 in the year ending June 2009 to 50,100 in the year ending June 2010 (**Table 3YE**).

In the June quarter 2010, authorities granted 78 per cent of major residential applications and

determined 64 per cent of them within 13 weeks. 71 per cent of decisions on minor residential applications were granted and 72 per cent determined within 8 weeks.

In the year ending June 2010, authorities granted 77 per cent of major residential applications and determined 66 per cent of them within 13 weeks. 71 per cent of decisions on minor residential applications were granted and 73 per cent determined within 8 weeks.

Planning Applications for Gypsy and Traveller Pitches

From April 2008, local authorities have been required to provide information on decisions relating to planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. Information on Gypsy and Traveller pitches are shown in **Table 8A/Table 8A YE** and are as reported by local planning authorities.

In the June quarter 2010, local planning authorities determined 12 major applications and granted 75 per cent of those applications with 67 per cent being determined within 13 weeks. Also, in the June quarter 2010 authorities determined 75 minor applications on Gypsy and Traveller pitches and granted 59 per cent with 41 per cent of those applications being determined within 8 weeks.

In the year ending June 2010, authorities determined 43 major applications for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. 53 per cent of the major applications were granted and 50 per cent were determined within 13 weeks. Also, authorities determined 226 minor applications on Gypsy and Traveller pitches. 54 per cent of the minor applications were granted and 43 per cent were determined within 8 weeks.

The highest number of applications for major Gypsy and Traveller pitches determined in the year ending June 2010 was in the South West (10 applications), with 40 per cent granted and 60 per cent determined in 13 weeks. Authorities in the South East determined the highest number of minor applications (71 applications), with 46 per cent of those applications granted and 48 per cent determined within 8 weeks.

Householder Developments

Householder developments are those developments to a house which require planning permission such as extensions, loft conversions, conservatories, and so on. Decisions made on householder developments increased by 8 per cent from 49,300 in the June quarter 2009 to 53,300 in the June quarter 2010 (accounting for 47 per cent of all decisions), while the number of householder developments decided decreased by 7 per cent from 210,100 in the year ending June 2009 to 194,500 in the year ending June 2010 (accounting for 46 per cent of all decisions) (**Table 3/3YE**).

Enforcement action

Table 4 shows statistics on formal enforcement action taken by responding authorities in each year since 2000-01. In the June quarter 2010, authorities issued 1,230 Enforcement Notices and served 1,129 Planning Contravention Notices, 198 Breach of Condition Notices, 53 Stop Notices and 87 Temporary Stop Notices. In the June quarter 2010 15 Enforcement Injunctions were granted by the High/County Court.

Regulation 3 and 4 consents

Table 5 shows the number of Regulation 3 and 4 Consents granted since 2000-01. Under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992, SI 1992/1492, a local planning authority makes an application to itself for permission to develop land within its area, and determines that application. Regulation 4 is concerned with planning permission for development of land in which the local planning authority has an interest but which it does not itself propose to carry out.

In the June 2010 quarter, 994 Regulation 3 consents and 43 Regulation 4 consents were granted.

Applications for determination

Authorities received 1,593 applications for determination on whether local authority approval is required for certain works in the June quarter 2010 (**Table 5**). Local authorities decided to intervene in 218 cases (14 per cent).

Applications decided under delegated powers

Table 7A shows the percentage of applications decided by planning officers under a scheme of delegation and without referral to committee or councillors on such decisions. 323 authorities (out of 339) provided information on delegated decisions in this quarter. On average, authorities delegated 91 per cent of decisions to planning officers.

Authorities undertaking county level planning

Authorities that undertake county level planning activity – which includes counties, unitary authorities, London boroughs, metropolitan districts, urban development corporations and National Parks - received around 1,600 ‘county matters’ applications in the year ending June 2010. This compares with the 475,000 planning applications received by authorities that undertake district level planning activities. Figures for ‘county matters’ decisions are therefore likely to be much more variable than those for districts because of the smaller numbers of such decisions.

Summary statistics on numbers of applications, decisions and permissions granted are shown in Table B. More detailed figures are in the accompanying ‘Excel’ tables (9-13).

Planning applications

In the June quarter 2010, authorities received 352 ‘county matter’ applications, a decrease of 1 per cent compared with the same quarter last year. County councils accounted for 77 per cent of total applications, unitary authorities for 14 per cent and metropolitan districts for 7 per cent (**Table 9**). The highest number of applications was received by Norfolk (26 applications). (**Table 12**).

In the year ending June 2010, authorities received 1,572 ‘county matter’ applications. County councils accounted for 76 per cent of total applications, unitary authorities for 17 per cent and metropolitan districts for 6 per cent (**Table 9**). The highest number of applications was received by Norfolk (89 applications). (**Table 12YE**).

Planning decisions

County matter authorities determined 306 planning applications in the June quarter 2010, a decrease of 2 per cent compared with the same quarter last year. Of these, 92 per cent were granted, a decrease of 3 percentage points when compared with the same quarter last year (**Table 9**). Cumbria determined the highest number of planning applications (20 applications) followed by Kent (15 applications) (**Table 12**). Waste developments accounted for 71 per cent of the total decisions and minerals developments accounted for 26 per cent (**Table 10**).

In the year ending June 2010, county matter authorities determined 1,330 planning applications. Of these, 92 per cent were granted. Cumbria determined the highest number of planning applications (77 applications) followed by Lancashire (67 applications) (**Table 12YE**). Waste developments accounted for 71 per cent of the total decisions and minerals developments accounted for 25 per cent (**Table 10YE**).

Speed of decision

In the June quarter 2010, 20 per cent of all decisions on ‘county matters’ applications were made within 8 weeks. County-level planning authorities also determined 69 per cent of applications within 13 weeks (**Table 12**).

In the year ending June 2010, 16 per cent of all decisions on ‘county matters’ applications were made within 8 weeks. County-level planning authorities also determined 63 per cent of applications within 13 weeks (**Table 12YE**).

Regulation 3 and 4 consents

Table 12 shows the number of permissions granted by authorities under Regulations 3 and 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992. In the June quarter 2010, a total of 779 Regulation 3 consents were granted. The highest numbers of consents were granted by North Yorkshire (81 consents) and Kent (70 consents). In the year ending June 2010, a total of 3,005 Regulation 3 consents were granted. The highest numbers of consents were granted by North Yorkshire (278 consents) and Kent (267 consents).

In order to better reflect the workload of authorities, information on the total number of decisions on applications for consent, agreement or approval of details or schemes required by conditions, as defined by Article 21 of the General Development Procedure Order 1995 have been collected from April 2000 and is also published in this table.

In the June quarter 2010, 443 decisions were made under Article 21, with the highest number reported by Cambridgeshire (45 decisions). The number of determinations under the review of mineral planning permissions was also collated, however only 8 were determined by county level planning authorities.

In the year ending June 2010, 1,615 decisions were made under Article 21, with the highest number reported by Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire (139 decisions each). The number of determinations under the review of mineral planning permissions was also collated, however only 26 were determined by county level planning authorities.

Enforcement action

In the June quarter 2010 county level planning authorities issued 25 Enforcement Notices and served 1 Stop Notice, 4 Temporary Stop Notices, 41 Planning Contravention Notices and 9 Breach of Condition Notices (**Table 13**).

Table B: County level planning applications granted, received and decided

Financial Year	Quarter	Planning Applications		Planning Decisions		Applications Granted	
		Number	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number	% change on corresponding quarter last year	Number	% change on corresponding quarter last year
2005-06	June	466	-14%	390	-3%	353	-4%
	Sept	510	-6%	416	-17%	375	-19%
	Dec	398	-22%	458	-1%	417	0%
	Mar	483	-7%	419	-1%	386	0%
2006-07	June	450	-3%	416	7%	376	7%
	Sept	448	-12%	389	-6%	347	-7%
	Dec	441	11%	399	-13%	349	-16%
	Mar	466	-4%	387	-8%	363	-6%
2007-08	June	464	3%	393	-6%	364	-3%
	Sept	446	0%	375	-4%	348	0%
	Dec	444	1%	389	-3%	357	2%
	Mar	473	2%	341	-12%	317	-13%
2008-09	June	392	-16%	374	-5%	344	-13%
	Sept	439	-2%	379	1%	347	0%
	Dec	405	-9%	361	-7%	334	-6%
	Mar	431	-9%	393	15%	358	13%
2009-10 ^P	June	355	-9%	313	-16%	293	-15%
	Sept	406	-8%	336	-11%	304	-12%
	Dec	406	0%	376	4%	343	3%
	Mar	408	-5%	312	-21%	294	-18%
2010-11 ^P	June	352	-1%	306	-2%	283	-3%
Year to Jun 2010 ^P		1572	-4%	1330	-8%	1224	-8%

P Provisional.

Data collection

Statistics of planning applications received and decided by authorities that undertake district level planning activity have been collated, on a quarterly basis, since April 1979 on the PS1 and PS2 General Development Control statistical returns (District). From the March quarter 2008, the PS1, PS2 and the Fee1 (revenue collected in respect of PS1 and PS2) returns, are now combined as a single return, the PSF return. Information on planning applications for authorities that undertake county level planning activities are collated on the CPS1/2 General Development Control statistical returns (County Matters). These are reported to the department via *Interform* – the department's housing and planning electronic data collection system.

In April 2009, local government reorganisation has reduced the number of authorities that undertake district level planning activities from 367 to 339 while the number of authorities that undertake county level planning activities has increased from 161 to 163.

Data quality

Both the PSF and CPS1/2 returns submitted by local planning authorities undergo thorough validation and checks. Inconsistent data highlighted during validation and checks are verified by contacting the local authority. Late returns are pursued to ensure the overall response rate is as high as possible. Where a response rate of 100% is not achieved estimates are imputed for non-responding authorities.

327 (96 per cent) of authorities that undertake district level planning activities and 151 (93 per cent) of authorities that undertake county level planning activities submitted data in time for this publication. Also, authorities for which partial or no data has been received over the year (i.e. they did not submit information for one or more quarters) are not shown in annual tables. The data includes imputation for the small number of non-responding district level authorities and are included in Tables 1-3 where national and regional totals are presented. Performances of individual local authorities are presented in tables 7, 7YE, 8 and 8YE.

All figures included in the commentary have been calculated using unrounded data. As a result, there may be some apparent discrepancy with figures shown in the accompanying tables.

From April 2007 an indication on the level of quality assurance undertaken by the local authority is recorded as part of the final sign-off for these returns.

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. These are:

Tables:

1	Planning applications and decisions of district planning authorities by speed of decision
2 / 2YE	Planning decisions of district planning authorities by speed of decision, Government Office Region and type of authority
3 / 3YE	Planning decisions of district planning authorities by speed of decision, type and size of development
3A / 3A YE	District Planning Authorities: Major planning decisions by speed, type and size of development
4	Enforcement actions by district planning authorities
5	Regulation 3 and 4 Consents granted and applications for determination by district planning authorities
6	Enforcement action by district planning authority
7 / 7YE	Planning decisions, by development type and speed of decision - Quarter ending and Year ending
7A / 7A YE	Planning applications, decisions, Environmental Statements and percentage of decisions delegated
8 / 8E	Planning decisions on Major and Minor residential development by district authority - Quarter ending and Year ending
8A / 8A YE	Planning decisions on Major and Minor Gypsies and Travellers Pitches by district authority - Quarter ending and Year ending
9	'County matters' planning applications and decisions
10 / 10 YE	'County Matters' planning decisions by type and size of development
11	'County matters' decisions by speed of decision
12 / 12 YE	'County matter' planning applications received and decided
13	Enforcement actions of county planning authorities

Additional tables, earlier quarterly data and historic series can be accessed in the 'Live Tables' section ("Live Tables on Development Control Statistics") at

www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/livetablesondevelopmentcontrolst/

Background notes

1. County level planning applications are predominantly concerned with minerals extraction and waste disposal developments, as set out in Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and in the Town and Country Planning (Prescription of County Matters) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/1033).
2. Authorities undertaking county level planning include county councils, metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, London boroughs, national park authorities and urban development corporations. However, because of the nature of county matters applications, the large majority are handled by the county councils.
3. District level planning is undertaken by metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities, national park authorities and urban development corporations. These authorities deal with all other planning applications that are not classified as county matters and mainly include applications for planning permissions on residential, offices, industrial, retail and householder developments.
4. **Householder Developments:** Householder developments are defined as those within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse which require an application for planning permission and are not a change of use. **Included** in householder developments are extensions, conservatories, loft conversions, dormer windows, alterations, garages, car ports or outbuildings, swimming pools, walls, fences, domestic vehicular accesses including footway crossovers, porches and satellite dishes. **Excluded** from householder developments are: applications relating to any work to one or more flats, applications to change the number of dwellings (flat conversions, building a separate house in the garden), changes of use to part or all of the property to non-residential (including business) uses, anything outside the garden of the property (including stables if in a separate paddock).
5. This Release is a web-only publication.
6. Details of officials who receive pre-release access to this statistical release 24 hours before publication can be found at:
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7. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.

Date of next publication

The next update of this Statistical Release will be published in December 2010.

Enquiries

1. This Statistical Release, as well as previous Releases, can be accessed from the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/planningapplicationsq22010

2. Any query regarding this Release should be addressed to: Development Control Statistics Branch, Housing Markets and Planning Analysis Division, Communities and Local Government, Zone 4/J4, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.

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September 2010

ISBN: 978-1-4098-2578-4

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