

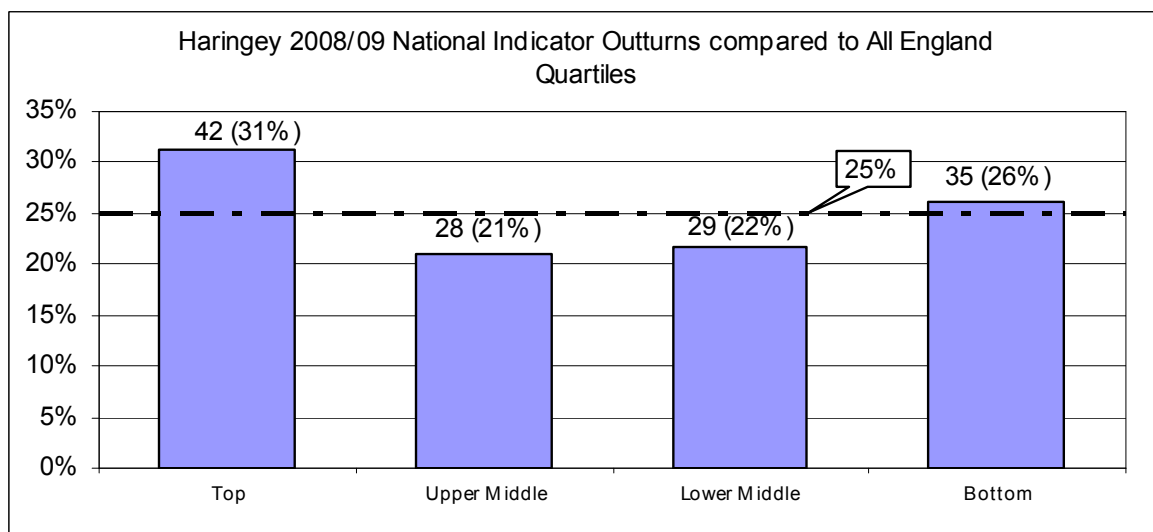
Leader's Portfolio Briefing Overview and Scrutiny

The Leader's portfolio covers the areas highlighted in this briefing paper for Overview and Scrutiny's consideration.

Performance

The Audit Commission have now published comparative performance data for most of the national indicator set (NIs) for 2008/09. For over half the indicators where comparative data is available, Haringey's performance is in the top 2 quartiles with performance for 42 indicators featuring in the top 25% of Local Authorities.

Performance continued to improve in 09/10 in a number of key areas including education attainment, teenage pregnancy, temporary accommodation and street cleanliness.



Communications

In probably the most challenging year for Haringey's communications, the news team responded to 100% of media enquiries, working round the clock for weeks on end, but still managed to achieve 75% pro-active output across the entire range of council services. They also produced all 10 issues of *Haringey People* as well as introducing the new localised editions, which have proved very popular. Efficiency gains mean that all this was achieved in a team reduced by one FTE. In a recent survey more than 60% of residents surveyed found *HP* either excellent or very good at keeping them informed.

A media briefing regarding the budget took place on 4 February 2010. The Council's *My Haringey* campaign continues to be rolled out.

Legal Services

Key projects for Legal services working in partnership with Directorates and corporate centre include:

- Building Schools for the Future contracts – legal services worked on all key building contracts successfully and are now involved in monitoring the continued performance under these contracts.
- Legal Services is assisting in advising on Waste collection contracts
- Planning advice on major regeneration projects including Haringey Heartlands, Tottenham Football Club, Tottenham Hale and assisting in gaining Article 4 direction for network rail requiring them to seek planning permission.
- Homes For Haringey – decent homes programme, contract advice.
- Child safeguarding and Local Safeguarding Board – partnership working – helping risk assessment process, maintaining good relations with courts and assisting in training projects for Children’s Services. Dealing with significant increase in Child Care cases.
- Assisted in recovering of over £1m debt from April – December 2009 for Social Services (residential and community care fees), Property Services (commercial rent arrears) and Council tax owing on empty properties targeted by the Council. We assisted Homes for Haringey in achieving a current rent arrears collection rate of over 98.72%.
- Assisting in the drive to reduce temporary accommodation – property team in legal working on large number of private sector leases in short period of time.
- Community involvement with the Council – advice on new duty regarding petitions, Councillor Call to Action, new leadership model, assistance with elections and post election constitutional issues.
- Successful implementation of the new local Member complaints regime, assessment, review and determination procedures.

Challenges

- Improving value for money – involvement in Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors benchmarking and other groups.
- Establishing involvement of legal early on in key projects to reduce risks and help prevent costly mistakes.
- Co-ordinating with the Children’s Service efforts to limit increase in legal spend.
- Review of Local Land Charges and Registrars.
- Threat to Local Land Charges income – recent ICO guidance on local authority search data being environmental information and therefore subject to disclosure without charge. This will be challenged at national level as the proposals could result in a loss of £ 358,000 in annual income.
- Elections and new intake of elected members – new members will require training and development programme.

Strategic sites

Below is the latest information regarding progress on strategic sites in Haringey:

Coronation Sidings and Clarendon Square: the Council persuaded the Secretary of State to withdraw Permitted Development rights from a train shed proposal by Network Rail. This should be the subject of a full planning application in 2010. This will enable a balanced decision to be made not only on that scheme but also on the outline application for mixed use and 1000 homes on the Clarendon Road Heartlands scheme.

On 17-2-10 the Council was informed that Network Rail will challenge the withdrawal of Permitted Development Rights, but at the same time consider continuing to commit to submitting a full planning application to Haringey. This is very recent news and Officers are reviewing the grounds of challenge and setting up negotiation meeting with Network Rail

GLS Site Hale Village: The Council also helped the Homes and Community Agency invest in the Hale Village scheme at Tottenham Hale to ensure proper development continues on that site, despite the recession.

Tottenham Hotspur FC: The club has submitted a full planning application for 56,000 seat stadium, Public Square and space, hotel, museum, café, supermarket and 434 homes.

Tottenham High Road: 15 properties are now in a new 2 year Heritage Improvement Programme comprising £900k with 50% of this coming from English Heritage. During 2009, 810 High Road - a Grade II star Georgian house - was externally renovated with support from English Heritage, local conservation and preservation groups and the Planning Service.

Consultation was carried out on redesigning the **Tottenham Gyrotory** and on options for the **Greater Ashley Road Master Plan**

New “area planning” resources: Tottenham Hale (£100k Greater Ashley Road and Green Link Feasibility); Tottenham Corridor (£30k from the Mayor’s Great Spaces Fund and £20k from the London Development Agency); Tottenham Green (£60k from the LDA and private sector partner