

Planning Enforcement Performance Review - facts and figures

- In the 3 years prior to the transfer of planning enforcement to the Enforcement service (2001/2 -2003/4), 2,064 cases were received for investigation, but only 913 (44%) resulted in a visit. However, in the 3 years that followed transfer (2004/5 – 2006/7) 2,523 cases were received for investigation, of which 2,357 (93%) were investigated by visit. **Since 2004 there has been a substantial increase in the number investigations made as a proportion of cases received.**
- In the current year, reported in December 2007, 97% of all cases for site investigation have been visited within their target time. **Performance on investigations made as a first response is excellent in Haringey.**
- In the benchmarked year of 2006/7 Haringey's planning enforcement recorded 686 cases for investigation. This was a low year compared to the average of around 840 per year for Haringey. When viewed as cases per 1000 of the population Haringey has a low level of cases opened compared to other benchmarked authorities. **Haringey has a comparatively low complaint levels.**
- Based on an average of 840 new cases per year and a permanent establishment of 6 (4 case officers) Haringey has 140 cases per fte per year. This is marginally less than the average for the benchmarked authorities of 147 cases per fte per year, although in some years Haringey has been above this average. **Haringey has generally average volumes of new cases for its establishment compared to other benchmarked authorities**
- Haringey has the second lowest permanent establishment of the benchmarked authorities, being 0.5 fte more than Brent. **Haringey has a comparatively small establishment.**
- In the 3 years prior to transfer of planning enforcement to Enforcement (2001/2 -2003/4) only 209 (9%) cases were closed during that period. However, in the 3 years that followed the transfer (2004/5 – 2006/7) 3,074 (122%) were closed. **There has been a substantial increase in the volume of case closures to reduce the backlog inherited from before 2004.**
- At the close of 2003/4 when the service was transferred there were 1,855 open cases arising from the 3 years of previous weak activity. At that time there were 3 funded case officer posts, representing a potential average caseload of 618 cases per officer. At the close of December 2007 there were 1,005 open cases and 4 funded case officer posts. This represents a caseload per officer of 251 cases. **Haringey has had very large levels of historical open cases. However, since 2004 there has been a significant reduction the in the total caseload per officer.**

## Appendix 3

- In the benchmarked year of 2006/7 Haringey's planning enforcement closed 1068 cases and served 130 Enforcement Notices. This represents a ratio of 8.2:1. In comparison only one authority, Brent, served a higher proportion of Enforcement Notices but this Council closed less than half the number of cases. Haringey's ratio was twice the average for the benchmark group but showed no indication of being higher for appeals or lost appeals. ***Haringey has reported a high volume of Enforcement activity compared to other benchmarked authorities.***
- In the benchmarked year of 2006/7 Haringey's planning enforcement closed 1068. Its establishment was 4 case officers, one Team Leader and one administration officer. In addition one the equivalent of one additional case officer was employed bringing the establishment to full time equivalent (fte) of 7. This equates to a 153 cases closed per fte in Haringey per year. This was higher than all other benchmarked authorities except for Enfield, who like Haringey, were dealing with a backlog having relocated the planning enforcement service away from development control. The average for the benchmarked authorities was around one fifth less than for Haringey. ***Despite the use of additional temporary resources, Haringey has reported a high level of case closures per officer compared to other benchmarked authorities.***
- ***The average unit cost of a planning enforcement case taken to closure fell by £105 from £437 in 2005/6 to £342 in 2006/7.***