

# THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

17 MAY 2006

## REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL BOARD

<b>Title: Annual Report of the Development Control Board 2005 / 2006</b>		<b>For Information</b>
<b>Summary:</b>  This annual report summarises the business of the Development Control Board from 17 May 2005 to 19 April 2006 and covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key issues and successes.</li><li>• Comparative figures for planning applications for 2004/05 and 2005 / 2006.</li><li>• The work of the Development Control Board Visiting Panel.</li><li>• Specific reports and future development.</li></ul>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All Wards		
<b>Contact Officer:</b> Valerie Dowdell	<b>Title:</b> Democratic Services Officer	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 2756 Fax: 020 8227 2171 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Valerie.dowdell@lbbd.gov.uk">Valerie.dowdell@lbbd.gov.uk</a>

### 1. Key Issues and Successes

- 1.1 The membership of the Development Control Board is divided into two panels of 14, with the Chair, Deputy Chair, Leader of the Council and the Executive Lead Member for Regeneration being members of both panels.
- 1.2 Illustrations of planning items provide Members with a visual display and aid the decision making process. The meetings give the opportunity for interesting debates on all aspects of planning matters.
- 1.3 The draft Members Code of Conduct for Planning Matters received by the Board last year was considered by the Standards Committee on 8 September 2005 and adopted by the Assembly on 2 November 2005. The key objectives of the Code are to ensure that the Council's Development Control Board acts reasonably and openly in dealing with planning matters and to protect the Council and individual Members from allegations of unfairness, findings of maladministration and legal challenge.
- 1.4 The first two planning applications to be determined by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation were submitted to the Board for comment at their meeting on 19 April 2006, as agreed by the Executive on 11 October 2005.

## 2. Planning Applications

- 2.1 The Development Control Board has met on 22 occasions since the last annual report and in that time has considered a total of 104 new planning applications. Of these applications 84 were decided in accordance with officer recommendations. Of the remaining, 12 were refused against officer recommendation, 2 were withdrawn and 1 was deferred pending further investigation. 5 applications were deferred pending site visits and subsequently decided.

## 3. Development Control Board Visiting Panel

- 3.1 The Development Control Board Visiting Panel met 5 times during this municipal year. The Panel reviewed 5 applications, 4 of which were granted following the Panel's recommendations to the Development Control Board for decision. The Panel requested further information in respect 1 application, which was then granted by the Board.

## 4. Statistics

- 4.1 The following table provides comparative figures for planning applications between 2004 / 2005 and 2005 / 2006:

	Total Applications	No of decisions agreed with officers	No of decisions against officers' recommendation	No of deferred decisions	No of applications withdrawn	No of site visits
May 2004 – April 2005	96	87	7	8	6	3
May 2005 – April 2006	104	84	12	6	2	5

## 5. Town Planning Appeals

- 5.1 During the period covered by this report 20 town planning appeals were lodged and 36 were determined (13 allowed and 23 dismissed).

## 6. Reports and Developments

- 6.1 Over the last 12 months the Development Control Board has received the following reports:

- 6.2 Development Control Board Objector Rules

The Board reviewed and agreed changes to the public speaking guidelines and the Council's Constitution (Article 7A).

### 6.3 Delegated Powers

The Board received and agreed a report advising Members of the types of applications required to be determined by the Board and those which are delegated to officers.

### 6.4 London Thames Gateway (Urban) Development Corporation: Proposed Planning Service Agreement

At its meeting on 11 October 2005, the Executive considered a report on the outcome of negotiations with London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (The 'Urban Development Corporation' (UDC)) in respect of the working relationship between the Council and the UDC on planning matters, in the light of the transfer to the UDC of local planning authority responsibilities for specified developments in certain areas of the Borough with effect from 31 October 2005.

## 7. Consultees

7.1 The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Councillor Mrs J E Bruce, former Chair of Development Control Board
- John Tatam, Corporate Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive
- Nina Clark, Assistant Chief Executive (Democracy and Partnerships)
- John Dawe, Group Manager Democratic Services

### **Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

- Agendas and minutes of Development Control Board meetings May 2005 – April 2006