



ECONOMIC IMPACTS DASHBOARD - NOVEMBER 2009

The Dashboard gathers data from across the Council to track yearly and monthly changes and highlight potential impacts. All data is collected and monitored by the Corporate Performance & Improvement Team. Note: It is not possible to fully quantify the impact of the downturn using these indicators.

KEY POINTS:

- JSA figures dropped by 101 in Nov 09 to a total of 6,132, the first decline for 6 months. Overall, claims have increased by 2,776 (83%) on the year. 71% have been claiming for 6 months or less and 26% of all claimants are aged 18-24.
- Approximately 193 shop units in town centre areas were empty as at end of Nov 09, down 8 from the previous month.
- Council Tax and Business Rates collection levels continue to hold up compared to the same time last year.
- The rate of new Housing and Council Tax benefit applications declined by (5%) in Nov 09 but the overall caseload has increased by 14% over the year to Nov 09. Rent collection rates and rent arrears continue to improve compared with 08.
- Most community safety indicators remain broadly flat. Reports of serious acquisitive crime dropped by 178 (26%) on the month and are below 2008 levels. Reported incidents of ASB increased slightly in Nov 09.
- Numbers accessing Council leisure facilities were above the profiled target for Nov 09 but overall remain steady.
- Planning applications dropped by 31 compared to the previous month. Overall the number of app's declined by 13% on the year to Nov 09.
- Data from Hillingdon CABx shows an increase in people seeking advice on JSA, mortgage and secured loan arrears, personal loans and fuel debts. Both LA and private rent arrears enquiries have also declined. Council figures show a substantial rise in actual homelessness enquiries.

Local Economy						
	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
JSA claims in LBH	3,107	3,149	3,356	6,090	6,233	6,132
Overall difference in JSA claims on the year				96%	98%	83%
Proportion of JSA claimants aged 18-24	33.5%	31.8%	29.7%	27.9%	26.6%	25.9%
Proportion of JSA claimants receiving JSA for <6 months	79.6%	80.0%	81.6%	72.1%	71.4%	70.7%
No. of empty shop units in town centre / high street areas				206	201	193
SUMMARY: JSA claims in Hillingdon dropped by 101 (2%) on the month. Overall claims increased by 2,776 (83%) during the year to Nov 09. Current levels account for 3.8% of the working age population compared with 4.4 % in London and 4.1% in Great Britain. 71% of claimants have been receiving JSA for 6 month or less. 26% of all claimants are aged 18-24 and 58.5% are aged 25-49.						
There are approximately 193 empty shop premises in town centre districts as of end of Nov 09 (commercial shop premises only). This indicator is taken from the council's National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) database.						

Housing						
	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
Rent collected as proportion of rent due	97.8%	97.8%	97.9%	98.4%	98.4%	98.4%
LA tenants with more than 7 weeks rent arrears	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%
New housing and CT benefit applications	1,065	1,153	935	1,108	1,047	996
Total housing and CT benefit caseload	20,537	20,616	20,722	23,091	23,339	23,520
No of people seeking housing advice	378	386	341	337	279	279
No of people making formal homelessness applications	51	52	56	59	66	55
No of empty residential properties	650	634	633	628	671	685
SUMMARY: Rent collection levels remain high and the proportion of tenants with more than 7 weeks arrears remain steady. New housing and CT benefit applications dropped by 51 (5%) compared with the previous month but are slightly higher compared to Nov 08. The overall caseload has increased by 14% on the year. Formal homelessness applications dropped slightly on the month whereas those seeking housing advice remained the same. Note: New housing and CT benefit figures for November 09 are provisional.						

Planning & Development						
	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
Number of planning applications received	249	278	229	205	230	199
SUMMARY: Applications dropped by 31 in Nov 09. Overall applications have declined by 30 or 13% on the year to November 09.						

Community Safety						
	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
Hate crime levels (Harassment)	36	39	29	28	29	29
Domestic Violence Offences	194	170	168	173	143	176
Anti Social Behaviour (No of reported instances)	2,225	1,724	1,809	1,697	1,750	1,800
Community Tensions Risk Level	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
Serious Acquisitive crime rate	488	545	578	614	678	500
SUMMARY: Both Domestic violence and Hate Crime reports remain broadly flat over the last 6 months. Reports of serious acquisitive crime declined by 178 in Nov and have dropped below 2008 levels. Reported incidents of ASB increased by 50 on the month to Nov 09.						

-26%

Leisure						
	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
People accessing leisure services	84,534	73,200	56,588	62,433	71,023	55,103
Monthly Profiled Target	74,638	81,167	66,405	66,405	68,161	52,739
SUMMARY: The number of people accessing leisure services was above profiled target in November. Overall figures show a steady footfall with some fluctuation.						

Revenue						
	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
Council Tax collection level	56.9%	66.8%	76.8%	57.1%	66.8%	76.1%
Business Rates collection level	59.9%	70.6%	77.1%	59.7%	69.5%	79.1%
SUMMARY: Both Council tax and Business Rate collection levels remain consistent in comparison with this time last year. Figures for CT and Business rates are cumulative.						

Council Contact Centre calls (volume)			
	Sep - Nov 08	Sep - Nov 09	Difference +/-
Housing benefits	16,161	16,699	3%
Actual homelessness	69	124	80%
Threatened homelessness	45	9	-80%
Domestic Violence	33	38	15%

CAB Enquiries (volume)			
	Sep - Nov 08	Sep - Nov 09	Difference +/-
Mortgage & Secured Loan Arrears	43	92	114%
Unsecured personal loan debts	126	208	65%
Rent Arrears (local authority)	90	47	-48%
Rent Arrears (Private Landlords)	35	40	14%
Council Tax Arrears	126	140	11%
Council Tax Benefit	253	295	17%
Housing Benefit	348	333	-4%
Fuel Debts	95	143	51%
Job Seekers Allowance	103	223	117%
Redundancy	61	46	-25%
Threatened Homelessness	55	60	9%
Actual Homelessness	25	16	-36%
Domestic Violence Incidence	13	11	-15%
SUMMARY: CAB are dealing with increasing enquiries on key areas; home & secured loans, unsecured personal loans, fuel debts and JSA enquiries continue to be the most significant issues. Local authority rent arrear enquiries dropped but private rent arrear enquiries increased slightly compared with this time last year. CT and housing benefit enquiries remain broadly flat. The Council is dealing with increased actual homelessness enquiries, while CAB has seen a decline in levels. Threatened homelessness enquiries continue to fall.			