

## O&amp;S REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT



Part 1: About the review	
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Housing Services</b>
<b>Lead review member:</b>	Councillor Derek Conway
<b>Other review members:</b>	Councillors Mike Dendor, Mick Galvin and Samuel Koffie-Williams
<b>Review type:</b>	Performance review
<b>Objective</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To understand the reasons why the provision of temporary accommodation in Swale has been consistently problematic and how this can be overcome;</li> <li>▪ To explore the causes of pressures on housing services (lack of availability of affordable private rented sector housing, low numbers of affordable houses being built in the Borough, lack of available properties for tenants to 'down-size' to) and possible measures for alleviating them;</li> <li>▪ To review what effect the purchase of a property to house homeless families has had and whether this initiative should be extended; and</li> <li>▪ To make recommendations to Cabinet as necessary.</li> </ul>	

Part 2: Progress report		
<b>Overall progress</b>		
<b>X</b>	Either: The deadlines on the work programme are expected to be met.	
	Or: The deadlines on the work programme are not expected to be met.	
<b>Changes to deadlines</b>	<u>Original expectation</u>	<u>Revised expectation</u>
Begin evidence gathering:	July 2016	July 2016
Committee sessions (if any):	N/A	N/A
Draft report to committee:	12 January 2017	8 June 2017
<b>Note:</b> Changes to dates of committee session(s) and for the draft report to be presented to committee must be reflected in the committee work programme.		
<b>Progress against main review stages</b>		
Inception:	Completed	
Evidence/input:	In progress – nearing completion	
Report:	Working draft considered by Committee 12 January 2017	
Follow-up:	Not yet started	

## Commentary on progress

This review was originally identified several years ago and the Scrutiny Committee adopted the review plan in early 2015/16. Two sessions on Housing Services were held at the Scrutiny Committee meetings on 14 October and 11 November 2015. Since then, work on the review fell into abeyance.

The Scrutiny Committee appointed a Task and Finish Group to see the review through to completion and appointed a review coordinator and other members.

Members of the Task and Finish Group met on 30 June 2016 to take stock of the review so far, review the objectives, identify what evidence was needed to be collected and who would be able to provide it. The Task and Finish Group agreed a review plan setting out how the evidence was to be collected.

The Group has been meeting with various officers to gather evidence including:

- Hyde Housing Association (2 August 2016);
- Officers from SBC Resident Services (4 August);
- AmicusHorizon (24 August); and
- Moat Housing Association (31 August).

Visits were also made to Maidstone BC on 7 December 2016 and Thanet DC on 14 December 2016.

As noted by the Scrutiny Committee when they discussed the 'Working draft' version of the report on 12 January, various key themes emerged from the review. The Committee had a number of questions arising from 'Working draft' which the Task and Finish Group are now working through. The Task and Finish Group also met with the Cabinet Member and Head of Resident Services on 14 March.

A final version of the Task and Finish Groups draft report will be submitted for the Committee's consideration and approval at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 8 June.