

Council	Agenda Item:
Meeting Date	25 July 2018
Report Title	Scrutiny Review of Development Management
Cabinet Member	Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of the Council
SMT Lead	Mark Radford, Chief Executive
Head of Service	N/A
Lead Officer	N/A
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. Council is asked to note the recommendations made by Scrutiny Committee in their interim report on their review of Development Management and Cabinet's response to them.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Council to note the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee in their interim report on Development Management, and Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee established a Task and Finish Group (TFG) to review the effectiveness of the Council's development management function. The interim report of the review focussed on officer delegations. This was only one element of the development management review.
- 2.2 The review was conducted principally through a number of meetings between the TFG and officers but also incorporated visits to a number of neighbouring councils to meet with their Planning Committee members and support officers as well as observing their Planning Committee meetings. The review also considered a range of data which illustrated that Swale had the lowest rates of delegation to officers of all the Kent districts for determining planning applications.
- 2.3 The final interim report of the review was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee in March and was submitted to Cabinet on 30 May. Cabinet agreed its response to the report's recommendations at its meeting on 11 July.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee's recommendations and Cabinet's response to them are set out in Appendix I.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 None.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 None.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The subject matter supports Priority Theme One: A Borough to be proud of.
Financial, Resource and Property	The report and recommendations referred to the higher costs involved in determining more planning applications at Planning Committee rather than under officer delegations.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None.
Crime and Disorder	None.
Environment and Sustainability	None.
Health and Wellbeing	None.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None.
Equality and Diversity	None.
Privacy and Data Protection	None.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on development management together with Cabinet's response.

8 Background Papers

The Scrutiny Committee's report was submitted to Cabinet on 30 May 2018:
<https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s10039/Interim%20TFG%20report%20on%20planning%20delegations%20-%20Revised%20after%20SC.pdf>