

23 February 2015		Agenda Item 4
<i>Mid Kent Improvement Partnership – Planning Support</i>		
Lead member:	Councillor Andy Booth	
Report author:	Bob Pullen – Policy and Performance Officer	
Recommendation		
That the Committee:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Receive the Audit Report on MKIP Planning Support Implementation (Appendix I); (b) Receive the response of the MKIP Board to the Audit Report on MKIP Planning Support Implementation (Appendix II): and (c) Receive an update on the current position and performance of MKIP Planning Support; and (d) Consider the issues raised by (a), (b) and (c). 		

1 Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the meeting is to consider the Audit Report on the implementation of the Mid Kent Improvement Partnership (MKIP) Planning Support and the MKIP Board’s response to the recommendations made by the Audit Report.

2 Background

2.1 Following the joint work that the Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees had undertaken on MKIP governance and communications, it follows that the Committees should jointly review MKIP Planning Support implementation.

2.2 The respective Cabinets of Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils decided to introduce a joint Planning Support function under the auspices of MKIP in 2013. The joint service went live in June 2014. Since then, the service has suffered numerous and wide ranging difficulties resulting in delays, a backlog and poor service to customers.

3 Planning Support Project Implementation Review

3.1 The Mid Kent Audit Service was commissioned in August 2014 to undertake an independent review of the project with the following objectives:

- analyse the project plan and assess whether it was appropriately configured to deliver the aims of the project;
- review the implementation of the project plan, in particular to establish a timeline and assess whether the delivery stage was completed in a manner sufficient to deliver the aims of the project; and
- consider what lessons can be taken from the design and delivery of the project to inform any future similar actions and continued improvement of the planning support service.

3.2 The full report and recommendations of the Audit, which was completed in December 2014, is at Appendix I.

4 Planning Support Implementation

4.1 The MKIP Board have responded to the report and recommendations of the Audit Review and this response is at Appendix ii.

5 Consideration

5.1 The joint Committees of the Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells Overview and Scrutiny Committees are invited to consider the reports and appendices I and II and to decide if any further action is necessary.

6 Appendices

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

- appendix I: Project Implementation Review
- appendix II: Response from MKIP Board

7. Background papers

A copy of the minutes of the Tri-Cabinet meeting, dated 12 June 2013, is attached to the agenda. The following is a link to the agenda pack that formed the background to the decision set out in the minutes:

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/CeListDocuments.aspx?MID=313&RD=Notice%20of%20Meeting&DF=12%2f06%2f2013&A=1&R=0>

8 Officer contact

Bob Pullen – Policy and Performance Officer
BobPullen@swale.gov.uk ☎ 01795 417187