

Council	Agenda Item: 9
Meeting Date	17 June 2015
Report Title	Scrutiny of MKIP Governance and Communications
Cabinet Member	Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of the Council
SMT Lead	Abdool Kara – Chief Executive
Head of Service	N/A
Lead Officer	N/A
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Reference number:
Recommendations	1. Council is asked to note the recommendations made by Scrutiny Committee on MKIP Governance and Communications 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 report of MKIP Governance and Communications, and Cabinet’s response to those recommendations.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committees from Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils established a Joint Task and Finish Group (JTFG) to review the governance and communication arrangements of the Mid Kent Improvement Partnership (MKIP). The role of the JTFG was to:

“consider how the Mid Kent Improvement Partnership’s (MKIP) governance arrangements should be taken forward and how an MKIP communications plan should be developed.”

- 2.2 The review was instigated by a joint meeting of the Maidstone, Swale, and Tunbridge Wells Scrutiny Committees on 7 July 2014.
- 2.3 The review was conducted principally through a number of question and answer sessions with a range of Cabinet members and senior officers from the three authorities and/or external partners. The JTFG also reviewed a number of reports, agendas, and minutes of meetings, and other papers.

2.4 The final report of the JTFG was completed on 12 January 2015. The recommendations were received by the Swale Cabinet on 4 February 2015 where Cabinet resolved to respond to the JTFG recommendations at its meeting on 11 March 2015. This duly took place.

3 Proposals

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations and Cabinet’s response to them are set out at Appendix I.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 None.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The original work of the JTFG was widely consulted on. The responses were considered through Cabinet and officer discussions.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The delivery of effective shared services is key to the ongoing corporate health and financial sustainability of Swale Borough Council.
Financial, Resource and Property	The costs of meeting the recommendations that are agreed will be met from within existing budgets and staffing resources.
Legal and Statutory	There are no specific legal or statutory implications – the MKIP Board is not a decision-making body. However, whilst every attempt will be made to ensure transparency in the work of the MKIP Board, there may be occasions where commercially confidential or personally restricted information will be withheld, in line with Data Protection and Freedom of Information guidelines. In addition, the general principles of access to information will be applied, so confidential or exempt information, as defined under the Local Government Act 1972, would not be disclosed.
Crime and Disorder	None.
Sustainability	None.
Health and Wellbeing	None.
Risk Management	None.

and Health and Safety	
Equality and Diversity	None.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix I: Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on MKIP Governance and Communications, together with Cabinet's response.

8 Background Papers

The report of the JTFG as agreed by the joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 12 January:

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s1962/MKIP%20Report.pdf>

and the minutes of that meeting:

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/g1504/Printed%20minutes%2012th-Jan-2015%2019.00%20Special%20Meeting%20of%20the%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=1>

The report to Cabinet on the response to the Scrutiny Committee recommendations:

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s2259/Report.pdf>

and the minutes of that Cabinet meeting:

<http://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/g1277/Printed%20minutes%2011th-Mar-2015%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>