

O&S REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT



Part 1: About the review	
Subject:	<i>Development Management</i>
Lead review member:	Councillor Andy Booth
Other review members:	Councillors Mike Baldock, Cameron Beart, Lloyd Bowen, Derek Conway, Mike Henderson, Ken Ingleton and Peter Marchington
Review type:	Performance review
Objective	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the effectiveness of Swale Borough Council's development management function; • as necessary, to make recommendations to Cabinet; and • to contribute towards the Development Management Service Improvement Plan 2016-18. 	

Part 2: Progress report		
Overall progress		
X	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.	
Changes to deadlines	<u>Original expectation</u>	<u>Revised expectation</u>
Begin evidence gathering:	May 2016	-
Committee sessions (if any):	13 January 2016	-
Draft report to committee:	-	15 November 2017
Note: 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.		
Progress against main review stages		
Inception:	Completed	
Evidence/input:	In progress	
Report:	Not yet started	
Follow-up:	Not yet started	
Commentary on progress		
Members of the Task and Finish Group met on 24 May to discuss the way forward on		

this review and the following progress is as follows:

- planning delegations: the Head of Planning has provided comparative performance and financial data showing how Swale compares to other Kent authorities in terms of the proportion of planning applications that are decided by officers under delegated authority rather than being decided by the Planning Committee;
- the Policy and Performance Officer is undertook an analysis of the constitutions of Swale and three other Kent districts to see if there are any major differences of approach in setting officer delegations and other matters such as site visits;
- the Development Manager has been asked to provide protocols which our statutory partners are meant to follow in providing comments on planning applications;
- the Policy and Performance Officer arranged for members of the Task and Finish Group to visit other Kent districts so that members could observe other Planning Committees and to talk beforehand with Planning Committee Chairmen, other members and officers;
- the findings from all of the above will be drawn into a report from the Policy and Performance Officer for consideration by the Task and Finish Group;
- work is yet to start in earnest on:
 - the role of parish and town councils;
 - planning appeals;
 - parcels of unadopted land; and
 - enabling Members to obtain information about Section 106 agreements.