

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY LOG OF RECOMMENDATIONS



Cttee	Review title	Rec #	Summary of recommendation	Status	Head of service	Implementation target date	Notes
Scrutiny	STC Regeneration	3	That a monthly update to questions, in a format to be agreed in conjunction with the Scrutiny Committee Chairman and Policy and Performance Officer, be provided by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to all Members in the form of a bulletin.	Accepted	E.Wiggins	Ongoing	Cabinet's response was: "Cabinet agree on the principle of regular updating to members, in a standard 'bulletin' format to be agreed. However, monthly updating is not considered reasonable, and instead reporting every two months, shortly after the STC Project Board meeting, is considered to be more practicable. These can be timed to coincide with the regular face-to-face updates for Group Leaders that the Cabinet Member has agreed to continue." Updates provided to Scrutiny Committee - alternatively in person and through a written report at each meeting. A further briefing for all Members is being prepared to explain the details of the Phase 2 roadworks.
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	1	Promotion and marketing - to commit a minimum of £25,000 to the tourism base budget to allow for substantial marketing and promotion of Swale as a tourist destination	Pending	C.Hudson	Ongoing	A Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) is currently being developed and will identify tourism priorities and make budget recommendations. The VES has been put back to the February 2018 Cabinet but the Policy Development and Review Committee are due to consider the VES before approval by Cabinet.
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	2	Promotion and marketing - to agree an objective of growing Swale tourism by 5 – 10% over the next four years	Pending	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Visitor Economy Strategy will set out target market segments in conjunction with industry
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	3	Promotion and marketing - to consider as part of the future tourism plans the best forms of branding of Swale	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	To be included as part of the work to be undertaken on the Visitor Economy Strategy
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	4	Visitors and local infrastructure - SBC should identify and provide sufficient coach parking in convenient locations to meet the demands of all visitors to Swale	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Internal discussions with parking team underway on this critical issue
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	5	Visitors and local infrastructure - SBC should work closely with tourist attractions to ensure the Borough has a comprehensive coverage of up to date "brown tourist signs", including on strategic routes	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Technical help is provided to visitor attractions through Visit Swale and Visit Kent using national visitor guidance and will continue
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	6	Visitors and local infrastructure - provision of more local signs	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Will be reviewed as part of Visitor Economy Strategy
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	7	Visitors and local infrastructure - consideration given to whether the funding of these signs could be supported by SBC, either through a new fund, Member grants, Section 106 grants or a combination of these	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Will be reviewed as part of Visitor Economy Strategy
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	8	Visitors and local infrastructure - SBC should make sustained efforts to influence KCC Highways and Highways England to fulfil their responsibilities to keep roads clean, and do the same with Network Rail in relation to the approaches to local stations	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Establish high level tourism stakeholder group to monitor Visitor Economy Strategy including external drivers impacting on tourism, leisure and hospitality
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	9	Working with the local tourism sector - that SBC facilitates the establishment of collaborative groups preferably led by the private sector and/or voluntary sector	Pending	C.Hudson	Ongoing	This is a model that has worked well in other LA areas where Visitor Economy Strategies and/or Destination Management Plans have been developed
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	10	Working with the local tourism sector - that SBC establishes a challenge fund of £3,000 to support new activities or events	Pending	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Will be reviewed as part of Visitor Economy Strategy
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	11	Research and intelligence - to conduct a full economic assessment of tourism in Swale. It is understood that this has been arranged to cover 2015 using "Destination Research". This should be repeated strictly every three years which has not recently been met	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Model has been run based on 2015 data and the Visitor Economy Strategy will contain performance measures including volume and value data: noted requirement for performance monitoring every three years
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	12	Research and intelligence - additionally extra information should be sought from useful reports available on the tourism market	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Council is in membership of Visit Kent and British Destinations Association and has access to tourism research and data on demand. The services of these and other agencies will be used in the preparation of the Visitor Economy Strategy

Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	13	Research and intelligence - to make contact with several other similar Boroughs to develop a benchmarking programme to seek the best ways of increasing the economic and cultural effects of tourism. A minimum of £2,000 pa should be set aside for research	Accepted	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Districts meet twice a year through Visit Kent and the matter can be considered through this Forum
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	14	Financial and other support to the sector - SBC to proactively assist local tourist organisations to find and bid for grants to increase tourism	Pending	C.Hudson	Ongoing	Noted
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	15	Financial and other support to the sector - consider the creation and promotion of a challenge fund worth around £5,000, subject to future review, which local tourism businesses could bid for		C.Hudson	Ongoing	State Aid rules may apply and a review will be undertaken to see how/if this might be best achieved
Scrutiny	Leisure and tourism	16	Financial and other support to the sector - that SBC increases the availability of officer time to ensure the best possible potential achievement of all the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee		C.Hudson	Ongoing	Will be reviewed as part of the Visitor Economy Strategy
Scrutiny	Housing Services	1	Cabinet should consider what more the Council can do to help housing associations to provide more affordable and social housing in Swale	Accepted	A.Christou	Ongoing	Cabinet's response: Agreed. The council works in close partnership with these key organisations, meeting regularly, and supporting funding bids for their homes with the Homes and Communities Agency National Affordable Housing Programme. As the scrutiny committee review report confirms, the operating landscape of social housing providers is changing, and it has become more challenging for them to provide the level of affordable rented housing that is needed within the borough. Housing association Boards are now taking difficult decision to focus more greatly on shared ownership housing, than rented housing, due to viability of house building schemes and the requirement of the lenders. This does not accord with Swale local plan requirements, or the needs of local residents and this will be fully considered within the development of the upcoming housing and homelessness strategy for Swale.
Scrutiny	Housing Services	2	Cabinet should consider ways to provide housing associations a closer role in planning applications for housing developments, e.g. by routinely consulting them	Accepted	A.Christou	Ongoing	Cabinet's response: Agreed. Housing associations partners are engaged in the development of the local plan, and consulted in all relevant planning policies as well as discussions on a site by site basis, as housing developments come forward. We will continue to seek additional ways to provide a closer role where possible and appropriate.
Scrutiny	Housing Services	3	Cabinet considers whether it should make further capital investments into selective housing stock	Rejected	A.Christou	Complete	Cabinet's response: The Council has agreed an investment strategy for the Council that has two criteria; financial return and strategic impact particularly from a regeneration perspective. Further investment in housing stock does not meet those objectives and there are more cost effective ways of securing alternative accommodation that buying stock eg the Council's arrangement for use a number of Optivo properties. The main focus of the Housing Options team remains on preventing homelessness and thereby reducing the need for use of temporary accommodation.
Scrutiny	Housing Services	4	Cabinet considers whether the Council is doing enough to alleviate social housing pressures, and whether Swale should follow the lead of other councils and adopt a less risk adverse approach to property acquisition	Rejected	A.Christou	Complete	Cabinet's response: Each Council is in a different financial position; for example some councils take no New Homes Bonus (NHB) into the base budget, which allows them to either buy properties direct or use the NHB to fund debt costs. This Council does take New Homes Bonus into the base and without that would have to find £2.7m of savings to fund this loss of funding annually. There is no scope within either the revenue or capital budget for further acquisition of properties.
Scrutiny	Housing Services	5	That the Housing Team, supported by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing, bid for capital funding should any empty properties become available that owners agree to let the Council use	Accepted	A.Christou	Ongoing	Cabinet's response: Agreed. The Council supports owners and landlords to secure cost-effective loans to renovate properties to bring back to use with some success. If and when such properties become available, the council will take a proactive approach, including where possible bidding for funds to make best use of the property to meet local needs.
Scrutiny	Housing Services	6	Cabinet should consider whether the residency criteria (i.e. living in Swale for four years out of five) in Swale's housing allocations policy is a help or hindrance towards helping those in housing need, and if the latter, whether the policy should be	Accepted	A.Christou	Ongoing	Cabinet's response: Agreed. With the soon to be implemented Homelessness Reduction Act, and recent case law affecting Reasonable Preference requirements the allocations policy does require a full review, and this will begin by December 2017.
Scrutiny	Housing Services	7	That Cabinet can be encouraged to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government drawing attention to the severe pressure Swale was facing in housing homeless families	Accepted	A.Christou	Ongoing	Cabinet's response: Agreed.
Key to status							
	Pending: Awaiting cabinet decision on whether to accept or reject.						
	Rejected: Recommendation not accepted by cabinet.						
	Accepted: Recommendation accepted, still within target date for implementation.						
	Implemented: Recommendation accepted, implementation complete.						

	Overdue: Recommendation accepted, target date for implementation exceeded.						