

ITEM: SCRUTINY BRIEFING: Developing infrastructure to support Ashford's growth

Purpose of the Report

To provide background information on the infrastructure delivery schedule to enable the Committee to determine which service providers it wishes to engage with regarding infrastructure delivery.

Briefing Summary

Title	Developing infrastructure to support Ashford's growth
Aims/Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure that statutory undertakers are proactive rather than reactive in their planning for and response to future development• To identify which areas of infrastructure provision the committee have concerns over• To identify which infrastructure bodies and external providers the Committee wishes to engage in this regard
Background	<p>Concerns have been expressed that the expansion plans of key infrastructure providers (including power, water, transportation, healthcare provision) may not be fully aligned with the growth forecast outlined in the draft local plan, and that providers may not be adequately prepared to deliver the infrastructure required to serve the Borough's projected growth.</p> <p>It is a national policy requirement that the new Local Plan show no major gaps in infrastructure provision in order for it to be deemed sound by the Planning Inspectorate. In accordance with this, the Planning Policy team have reached out to all infrastructure providers and statutory partners over the last two years regarding their plans for infrastructure expansion and development.</p> <p>The committee discussed the subject of infrastructure provision at its meeting of 22nd November 2016 and requested further information on the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule to inform which infrastructure providers' forward plans should form the focal point of the committee's discussions.</p>
Required outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A clear understanding of the delivery plans of identified key service providers over the period covered by the draft local plan (to 2030).• An understanding of infrastructure providers' awareness of, capacity to meet and future planning relating to the planned growth of Ashford.• Possible recommendations to external service providers or Cabinet
Measures to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Local Plan to 2030 - proposed allocation of sites for

evaluate outcomes	<p>12,200 homes to 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) – projected population increase of 25,497 between 2011 and 2031. • Kent Growth Infrastructure Framework – outlines infrastructure investment requirements for the county based on KCC growth projections for each district • The committee may also wish to engage with residents to provide insight into their experience of infrastructure expansion and existing service provision.
Implications for customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further evidence to inform infrastructure development plans for internal partners and external organisations. • Possible evidence-gathering from residents interested in infrastructure development
Alternative options	The committee could request updates from the Policy Planning team regarding ongoing liaison with external providers, however this misses opportunities for the committee to undertake direct engagement with providers themselves and build stronger links with external organisations, which may be of benefit to future scrutiny work.
Emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcomes of the draft Local Plan and CIL consultations are not yet known, and both of these have the possibility to affect the infrastructure delivery requirements for service providers
Timetable/Future events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential further public consultation on revised local plan in Spring 2017.</i> • <i>Public examination of the Local Plan, CIL, supporting evidence and comments will be undertaken by a Planning Inspector following the consultation stages.</i>
Cost and staff requirements	Liaison with the Planning Policy team and external organisations will be required.
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Committee cannot duplicate any work of the Planning Committee with regard to the Local Plan and will need to retain an external focus.</i> • <i>The development schedule of the Local Plan will need to be considered when scheduling the review.</i>

Background Papers:

Scrutiny briefing: Developing Infrastructure to support Ashford's growth [Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 22 November 2017]

Officer(s) to contact:

Will Train, Corporate Scrutiny and Overview Officer
01233 330394 william.train@ashford.gov.uk