

## Appendix 3 : Time line of issues relating to mistaken publication of planning notices

Date	Source	Detail
2014		Mid Kent Planning Services (MKPS) was created joining services from Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils to provide Planning Support. Significant issues with the service at the beginning causing problems for all three partner councils
2016		Tunbridge Wells Borough Council left MKPS
04 September 2018	MK ICT	An officer copied the INIFILE settings into <i>Configuration</i> within LIVE. This was to resolve a different issue.
2019	MKPS	Reported intermittent error with the IT system 'uniform'.
20 November 2020	IDOX	A 'patch' was published to rectify the intermittent error
12 July 2021	MK ICT	A snapshot of the system was taken to prepare of the testing.
6 August 2021	MK ICT MKPS	MKICT advised MKPS that testing could begin.
18 August 2021	MKPS	Agreed that testing would begin on 19 August 2021, testing between 10 – 20 cases.
19 August 2021	MKPS	Officer choses 12 cases in order to test 6 on 19 August and 6 or 20 August 2021
19 August 2021 (pm)		A member of the public contacted the council to advise that a planning decision had been published and had inappropriate language and should be removed.
19 August 2021 (pm)	MKPS	The decisions are removed from public view (although are still in Uniform). The decisions had been live for between 3 – 5 hours
20 August 2021	Director Shared	Telephoned Portfolio Holder for planning, advising of the issue. As the full

	Services	implications of the issue were not known, the Portfolio Holder was advised that the decisions had only been public for a short while and it was believed that therefore there were no ongoing implications.
23 August 2021	MK Legal	Legal Advice obtained from Mid Kent Legal Service which suggested we would need to Judicially Review the erroneous decisions
23 August 2021	Director Shared Services	Emailed Portfolio Holder for planning, summarising cause of the issue and advising that legal advice being sought as there may be legal implications.
24 August 2021	MK Legal	Counsel instructed to provide advice on options open to council
24 August 2021	MK HR	Discussions about investigation into conduct on staff member for using inappropriate language.
25 August 2021	MK Legal	Counsel advice received – setting out the requirement to judicially review the erroneous decisions.
25 August 2021	Director Shared Services	Legal advice shared with Chief Executive
25 August 2021	Director Shared Services	Legal advice shared with Portfolio Holder
30 August 2021		Offices closed – Bank Holiday
31 August 2021	MK Audit	MK Audit requested to investigate.
31 August – 7 September 2021	SBC	Meetings between legal, communications, SMT, and Mid Kent Services on next legal steps and communications strategy
1 September 2021	SBC	Discussion with Leader and Deputy Leader
7 September 2021	Director Shared Services	Letter sent to applicants by email setting out issue and intended action.
7 September 2021	Director Shared Services	Planning Decisions re posted to Public Access
7 September 2021	Swale Borough Council	Published a press release, setting out the issue and what actions they were taking

7 September 2021	Chief Executive	Public comments under a Mail Online article falsely name a member of planning staff as the member of staff who made the mistake, Chief Executive and Comms Manager contact Mail Online to get the comments removed.
8 September 2021	Chief Executive	Undertakes interviews with BBC South East and BBC Radio Kent
9 & 10 September 2021	MK Legal	1 JR was served on the Council and the Interested Parties on 9th September the remaining 4 were served on the Council and the Interested Parties on 10th September
21 September 2021	Head of Audit	Conversation with Chief Executive of Maidstone and Swale BC to discuss initial findings. Request for additional work to clarify some points.
27 September 2021	Head of Audit	Report published with recommendations regarding improvement
30 September 2021	Director Shared Services	Management response to recommendations

