

This Council notes the call in decision regarding the Highsted Park planning applications, following a request by the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey and others.

This Council believes that a visit to Swale by the Secretary of State prior to the release of the Planning Inspector's report would provide invaluable first-hand insight into the local context of the development. Such a visit would enable the Secretary of State to engage directly with ward members and other local representatives - ensuring their voices and concerns are understood and considered. Demonstrating proactive engagement by senior government officials will strengthen public confidence in the transparency and fairness of the planning process which has been tarnished by the actions of the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey.

This Council resolves to formally request that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government visits the Highsted Park application area to meet with ward members, planning committee members and, potentially, other local representatives affected by the Highsted Park development.

The Council instructs the Leader to communicate this request to the Secretary of State and to work with relevant parties to organise the visit prior to the Inspector's report being submitted.

Proposed by: Cllr Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Speed