

The Swale Borough Local Plan 2008 Annual Monitoring Report 2011/12



1 Executive Summary

1.1 This is the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of Swale Borough Council for the period 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012.

1.2 The main headlines this monitoring year are:

- housing completions have been lower than the annualised target of 540 per annum;
- affordable housing completions this year equate to 24.4% of the total dwelling completions. This is a decrease from last monitoring year when affordable home completions were 37.5% and falls below the 30% target the Borough seeks to achieve;
- as well as the 189 affordable houses delivered through Section 106 agreements, contributions of £3.3 million have been collected for education, social services, community infrastructure and town centre improvements. This is significantly more than the amount collected last year and is a success; and
- loss of floorspace has resulted in continued negative growth in the employment sector.

1 Executive Summary

2 Introduction

2.1 This Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) covers the monitoring period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. The AMR sets out what has happened in the Borough. It also compares trends against the policies and targets we have set ourselves. The AMR monitors the policies and proposals of the adopted development plan.

2.2 The development plan for the monitoring period consists of the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008 and the Regional Spatial Strategy: the South East Plan (adopted May 2009). The South East Plan will not be revoked until early 2013.

2.3 The Council has a Local Development Scheme (second revision) which was approved November 2010. Following the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and viability testing guidance the LDS is under review and will be published at some time in the spring 2013.

2.4 This report is intended to meet the requirements of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and has been prepared with reference to Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and the 'Local Development Framework Monitoring' 2005 good practice and the update document 'Local Development Framework - Core Output Indicators 2/2008'.

Document structure

2.5 The main body of the AMR is set out by themes of indicators on housing, employment and environmental national core indicator sets.

There are three chapters:

Chapter 1 - sets out a portrait of the Borough including issues and challenges facing it, to be addressed in the development plan

Chapter 2 - this is made up of three topics: Homes and Communities, Employment and Environment and Climate Change. Each topic section provides an analysis of performance towards targets, core and contextual indicators.

Chapter 3 - provides details of the progress made on implementing the Local Development Scheme and highlights and actions required.

2.6 The report concludes with a section on the actions arising from this year's outcomes and any recommendations for next year.

3 Portrait of Swale

3.1 This section outlines the context for the policies and proposals contained in the Swale Borough Local Plan 2008. The Swale Borough Local Plan provides a portrait of the Borough as follows.

3.2 *Swale Borough is a bridging point between North and East Kent. It derives its name from the Swale, a narrow channel of tidal water separating the Isle of Sheppey from the mainland. It is a place of diverse businesses, communities, and environments, covering an area of 364 square kilometres, with a population of 125,000* people in its three main towns and extensive rural areas. It is the fourth largest district authority in Kent. The Borough is in a strategic location, both within the Government's largest growth area - The Thames Gateway (see Map 1) - and close to mainland Europe. It is set for major changes.*

3.3 *The Borough's largest town - Sittingbourne - is the main population centre and the focus for jobs and services. Its present day distinctiveness derives from its location on the London-Dover Road (A2), as a coaching stop, and as a result of its location at the head of Milton Creek. Served by sailing barges, the Creek provided a focus for industries such as brick and paper making to be established in the late 18th Century.*

3.4 *Faversham, at the eastern end of the Borough, is a small market town, at the centre of a rich farming hinterland, but its real success derived from its location on a navigable inlet of the Swale, which enabled agricultural and other trade to thrive from medieval times. In particular, it became an important centre for the production of gunpowder and bricks. Today, Faversham is, perhaps, best known for its continued links with brewing, whilst this, and the town's industrial heritage have produced its present day distinctiveness with its outstanding range and quality of historic buildings.*

3.5 *Sheerness is the main town on the Isle of Sheppey, and owes its origins, and much of its distinctiveness, to the industries, past and present that have established there. Notable is the former naval dockyard, which resulted in much of the town's development taking place in the early 19th century, associated with the major expansion (by John Rennie) of the dockyard. The dockyard has since been converted to a deep water commercial port, and major industries such as steel making and pharmaceuticals have become established at Blue Town and Queenborough. The HM Prison at Eastchurch is also an important and major employer. In more recent years, the village of Minster has seen significant residential development, making it now the largest settlement on Sheppey. The Island's coast became a popular destination for visitors from London in the post-war period, with caravans and chalets a feature within the landscape. Sheerness and the North-Sheppey coast continue to cater for many summer trippers that results in a significant increase in the summer-time population on the island.*

3.6 *The Borough nevertheless is predominantly rural, with a network of larger villages, smaller villages, and hamlets, often of outstanding charm and character. Agriculture continues to shape the nature and character of the countryside and Swale remains associated with a long history of fruit production. Agriculture shapes much of the diversity of the Borough's environmental resources too, including internationally important estuarine and coastal habits in the North Kent Marshes, the central mainland plain of orchards and arable land, the wooded clay outcrop of The Blean, and the southern woodlands and dry chalk valleys of the North Downs dip-slope.*

3 Portrait of Swale

3.7 *The Borough's maritime influence is a product of its 111 km long coast - the longest of any Kent district. It includes the soft clay cliffs of Sheppey, its coastal marshes and mud, its inlets and creeks, the latter providing the basis of industries, such as barge building, and in modern times, tourism and leisure.*

3.8 *Transport has shaped the Borough, with the North Kent railway, the A2 and the M2, crossing the Borough west to east. North/south routes are less developed, often derived from ancient drove tracks, with just two main roads - the A249 trunk road, and the A251. In particular, the A251, which provides the only direct road link between Faversham and Ashford, including access to emergency hospital services for the eastern part of Swale, is inadequate and increasingly unreliable. The situation is likely to worsen as traffic levels grow as a consequence of Ashford's growth area status. The remaining roads comprise a complex network of rural lanes running over the North Downs.*

Issues to be addressed by this Local Plan

3.9 *Economic concerns: Despite emerging successes at the Kent Science Park, the Borough's economy remains slow to diversify, both in the urban and rural areas.*

3.10 *At each of the Borough's main urban areas, there have been high levels of housing growth that have not been accompanied by new employment development. This has contributed toward unsustainable levels of commuting; this is especially so for the Isle of Sheppey, whilst at Faversham, it has additionally brought problems of the loss of land for employment and a change in character of areas like the creekside.*

3.11 *New infrastructure has been slow in unlocking the economic potential of the area, especially within Thames Gateway.*

3.12 *Sittingbourne needs to achieve a 'step-change' in its attraction as a shopping destination to meet the needs of its growing population and consolidate its position relative to other centres. At the smaller town centres of Sheerness and Faversham, and in the rural settlements, local services are vulnerable to erosion or loss.*

3.13 *Changes proposed to domestic rail services as a result of the opening of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link have implications both for services through the Borough, and the ability of Swale to fully play its part in the Thames Gateway.*

3.14 *Social concerns: The proportion of the Borough's older population is rising, creating demands that will need to be planned for. The provision of affordable housing is falling well short of need.*

3.15 *There is a prosperity gap between Swale and the southeast region with wage levels remaining lower than regional and national averages. There is also a potential mismatch of skills available locally compared with economic aspirations.*

3.16 *New housing development has not always been accompanied with the necessary community facilities to meet the needs of the population.*

3.17 *When indicators of social, economic, and environmental deprivation are examined, there are wide disparities between communities in parts of the Isle of Sheppey, Davington in Faversham and Milton Regis, Murston and Kemsley when compared with the more prosperous wards in the southern mainland of the Borough. Allied to this, there is a need for Family Centres in*

Sheerness and Faversham, Community Enterprise Hubs, Neighbourhood Support Centres and Community Learning Centres. There is also a need for further Secondary and Further Education provision at Sittingbourne.

3.18 *Environmental Concerns: Much of the land around the principal towns is environmentally designated and valued. There are slender countryside gaps that separate Sittingbourne from nearby villages, whilst the risk of flooding impacts upon communities and development potential. Ensuring that the Borough fulfils its role in Thames Gateway, and by responding to and taking advantage of development pressures and opportunities, may present tensions concerning the environment that must be addressed if growth is to be accompanied with an improved quality of life.*

3.19 *Global warming will increase the risk of flooding in the Borough, and more needs to be done to encourage energy conservation and other sustainable design and build techniques in new development. There is steady, but slow, progress in improving the sustainable design and build of new developments, whilst high quality design should not be the prerogative of 'special' locations.*

3.20 *There is traffic congestion in the A2 corridor, in Sittingbourne town centre, on roads leading to and including the A249 off the Isle of Sheppey, and on rural roads, producing costs to human health, the environment and the economy.*

3.21 *There is dereliction and poor environmental quality in parts of the Borough needing to be tackled, notably, Milton Creek, Queenborough/Rushenden, Sheerness, and Blue Town, whilst the character of the countryside is under threat by development and changes in the agricultural and forestry economies."*

3.22 * The current population of the Borough is 136,300. (2011 mid-year estimate, ONS)

4 Homes and Communities

Housing Summary

- Because of the economic downturn this year's completions are again lower than the annualised target of 540 dwellings per annum.
- The affordable housing completions this year equate to 24.4% of the total dwelling completions. This is a decrease from last monitoring year when affordable home completions were 37.5% and falls below the 30% target the Borough seeks to achieve.
- As well as the 189 affordable houses delivered through Section 106 agreements, contributions of £3.3 million have been collected for such things as education, libraries, parks and open spaces, public transport and social services. This is almost two and a half times the amount collected last year, which was double the previous years, and is a huge success for the Council.

Core Indicators

H1 - Plan period and housing targets

4.1 For this monitoring period the housing numbers continues to be set by the Regional Spatial Strategy - the South East Plan (SEP), and will do so until the SEP is revoked early in 2013. This set a target of 10,800 homes for the period 2006 - 2026.

H2(a) - Net additional dwellings in previous years

4.2 The number of net completions in the period 2006-2012 was 3635 dwellings. (Source: KPOG Housing Information Audit 2011/12)

H2(b) - Net additional dwellings - this year

4.3 The number of net completions for this monitoring year (April 2011 - March 2012) was 397 dwellings.(Source: KPOG Housing Information Audit 2011/12)

H2(c) Net additional dwellings - future years

Total dwellings in plan period	1 April 2011 - 31 March 2017	1869
	1 April 2017 - 31 March 2022	2009
	1 April 2022 - 31 March 2026	790
	Total	4668

4 Homes and Communities

Total site area (hectares)	Site Area	156 ha (indicative only)
South East Plan annualised target of 10,800 dwellings	Annualised plan target applying to each of the 5 years	540 per annum

Table 4.1 Net additional dwellings

4.4 This year's completions have been lower than the annualised target of 540 dwellings per annum. However, the five year average to 2011-12 is 560 dwellings.

4.5 Below is the housing trajectory for this monitoring year, based on the South East Plan (Source:KPOG Housing Information Audit 2011/12).

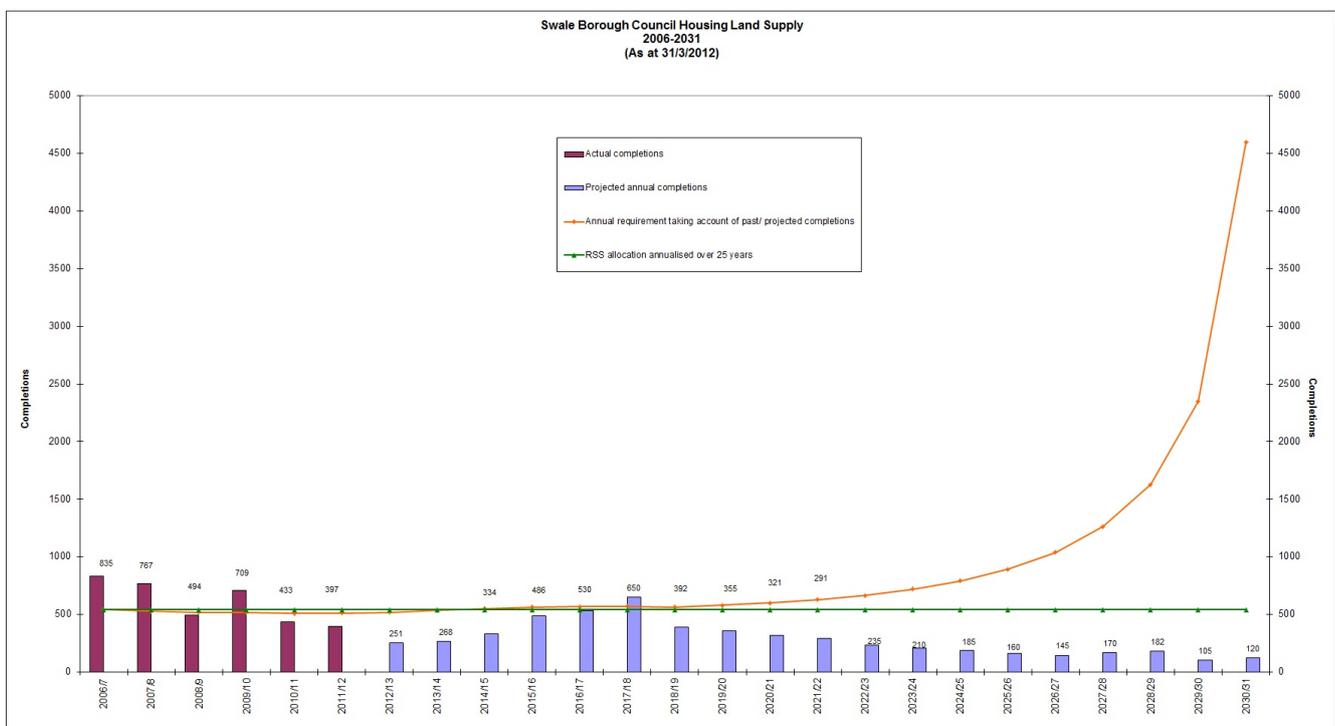


Figure 4.1 Housing trajectory 2012 based on South East Plan

4.6 By the end of the plan period the Borough will have 2486 less dwellings than the South East Plan (SEP) requirement of 10,800. Strong performance in previous years has bolstered land supply, but this is no longer the case. The five year average annual completion rate is 560, which exceeds the SEP annual target of 540 units per year. This year, however, completions were down to 397. With poor completions this year balanced against significant completions in past years, this means that in order to meet the SEP target of 10,800 dwellings by 2026 a further 7165 dwellings need to be built during the next 14 years, at an average of 512 dwellings per year (this is less than the SEP annualised target of 540 by virtue of significant completions in previous years).

4.7 A five year supply of housing would be demonstrated by the annual dwelling requirement (orange line) being below the annualised SEP target (green line) for a period of five years from 2011-12 until 2016-2017. The housing trajectory shows that from years 2013/14 less land is available than the requirement stipulates. This shortfall will be addressed by the emerging Local Plan.

H2(d) - Managed delivery target

4.8 The managed delivery target is made up of the completions since 2006 - 2011 and the projected trajectory of completions. The completions for 2006-2011 total 3635 dwellings. The projected total was for 4668 dwellings, therefore the managed delivery target totals 8303 dwellings.

H3 - New and converted dwellings on Previously Developed Land

4.9 The percentage of dwellings constructed on Previously Developed Land is 33.8% (Source: SBC Housing Land Supply Monitoring 2012)

H4 - Net additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers

4.10 There have been 10 planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller pitches this monitoring year, three of which were refused. Planning permission was granted for 26 static caravans and 15 touring caravans. (Source: Swale Borough Council monitoring of planning permissions)

H5 - Gross affordable housing completions

Tenure	Number of dwellings
Social rented	30
Affordable rented	10
Shared ownership	11
New build Homebuy	7
Homebuy direct	7
First buy	22
Others	3
Total	90

Table 4.2 Affordable housing completions

4 Homes and Communities

4.11 The affordable housing completions this year equate to 24.4% of the total dwelling completions. This is a decrease from last monitoring year when affordable home completions were 37.5% and falls below the 30% target the Borough seeks to achieve. (Source: Swale Borough Council Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix 2011)

H6 - Housing Quality - Building for Life Assessments

4.12 The Council does not have the means to monitor this indicator.

Contextual Indicators

4.13 These contextual indicators show whether the Council is achieving or heading towards meeting its objectives in housing policies. The policy target for the contextual indicators is:

Strategic Policy IV Housing: Meeting annualised housing requirement and provide at least 30% of new housing completions as affordable.

Dwelling types

Dwelling Size	Dwellings by completions	Dwelling by permission
1 bed	19	73
2 bed	149	363
3 bed	174	372
4 bed	61	120
5 bed	9	8
Total	412	936

Table 4.3 Dwellings by type

Progress with housing allocations

4.14 Progress on strategic allocations within the Local Plan is shown below: (source: Swale Borough Council monitoring 2012)

- East Hall Farm, Sittingbourne - the revised development brief has taken the total dwellings from 200 to 750. However, the number of completions to date exceeds 800, a further 70 have planning permission.
- Thistle Hill, Minster - revised development brief takes total to 1850 dwellings. There have been around 1000 completions to date, with a further 400 plus with planning permission.
- Plover Road - no progress on dwelling construction.
- Iwade - planning permission has been granted for 327 dwellings, work has started.
- Sittingbourne Town Centre & Milton Creek - Masterplan adopted, no progress on dwelling construction.

- Queenborough & Rushenden - Masterplan adopted November 2010, no progress on dwelling construction.
- Stones Farm, Sittingbourne - Development brief adopted May 2011, no progress on dwelling construction.

Gypsies & Travellers: public and private sites

4.15 The caravan count for December 2012 showed a total of 107 caravans in the Borough, which excludes the Borough's two public sites. There were no caravans on non-tolerated roadside encampments.

4.16 A Managed Encampment has been in place since 2008 which has reduced the number of roadside encampments reported throughout the year.

Section 106 contributions

There have been a total of 189 affordable houses achieved across eight Section 106 Agreements (from a total of 776 dwellings - 24.4%). A further 105 Agreements provided £3.3m for education, libraries, parks and open spaces, public transport and social services. **This is almost two and a half times the amount collected last year, which itself was a doubling in the amount of the previous AMR period and is a great success for the Council.**

5 Employment

Employment Core Indicators

BD1 – Additional employment floorspace (completions) by type

Use Class	New Build (net)	c/o/u gain (net)	Conversions gain (net)	Demolitions	Total Additional Floorspace sqm
B1(a)	2519	112	1362		3993
B1 (b)	0	0	0	0	0
B1 (c)	510	0	998	0	1508
B1 (mixed)	0	0	0	0	0
B2	310	656	0	0	966
B8	2194	288	690	0	3172
B1-B8 mixed	8160	0	0	0	8160
All	13 693	1056	3050	0	17799

Table 5.1 Core Indicator BD1 (gross sq m)

Use Class	New Build (gross)	c/o/u gain (gross)	Conversions gain (gross)	Demolitions	Total Additional Floorspace sq m
B1(a)	2390	112	664	0	3166
B1 (b)	0	0	0	0	0
B1 (c)	443	-63	116	0	496
B1 (mixed)	0	0	0	0	0
B2	-36 660	656	-62	0	-36 066
B8	2194	-422	424	0	2196
B1-B8 mixed	8160	0	0	0	8160
All	-23473	283	1142		-22048

Table 5.2 Core Indicator BD1 (net sq m)

5 Employment

(Source: Commercial Information Audit - Joint KCC/SBC monitoring 2011-12)

It should be noted that these losses do not include two sites that have been demolished in recent years but not yet re-developed:

- Sittingbourne Industrial Park, Crown Quay Lane (35,343 sq m)
- Land at Queenborough and Rushenden (20,099 sq m)

BD2 – Employment floorspace on previously developed land

5.1 The completed floorspace figures on previously developed land is shown in Table 5.3.

Use Class	Floorspace (sqm)	% of total
B1(a)	2420	96.1
B1(b)	0	-
B1(c)	510	100
B2	310	100
B8	1294	59.0
B1-B8 (mixed)	0	-
Total	4534	33.1

Table 5.3 Core Indicator BD2

BD3 – Employment land available (hectares)

Hectares	B1(a)	B1(b)	B1(c)	B1 mix	B2	B8	B1-B8 mix	Total
Allocations	5.0	0	0.86	21.4	17.9	4.1	23.1	72.4
Permissions	3.9	3.7	1.8	2.1	13.1	38.7	27.7	91.0
Total land available	8.9	3.7	2.7	23.5	31.0	42.8	50.8	163.4

Table 5.4 Core Indicator BD3

These areas are indicative and based on a factor of 3500sq m/ha.

BD4 - Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses' (sqm)

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1(A)	D2	Total
Gain	49	0	290	0	244	3993	2160	6736
Loss	1074	239	0	850	0	827	745	3735
Net	-1025	-239	290	-850	244	3166	1415	3001

Table 5.5 Core Indicator BD4 - Swale area

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1(A)	D2	Total
Gain	0	0	0	0	134	1300	0	1434
Loss	894	239	0	134	0	560	0	1827
Net	-894	-239	0	-134	134	740	0	-393

Table 5.6 Core Indicator BD4 - town centres

It should be noted that only A1, A2, B1a and D2 use are considered town centre uses, but all uses are shown in the tables above, for completeness.

Contextual Indicators

5.2 The policy targets for employment indicators are

Strategic Policy I Sustainable Development: To reduce the growth and length of journeys to work

Strategic Policy III Economy: Meeting annualised Structure Plan employment floorspace

Strategic Policy VI Infrastructure: Delivery of key projects within the plan period

Policy B3 Maintaining and Enhancing Vitality and Viability of Town Centres: Maintain or increase range of use provision within the three town centres with emphasis upon retail floorspace

5.3 These contextual indicators provide a general baseline which test whether plans, policies or programmes are achieving the objectives set for employment and the economy.

Total number of employee jobs

5.4 The latest figures available for Swale show that in 2008 there were 42,800 employee jobs within the Borough (29,800 full time and 13,100 part time).

Job Density

5.5 The NOMIS 2009 data shows job density has increased slightly to 0.63, this being the ratio of jobs to population aged 16-64.

5 Employment

Unemployment

5.6 Latest figures (November 2012) indicate that there are 3348 residents claiming job seekers allowance, which equates to 4% of the resident population between the ages of 16-64. In November 2011 unemployment was at 4%, a small increase over the previous year.

Progress with Infrastructure proposals

5.7 The third section of the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road which bridges Milton Creek was opened in December 2011. The final route (and funding) for the last stage linking the A2 has yet to be agreed. All other infrastructure proposals are included within the Transport Strategy and are monitored through that process.

5.8 The Rushenden Link Road forms part of the proposals in the Queenborough and Rushenden Masterplan, linking the A249 to Neats Court (employment area) was also opened in December 2011.

Migrant workforce

Based on NINo registrations, at 1200 Swale has the third highest number of migrants in Kent behind Maidstone (1720) and Canterbury (1640). The number of registrations is 11.1% of the Kent total (10,820) and 190 fewer than in 2010-2011.

Travelling to work and Occupations

5.9 Over 50% of residents travel to work by car, nearly 7% by train and 10% by walking. The average distance travelled to get to work is 17.46km. At 28% Swale has the highest number of people travelling between 10km and 20km. 14% travelled 60km and over, the most of all of the five local authorities in the East Kent Strategic Housing Market Assessment. This large percentage of out commuting can be examined in more detail if work destinations are known.

From	To								
	Canterbury	Dover	Shepway	Swale	Thanet	Rest of Kent	South-East	London	East of England
Canterbury	41,574	2,491	863	2,120	1,794	4,293	531	2,659	299
Dover	3,384	32,551	3,521	356	1,415	1,959	333	789	203
Shepway	1,448	2,701	29,182	200	249	5,612	496	1,371	140
Swale	2,768	305	189	36,196	201	10,044	505	4,724	319
Thanet	3,673	4,218	435	449	36,812	1,388	332	1,293	197
Rest of Kent	2,467	1,032	2,403	5,926	357				
South East	210	412	423	202	69				
London	310	241	118	353	147				

From	To								
	Canterbury	Dover	Shepway	Swale	Thanet	Rest of Kent	South-East	London	East of England
East of England	81	175	55	150	68				

Table 5.7 Travel-to-work

(Source: East Kent Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2009)

5.10 The figures show that Swale has more residents commuting to London (4,724) than the other East Kent districts. However over 36,000 residents work as well as live in Swale and 10,000 commute to other areas in Kent. Swale has relatively few residents commuting to Dover, Shepway, Thanet or out of Kent to the East/South East of England. Over all Swale has a large proportion of out-commuting compared to other Districts in Kent.

Employment by sector

Group	Swale (%)	South East (%)
Managers, Directors, senior officials	8.3	11.6
Professional occupations	15.0	20.7
Professional and technical	15.6	15.8
Admin and secretarial	14.6	11.1
Skilled trades	8.5	10.1
Caring, leisure and other services	10.9	9.1
Sales and customer services	9.6	7.5
Plant and machine operatives	6.3	4.4
Elementary occupations	11.1	9.5

Table 5.8 Employment by occupation (July 2011-June 2012)

Source: NOMIS, Aged 16+, persons in employment

Qualifications

5.11 Swale continues to have low levels of literacy, numeracy and education, falling below county, regional and national averages. The percentage of those who have no qualifications has decreased since last year (from 18%).

5 Employment

Qualification	Swale		South East	Great Britain
	Number	%	%	%
NVQ4 and above	20,700	25.6	36.2	32.9
NVQ3 and above	39,900	49.3	56.7	52.7
NVQ2 and above	54,800	67.7	73.3	69.7
NVQ1 and above	65,400	80.8	86.6	82.7
Other qualifications	5700	7.0	5.5	6.7
No qualifications	9800	12.1	7.9	10.6
NVQ 4 - HND or degree; NVQ 3 - 2 A-levels or HNC; NVQ 2 - 5 GCSE A-C; NVQ 1 - less than 5 GCSE; Other - foreign and some professional qualifications				

Table 5.9 Qualifications (January 2011-December 2011)

Source: ONS annual population survey [number and percentage are those aged 16-64]

6 Environment and Climate Change

Environment and climate change summary

6.1 There have been no advances in renewable energy generation permissions. In March 2010 the Council published its Sustainable Design and Construction Developer Guidance which seeks to encourage the use of renewable energies on new developments.

Core Indicators

E1: Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding and water quality grounds

6.2 For this monitoring year there has been one outline planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on either flooding or water quality grounds.

E2: Change in areas of biodiversity importance

6.3 There have been no change in the areas covered by Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites (formerly Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) or Ancient Woodland.

E3: Renewable energy generation

6.4 There is evidence across the borough that there has been an increase in renewable energy provision, especially with the introduction of payment of feed in tariffs for photovoltaics. A number of schemes have been permitted at a range of locations such as leisure centres, a prison, (two wind turbines now complete), a school, agricultural barns, industrial units and residential properties. However, the provision of energy schemes does not always need planning permission, so it is difficult to fully quantify.

6.5 No stand alone renewable energy generation schemes have been granted planning permission.

6.6 Carbon dioxide emissions per capita for 2010 (latest DECC figures released August 2012) are 10.3t per capita from industry and commerce; 2.1t per capita from domestic and 2.5t per capita from road transport.

Specific renewable energy schemes

6.7 There are no schemes this monitoring year. (Source: Climate Change Officer)

Contextual Indicators

6.8 The objectives and policy targets for environment and climate change are:

6 Environment and Climate Change

Policy E6 The Countryside: No loss of greenfield land, not allocated by the Local Plan (or acceptable against the Local Plan) permitted to development.

Policy E9 Protecting the Quality and Character of the Borough's Landscape: No loss of greenfield land, not allocated by the Local Plan (or acceptable against the policy)

Policy E12 Sites of Biodiversity and Geological Conservation Value: No net loss of designated wildlife sites to development

Policy E14 Development involving Listed Buildings: No net loss of listed buildings and reduction in buildings on the 'at risk register'

Policy E15 Development Affecting a Conservation Area: Increase in number of conservation areas with appraisals

Policy IN26 Renewable Energy: Increasing yearly proportion of new housing completions incorporating renewable energy schemes and conservation measures.

Policy H2 Providing for New Housing: 30% of new dwellings provided on previously developed land and the majority of housing completions to be between 30-50 dwellings per hectare

6.9 These indicators provide the background and context of the borough environmental state and the progress being made to address climate change.

Change in areas designated for their intrinsic local landscape value

6.10 There has been no change in Special Landscape Areas or Areas of High Landscape Value. Current provision remains at 16,292 hectares (39% of the Borough).

Amount of greenfield development not allocated within the Local Plan

6.11 Excluding completions in residential gardens (which are now considered as greenfield development), there were no housing completions on non-allocated greenfield land. Similarly, there was no loss of employment land on greenfield land not previously allocated.

Change in the number of listed buildings, buildings at risk, scheduled ancient monuments and historic assets.

6.12 The number of listed buildings has stayed the same at 1856. Two new buildings were added and two were de-listed. In the 2012 Heritage at Risk Register compiled by English Heritage one building was removed and one was added, making a total of 13 grade I and II* listed buildings at risk. Swale Borough Council's Buildings at Risk Register (for all other listed buildings) is no longer monitored due to lack of resources. There have been no changes to scheduled ancient monuments.

Change in the number and percentage of the Borough designated as a Conservation Area or Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

6.13 There has been no change in the number of Conservation Areas or Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.

Conservation Area appraisals

6.14 To date 25 of the 50 Conservation Areas have been appraised, but none has been completed in this monitoring year.

6 Environment and Climate Change

7 Progress on the Local Development Scheme

Local Development Scheme Implementation

7.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is the timetable for preparing planning policies and highlights when key stages and consultations will take place. This is then used to measure the Council's performance on producing policies and projects.

7.2 A second revision to the Council's LDS was approved by the Secretary of State on 12 November 2010.

Progress on Policy Documents

7.3 The progress on Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and other projects is as follows:

Core Strategy Development Plan Document

7.4 This is the principle planning policy document for the council and work formally started in 2008. The Core Strategy was subject to an issues and options public consultation phase (January - February 2011). The following pieces of evidence were completed this year:

- *Urban Extension Landscape Capacity Study* - completed June 2010
- *Health Impact Assessment* - completed September 2010
- *Water Infrastructure and Environmental Capacity Assessment* - completed November 2010
- *Sustainability Appraisal* - completed December 2010
- *Retail Assessment* - completed December 2010

7.5 Public consultation on the Council's draft Core Strategy took place from March -May 2012. Publication of the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites and viability testing guidance has necessitated further substantial work to ensure the Core Strategy is sound in the new NPPF context. The LDS is therefore under major revision and the programme is subject to the outcome of current research. A recommendation on the way forward is expected in February 2013 and an update to the LDS will be published as soon as possible thereafter.

7 Progress on the Local Development Scheme

Project	Adoption	Notes
Faversham Creek Development Plan Document	July 2012	The Council has been chosen as a Vanguard project for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Faversham Creek. The Neighbourhood Plan has not yet been sufficiently advanced for the Adoption stage to be reached.
Community Infrastructure Levy schedule	After May 2012	The CIL Schedule cannot progress until the Core Strategy (and likely supporting infrastructure requirement) has more certainty.
Queenborough and Rushenden Supplementary Planning Document	October 2010	This document was adopted in November 2010.
Stones Farm Supplementary Planning Document	December 2010	This document was adopted in May 2011.
(Former) Sittingbourne Mill site Supplementary Planning Document	March 2011	No longer required. The Council resolved to grant a mixed use residential/retail use at this site in December 2011.
Sheerness Port Regeneration Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document	April 2014	Not commenced. Progression of this SPD will be dependent on the outcome of the Strategic options stage of the Core Strategy
Kent Science Park Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document	April 2014	Not commenced. Progression of this SPD will be dependent on the outcome of the Strategic options stage of the Core Strategy
Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal Supplementary Planning Document	April 2011	Adopted September 2011.
Sustainable Building and Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document	August 2013	Not commenced.
Sittingbourne Conservation Area Appraisal Supplementary Planning Document	March 2011	Adopted 31 January 2012
Queenborough Conservation Area Appraisal Supplementary Planning Document	March 2011	Adopted 31 January 2012
Sheerness Docks and Blue Town Conservation Area Appraisal Supplementary Planning Document	March 2011	Adopted 31 January 2012

Table 7.1 Progress on other LDS projects

8 Conclusions and Recommendations

Outcomes this year

8.1 As the AMR has shown, the Council does not have a five year housing land supply and the provision of affordable housing has fallen.

Future actions

8.2 It is hoped that improved market conditions after 2013 will result in more housing and employment completions.

8.3 A revised draft Local Plan (with proposed housing allocations) is expected to be put out to public consultation in summer 2013 , with a pre-submission document published in February 2014.

8 Conclusions and Recommendations

Contacting Swale Borough Council

The **Customer Services Centre** deals with all enquiries across the Council; it should be your first stop when contacting us.

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