

# Understanding the impact of Hightsted Park

## It's hard to grasp the scale

This application is not just another planning application for housing. It is the largest single application that Swale Borough Council have ever dealt with and one of the largest in Kent.



## More than doubles housing development in Sittingbourne

The current plan would add 7,420 houses to the Sittingbourne area, Hightsted Park would increase this to 16,670. This is the equivalent to all the houses built in Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Faversham over the last 30 years.



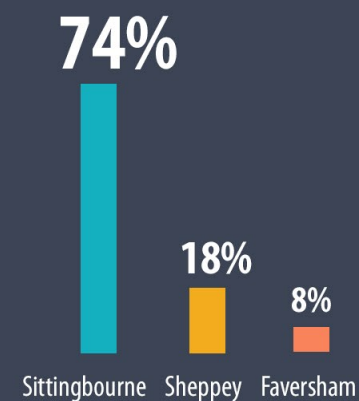
## Scheme facilitates governments increased housing targets

Having publicly campaigned against their own governments ever increasing housing targets local conservative party members did a U-turn and endorsed this scheme as an election manifesto commitment.



## It's unfair and we need to redress the balance

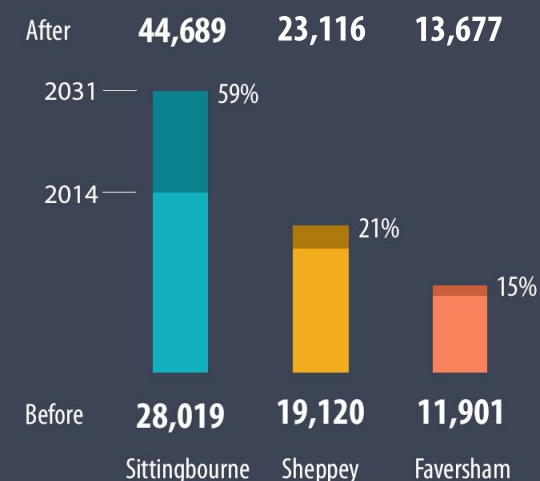
The scheme would exacerbate an already highly unfair distribution of new housing between the three towns. This has major implications for health and education services which the developer ultimately has very little control over.



The scheme would result in 74% of all new housing being built in Sittingbourne. The scheme alone is equivalent to a 50% expansion of urban Sittingbourne.

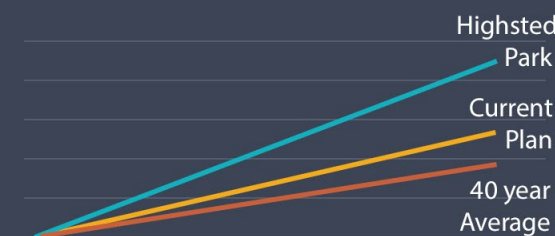
## Housing numbers before and after

Growth is not based on existing housing stock levels with a completely disproportionate 59% increase for Sittingbourne. For comparison growth across Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Faversham between 1980 and 2019 was only 42%



## Nearly 2.5 times the normal growth rate

On average we would expect to see a 16% growth in housing stock over the same period, the government has already increased the current plan to provide 22% growth, but Hightsted Park increases this again to a whopping 38%



## What can I do?

Make a comment on one or both of the planning applications.

The easiest way is to do this online where you can view all the documents, but you can also email or write to the council

<https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/>

You will need to enter a search reference for the applications

21/503914/EIOUT (main application)  
21/503906/EIOUT (smaller application)

You need to do this by **17th September 2021**