

Development Control  
Diversity Impact Assessment



Appendix 1

Key Information

This report was produced by Development Control. It brings together key activity, satisfaction and personnel information to inform the Diversity Impact Assessment. It is based mainly on the BMG Research - Planning Survey 2006, based on a sample base of 366 completed responses, and some other information.

All data is expressed in percentages.

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October 2009

## 1) Satisfaction Information

The following tables show the diversity breakdown in response to a number of questions asked in the survey.

### 5a I was given the advice I needed to submit my application successfully

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>				<u>Disability</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Yes	No	White	BME
Agree	63	62	68	33	68	65	56	68	63	64	70
Disagree	12	13	6	33	14	10	10	11	12	12	9

### 5b The Council kept me informed about the progress of my application

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>				<u>Disability</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Yes	No	White	BME
Agree	53	54	49	0	56	51	59	47	53	53	57
Disagree	25	27	21	100	23	26	17	28	25	26	9

### 5d I understand the reasons for the decision made on the application(s)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>				<u>Disability</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Yes	No	White	BME
Agree	69	68	72	33	68	71	73	74	69	70	61
Disagree	14	15	8	33	15	13	7	13	14	13	22

### 5e I felt that I was treated fairly and that my viewpoint was listened to.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>				<u>Disability</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Yes	No	White	BME
Agree	57	57	56	33	56	58	63	57	57	57	65
Disagree	15	17	10	33	16	16	7	13	16	15	22

The data reveals no significant difference in response to individual question, though it must be remembered that sometimes the relatively small number of cases involved with ethnicity, disability or for women can distort the figures.

This table gives the overall picture.

### General Level of Satisfaction with the Council in processing the application

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>				<u>Disability</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Yes	No	White	BME
Satisfied	73	71	79	33	74	71	83	74	72	74	65
Dissatisfied	16	17	10	33	16	17	7	15	16	16	13

## 2) Outcome Information

The following table shows how different group of applicants fared in the process. As with a similar study carried out by the planning department in Dartford, there seems to be a higher percentage of BME applicants being refused permission or consent, but the low numbers make it difficult to draw conclusions. The fact that this situation is replicated in a neighbouring borough raises concerns, and we are keeping this situation under review. None of the other groups give us any cause for concern.

### 7 Outcome of most recent application

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>				<u>Disability</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Yes	No	White	BME
Granted	82	80	90	67	80	82	90	89	80	83	65
Refused	12	14	7	33	15	12	5	9	13	12	22

### Outcome information up to October 2009

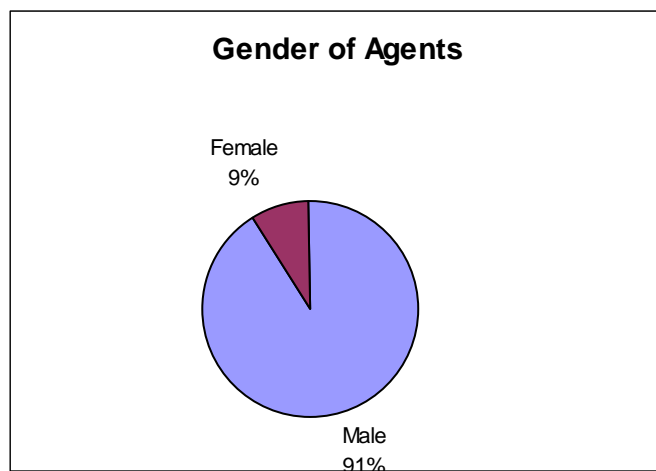
<u>Gender</u>	<u>Applications</u>	<u>Agreed</u>	<u>Refused</u>
Male	586	378	107
Female	28	26	2

It could be argued that the outcome for men is less favourable than for women, but we believe this is a statistical anomaly.

## 3) Agents – Gender and Ethnic Profile

South Ribble and Dartford acknowledge that agents tend to be white and male, and an analysis of our mailing list reveals the following breakdown.

Male	367
Female	36



#### **4) Workforce Profile for Development Control**

Total number of staff = 39

##### Gender

Female = 25

Male = 14

##### Disability Declaration

Declared a disability = 1

Declared not having a disability = 38

##### Ethnicity

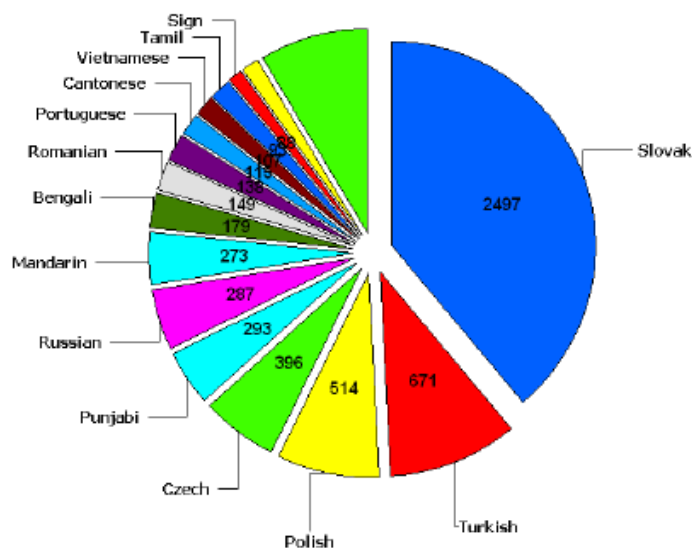
White British = 37

White Irish = 1

Other = 1

#### **5) Activity Information – Communication needs**

Information for planning applicants and their agents can be made available in a range of languages. The graph below shows the most common language needs across all sectors in Medway.



It shows that between April 2008 and August 2009 the greatest demand was for information in Slovak, accounting for nearly 40%. The next highest categories were Turkish at 10%, and Polish at 8%.

Our study of the needs of the Slovakian community suggests that they are currently unlikely to be submitting planning applicants, and our review of language demand, either with respect to the applications themselves, or the letters to people affected, does not indicate any particular clusters of need.