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Press Release

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## **Thanet opts for flexible LDF solution from iNovem and Swift LG**

*- Thanet District Council purchase software to support LDF consultations. -*

iNovem have been awarded a contract by the Planning Department of Thanet District Council to supply consultation software to support and manage stakeholder engagement within their Local Development Framework (LDF). The software solution includes a 'back-office' component that will be supplied by Swift LG, a leading provider of e-planning systems to local authorities. Thanet has opted to run the LDF Consultation Service in-house with the authority's own web development teams providing first line support.

In order to meet strict procurement rules, Thanet District Council made their decision after an open and competitive tendering process which resulted in each supplier being objectively scored against the council's business and functional requirements. Commenting on the evaluation process, Thanet's Planning Officer, Jo Wadey, stated "The iNovem/Swift LG solution scored the highest and provided the best fit with our requirements and the government's requirements on us with regard to the new LDF process. Of all the systems we reviewed we felt their solution was the most efficient and flexible. Given that the new LDF process requires us to consult with a much wider audience at the various stages of policy development and on a variety of planning documents, we really needed a system that could cope with both volume and complexity. It was immediately apparent to us that our old MS Access database was no longer up to the task!"

Nigel Doré, Swift LG's Operations Director, added "Our LDF back-office software allows the council to generate and send out communications by a choice of channels and gives them a full audit trail of stakeholder correspondence in the process with the option to store a permanent record of correspondence in the council's document management system. Analysing stakeholder feedback is made much easier using our flexible reporting tool, QueryBuilder. It lets users generate standard reports for management and committee review and also gives them the option to build their own cross-database reports and enquiries with minimal support."

## **Notes to editors:**

### **1. About iNovem**

iNovem Limited is a leading supplier of e-Participation software to the UK public sector. Our solutions are used by a growing number of local and central government organisations to support a variety of stakeholder engagement and consultation activities. In Local Authorities, our solutions are currently used to support:

- LDF consultations
- Corporate, staff and Local Strategic Partnership consultations
- Local Strategic Partnership collaborative extranets
- The development of Local Area Agreements

iNovem continues to play an active part in the development of best practice in the field of e-Participation through our work with the National Local e-Democracy project, PARSOL's LDF Schema Steering Group and The Consultation Institute.

Our business model is non-proprietary, in that we work closely with various specialist service providers such as Swift LG to help our clients achieve their business goals.

### **2. About Swift LG**

Swift LG is a long-standing supplier of Land and Property Administration software, Local and Central Government applications and Geospatial Solutions.

Swift LG has a proven track record in integration with solutions from selected specialist third party providers, including GIS, and has particular expertise in public sector Land and Property applications.

Their Geospatial Division supplies a range of desktop, mobile and web based GIS. The Geospatial Consultancy division provides guidance on strategy and practical "hands on" services to major organisations looking to capitalise on existing investments in Geospatial technologies or to explore new possibilities.

Swift LG's strategic partners include Compuware Corporation, Anite Public Sector, ESRI, MapInfo Corporation and Ordnance Survey. Clients range from smaller district councils to major metropolitan Authorities and Central Government agencies.

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