

**REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 24th March, 2010**

**10.00 am**

Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone







## AGENDA

### REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, 24th March, 2010, at 10.00 am**      Ask for:      **Theresa Grayell**  
**Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall,**      Telephone      **01622 694277**  
**Maidstone**

*Tea/Coffee will be available 30 minutes before the meeting*

#### **Membership (12)**

Conservative (11):      Mr M C Dance (Chairman), Mr R W Bayford, Mr J R Bullock, MBE,  
Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr P J Homewood, Mr J A Kite, Mrs J Law,  
Mr K Pugh, Mr K Smith, Mr M V Snelling and Mrs E M Tweed

Liberal Democrat (1):      Mr I S Chittenden (Vice-Chairman)

#### **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

*(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)*

#### **Item No**

##### **A. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- A1      Substitutes
- A2      Declarations of Members' Interest relating to items on today's Agenda
- A3      Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2010 (Pages 1 - 8)

##### **B. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- B1      Designing out Risk - Building in Safety. Presentation by Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority on its links to the Regeneration Framework - TO FOLLOW
- B2      Regeneration and Economy - A District Perspective. Oral report back from visits to Canterbury on 26 February and Dartford and Gravesham on 12 March
- B3      Kent and Medway Housing Strategy - update (Pages 9 - 18)
- B4      Kent Environment Strategy (Pages 19 - 22)
- B5      21st Century Kent - Launch Feedback (Pages 23 - 28)
- B6      Financial Monitoring Report: Regeneration 2009/10 - TO FOLLOW
- B7      Update on Major Projects (Pages 29 - 40)

## **C. SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

C1 Update on Select Committee Work (Pages 41 - 42)

### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

*(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)*

Peter Sass  
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership  
(01622) 694002

**Tuesday, 16 March 2010**

*Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers may be inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.*

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 19 January 2010.

PRESENT: Mr M C Dance (Chairman), Mr I S Chittenden (Vice-Chairman), Mr D L Brazier (Substitute for Mr M V Snelling), Mr J R Bullock, MBE, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr P J Homewood, Mr K Pugh, Mr K Smith and Mrs E M Tweed

ALSO PRESENT: Mr K G Lynes and Mrs J A Rook

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Cockburn (Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development & ICT), Ms B Cooper (Director of Economic Development) and Miss T Grayell (Democratic Services Officer)

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

**3. Minutes of the meetings held on 12 and 17 November 2009**

*(Item A3)*

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 12 and 17 November 2009 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

**4. Regeneration and Economy - A District Perspective: Report Back from visit to Dover on 15 December 2009 (oral)**

*(Item B1)*

- 1) Members who had taken part in the visit made an oral report, and a written report was circulated.
- 2) The Chairman expressed his thanks to Dover District Council for the welcome they had given the KCC party and all the energy they had put into the arrangements for the visit.
- 3) Members made the following comments on what they had seen and heard:-
  - a) the cruising industry is currently performing well, and the momentum of this needs to be maintained;
  - b) effective links need to be made to maritime skills training, and the POSC should urge CFE to push for maritime vocational training, as CFE had previously promised to do;
  - c) the accessibility and ease of use of Dover harbour and marina were welcomed; and

- d) Mr Smith emphasised the importance of the visit for Dover District Council, as it helped to put local issues into a strategic context.
- 4) General comments on the programme of district visits included:-
- a) it is important that the programme of visits is sustainable as it allows Members to see a full picture at the end, and to identify where KCC can help by placing its resources. The programme is also vital in raising Members' awareness of issues at District level;
  - b) it is important to keep a link between learning and skills, jobs and future regeneration, and REDPOSC and CFEPOSC links were invaluable. Communities would also be a useful link, via the Regeneration Board;
  - c) the report back after the visit needs to be joined to the pre-visit briefing information provided by the District Council, so all information is kept together;
  - d) some conclusions from the visit might be aspirational; how should these be addressed at the end of the 12 month programme of visits? and
  - e) the high number of REDPOSC Members who were also District Leaders or Deputy Leaders was very helpful.
- 5) Miss Grayell announced the ongoing arrangements for future visits, and advised that a visit to Canterbury would take place on 26 February (pm), and a whole day visit to Dartford and Gravesham on 12 March (Dartford am, Gravesham pm). She said she hoped to arrange visits so that they were placed in a monthly pattern. *Subsequently arranged is a visit to Sevenoaks on 25 May (pm).*
- 6) RESOLVED that the oral report be noted, with thanks, and the comments made by Members on the arrangements for future visits, and the information arising from them, be borne in mind as the programme continues.

## **5. 21st Century Kent**

*(Item B2)*

*Mr D Godfrey, Strategy, Economic Development and ICT, was in attendance for this item*

- 1) Mr Godfrey presented a series of slides which updated Members on the development of the Spatial Vision since the presentation made by Eugene Dreyer from Farrells at the September meeting. He explained that the Spatial Vision would be launched on 28 January at four venues across Kent. Each launch event would have a general overview section as well as a part that was tailored to the local area.
- 2) In discussion and in response to questions from Members, the following points were highlighted:-
  - a) the preparation of the vision had been helped by four large consultation meetings with a diverse range of partners and stakeholders. Sir Terry

Farrell's conclusions from these consultation meetings would be at the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent;

- b) '21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent' was not a statutory document but an aspirational one, offering a new vision to shaping Kent's future success and adding value to existing strategies. Underpinning the document would be the 9 strategies with solutions commissioned by the Kent Regeneration Framework;
  - c) District Councils across Kent were at different stages of developing their Local Development Framework (LDF), so this was a rolling process, and the Director of Economic Development and strategic planners would be maintaining close links with District Councils. Councils which were less advanced with their LDFs would have more time to take account of the spatial vision; and
  - d) the success of the Spatial Vision and '21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent' depended upon good public involvement and support.
- 3) RESOLVED that the information set out in the report and presentation, and given in response to Members' questions, be noted, with thanks.

## **6. Local Economic Assessment - Progress update**

*(Item B3)*

*Mr R Gill, Economic Strategy and Policy Manager, was in attendance for this item.*

1) Mr Gill introduced a report which updated Members on the development of the LEA since the POSC's November meeting. The LEA linked well with '21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent', and a good LEA would stand Kent in good stead to face the future. A joint commissioning body had been formed by Kent and Medway and would meet for the first time on 24 February. Kent and Medway had established links with Surrey and Essex and would possibly link also to Hampshire to allow it to take broader view across the South East region. The timescale for the introduction of the LEA had changed when the government produced revised guidelines.

2) In discussion, and in response to questions from Members, the following points were highlighted:-

- a) the 24 February meeting would mark the start of Member-level consultation with Districts;
- b) although every effort would be made to avoid duplication of work between partners, Kent would look at strategic and cross-border issues which District Councils could not easily cover. Working with the neighbouring counties named was good, but working with Sussex would also be welcomed;
- c) issues relating to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) would be addressed in a specific topic paper;

- d) Members were assured that tourism would be thoroughly addressed ;
  - e) although the actual funding allocation for the establishment of the LEA was unclear, Members were assured that Kent and Medway would merge their funding allocations to make optimum use of it;
  - f) although the development of an LEA was a statutory duty for Kent, it was not a good time economically, making economic forecasts difficult, and government policy may change dramatically following the summer election;
  - g) it was disappointing that Medway had not entered into a contract with Connexions, as Kent had done, as Kent's link with them had been very useful in picking up issues and building up strengths; and
  - h) much will change in the future, with a predicted reduction in public sector funding across the board, reducing the number of available options and forcing partners to make difficult choices. In the meantime, much useful data collection and assessment work could still go on to see what might be achieved in 3, 5 or 10 years' time.
- 3) RESOLVED that the information set out in the report and given in response to Members' questions, be noted, with thanks.

## **7. Growth Without Gridlock - An Integrated Transport Strategy for Kent** *(Item B4)*

*Mr G Mee, Director of Integrated Strategy and Planning, was in attendance for this item.*

- 1) Mr Mee presented a series of slides which set out the development of the Integrated Transport Strategy and how it related to other plans, frameworks and statutory documents. He encouraged Members to read the 'Growth without Gridlock' document on the KCC website and give feedback on it.
- 2) In discussion, Members contributed the following views:-
  - a) although parts of the ITS are certainly desirable, it is difficult to be convinced that it is realistic or affordable. Future highways projects are already planned in a programme up to 2018, so will be difficult to adapt, and it is important to put in place plans that are realistic. It is also important to have a complete system that worked as a whole;
  - b) under-used pavements along side main roads could be used by cyclists;
  - c) to promote increased use of the bus network, KCC would need to work closely with District Councils;

- d) it was emphasised that the ITS was a long-term plan, and as such was comparable to the Spatial Vision. The ITS was a 20 – 40 year plan;
  - e) the ITS did not emphasise moving freight from road to rail, which was disappointing. The ITS should also take account of air travel and airports, e.g., Manston; and
  - f) Sheerness is a deep water port and could be used much more for roll-on, roll-off services to help move freight from road to rail.
- 3) RESOLVED that information set out in the report and presentation be noted, with thanks, and that Members' views set out above be included in feedback.

## **8. Digital Strategy**

*(Item B5)*

*Mr P Bole, Head of ICT Commissioning, was in attendance for this item.*

1) Mr Bole presented a series of slides which set out the dramatic rate and extent of change in methods of communication and information handling in recent years, its implications for Kent and the challenges facing the KCC in addressing the issues. Government investment would not cover all Kent's ICT needs, so the KCC would need to identify ways to address the shortfall (e.g., by encouraging private sector investment).

2) In discussion, and in responses given to Members' questions, the following points were made:-

- a) KCC would use a combination of methods to maximise the Kent population's access to information technology. There were options which would take advantage of existing public sector premises, e.g. setting up a wireless 'bridge' from a school to the surrounding community;
- b) although rural areas tended to offer the greatest challenge in terms of accessibility, some towns were also not accessible;
- c) in researching possibilities, Kent had looked at the experience of Swindon and the methods used there, including domestic users being provided broadband free of charge, the cost being covered by commercial subscribers;
- d) it was the expectation that new technology would be built into all future developments at the construction stage, to avoid the expense and disturbance of fitting retrospectively;
- e) establishing good technical links was a very important issue, and if KCC had to choose between funding Broadband and funding new road building, it was suggested that Broadband should be the most urgent choice; and

- f) it is important to be realistic, and whilst it might be considered desirable for all Kent households to have a fibre link, this was simply uneconomical. A reliable Broadband connection was vital, however, for Kent businesses.
- 3) RESOLVED that the information set out in the report and presentation, and given in response to Members' questions, be noted, with thanks, and Members eagerly await future updates on the issues covered.

## **9. Review of Regeneration and Economy Project Activity**

*(Item B6)*

- 1) Ms Cooper introduced the report and explained that, as future funding levels and mechanisms and partnership arrangements were unknown, the Directorate was undertaking a review of project work in 2010/11.
- 2) In discussion, and in response to questions raised by Members, the following points were highlighted:-
- a) the level of detail set out in the report was welcomed, and reflected what the POSC had asked for at previous meetings;
  - b) the Regeneration directorate would have a major role to play in the Single Conversation as a vital link with District Councils and other partners. It would also be deeply involved in projects as part of the Total Place agenda;
  - c) As some projects were nearing completion, responsibility for future delivery would be transferred to the most appropriate Directorate, e.g., projects relating to highways schemes would be passed to EHW.
  - d) A key future role of the Regeneration directorate would be to grow and maintain corporate links across the whole KCC in order to ensure the delivery of the Regeneration Framework ; and
  - e) it was noted that in the long term, some projects may not continue to be funded by KCC. If continued funding was to be sought then a bid for monies from the Regeneration Fund would be submitted to the sub group of the Regeneration Board for approval.
- 3) RESOLVED that the information set out in the report, and given in response to Members' questions, be noted, with thanks.

## **10. Update on Major Projects**

*(Item B7)*

- 1) Ms Cooper introduced the report and, in response to a question, explained that projects such as the Kent Credit Union had individual business plans to ensure longer term sustainability. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) had to approve the setting up of credit unions

- 2) RESOLVED that the information set out in the report be noted, with thanks.

## **11. Financial Monitoring 2009/10**

*(Item B8)*

*Mr D Shipton, Finance Strategy Manager, was in attendance for this and the following item.*

- 1) Mr Shipton introduced the report and highlighted an increased underspend which had been achieved by a continuing trend of keeping staff vacancies unfilled for as long as possible.

- 2) RESOLVED that the information set out in the report be noted, with thanks.

## **12. Budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2010/13**

*(Item B9)*

- 1) Mr Shipton introduced the report and explained the following:-

- a) a meeting with business leaders would take place on 26 January as part of the consultation process;
- b) the Directorate's draft budget included a 0% pay increase for staff in 2010/11 in line with the proposal which has been put forward. No specific provision has been made in the Medium Term Plan for 2011/12 and 2012/13 as no proposals have been put forward at this stage and more information was needed on the 1% cap announced in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Pre-Budget Report in December. As and when proposals are put forward the cost would have to be met from the provision in the Medium Term Plan (page 55) for emerging pressures;
- c) since the last POSC there have been some additional new savings proposed for the portfolio's budget, as a contribution towards balancing the overall KCC budget; and
- d) the LABGI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme) funding which was estimate the Directorate should receive in 2010/11 totals £750,000, made up of £500,000 on top of the £250,000 already included in the base budget.

- 2) In answer to a question, Mr Shipton explained that the figure of 36 posts quoted as a reduction to the Regeneration and Economic Development portfolio was an average figure which would be needed to achieve the anticipated required savings. Ms Cooper added that seven vacancies currently in Regeneration would be held open, and that some savings made would not be in staff. Although the indicative figure had been translated into posts as part of budget setting process, she assured Members that the Directorate would make savings in other ways wherever possible.

- 3) Members agreed that it would be impossible and unfair to say from where such a saving in posts might be made until a formal process had been followed with the staff concerned.

- 4) RESOLVED that the report, and Members' comments on it, be noted.

**13. Half Yearly Business Plan Monitoring 2009/10**  
*(Item B10)*

*Ms J Hill, Performance Manager, was in attendance for this item.*

RESOLVED that the information set out in the report be noted, with thanks.

**14. Update on Select Committee Work**  
*(Item C1)*

- 1) Miss Grayell reported that the first meeting of the 'Renewable Energy in Kent' Select Committee had been set for 26 January 2010. At this meeting, the Select Committee would elect a Chairman and agree its scope, terms of references and list of witnesses. This meeting would be open to the public, and any Member of this Committee who wished to attend and listen would be able to do so.
- 2) RESOLVED that the information set out in the report be noted, with thanks.

**By:** Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member, Regeneration and Economic Development  
David Cockburn, Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development and ICT

**To:** Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 March 2010

**Subject:** Update - Kent and Medway Housing Strategy

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

This paper summarises and updates the progress made in the development of the Kent and Medway Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing Strategy. A number of linkages have been drawn from the continued broad engagement with stakeholders and been used to inform the scope and ambition of the Strategy.

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The development of the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy is a commitment in the Kent Regeneration Framework. Housing is an important issue for the people of Kent and Medway and it has been critical to engage with the broad range of stakeholders to discuss the relevance of the Strategy and to build support for the project.
- 1.2 The ambition is to develop a 'fit for purpose' Housing Strategy for Kent and Medway that provides strategic direction, innovation and actions as a response to the huge diversity of housing need, challenges and opportunities across Kent and Medway. An evidence base that can be described as a Kent Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is being developed to support development of the Strategy.
- 1.3 DTZ have prepared the first draft for consultation of the Kent and Medway SHMA which as well as being the evidence base for the Strategy will be used to stimulate debate, strong innovation, challenge, better understanding and new Kent approaches.

**2. Housing Strategy, Involvement and Consultation**

- 2.1 Some bullet points which describe what the Strategy is and is not, were produced for the Kent and Medway Leaders and Chief Executives meeting (LACE):  
The project is:

- An opportunity to identify and develop actions on areas where a Kent and Medway perspective can add value and contribute to delivery of local ambitions
- A fully inclusive process that will reflect existing Strategies without duplication or contradiction
- A case for Government investment in Kent in support of 4 Kent 'Single Conversations' and the context of 16 across SE
- Outward facing that can influence national and regional policy in a way that will benefit Kent and Medway and assist in delivery of local ambition
- An opportunity to celebrate best practice, enhance partnership working and encourage innovation
- A 5,10,15 and 20 year perspective and an opportunity to better understand the impact of the economic downturn and design responses to mitigate the impact and take advantage of upturn when it occurs
- Consistent with emerging Audit Commission expectations: Strategic Approach to Housing – KLOE and Building better lives – Getting the best from strategic Housing

2.2 The project is not:

- A replacement of the District and Borough lead role in responding to local Strategic Housing Priorities
- A replacement to LDFs, local or sub-regional Strategies
- A 'one size fits all' approach

2.3 The Kent Economic Board Housing Task Group which is chaired by Neil Davies, Chief Executive at Medway has been working closely with the Strategic Housing Advisor (see Para 2.6) on the development of the scope and ambitions for the Strategy. Neil Davies presented a report on the Housing Strategy to the Kent Chief Executives meeting in June 2009. The report described the parameters of the Strategy and the involvement of the Task Group.

2.4 The KEB Housing Task Group has been used as an effective vehicle to engage with the HCA and enable a dialogue on a Kent perspective on the 'Single Conversation' process, the new method of assessing investment needs. David Edwards the Regional Director – South East for HCA who is a member of the Task Group has confirmed the relevance of the proposed Kent SHMA and Kent Housing Strategy to the 'Single Conversation'.

2.5 The Kent Economic Board Housing Task Group is made up of the following people:

Neil Davies	(Chairman) Chief Executive, Medway
John Batty	Director of Health & Housing, Tonbridge & Malling
Mike Bodkin	Head of Urban Regeneration, KCC
Graham Harris	Managing Director, Dartford

Megan McKibbin	Executive Director, KEB
Glyn Thomson	Chief Executive, Gravesham
Deborah Upton	Assistant Director, Medway
David Edwards	Regional Director – South East,
Richard Samuel	Chief Executive, Thanet
Jon Rosser	Chief Executive, TCHG
Bob Porter	Chair Kent Housing Group
David Petford	Chief Executive, Maidstone

2.6 A temporary post of Strategic Housing Advisor has been established by KCC with responsibility:

- To work with the KEB Housing Task Group to create a strategic overview of housing demand, housing management and housing supply issues affecting Kent & Medway now and for the next 10 to 15 years in a single Housing Strategy.
- To commission appropriate external expertise to provide analysis and input to the Housing Strategy, using the resources of KCC and attracting resources from partners (in cash and in kind), wherever possible.
- To actively promote innovative responses to the challenges identified.
- To create and lead the multi-agency team which will report on progress to the Task Group, to KCC and to the wider Kent Partnership.
- To liaise and negotiate with relevant regional and national bodies to help create the strategy and the means of implementation

2.7 The Strategic Housing Advisor is involved in a continuing process of engagement with opinion formers and stakeholders across and outside of Kent. Meetings to review and get feedback on what a 'fit for purpose' Strategy should deal with and capture learning from relevant experience have been held with a broad span of stakeholders.

2.8 Face to face meetings have been held with representatives from:

- All Kent and Medway Local Authorities
- Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
- The Audit Commission
- GOSE
- Kent Developers Group
- National Landlords Association
- Shelter
- National Housing Federation (NHF)
- Town and Country Housing Group
- AmicusHorizon Housing
- Orbit South Housing
- HMY Chartered Architects
- SEEDA

- SEEPB
- Greater London Authority
- South London Housing Partnership
- Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
- Action with Communities in Rural Kent
- Housing Strategy and Enabling Group
- Kent Planning Officers Group
- Kent Housing Technical Working Group
- Kent Joint Policy and Planning Board (Housing)
- Kent Housing Group

2.9 LACE asked for an opportunity to review the scope and purpose of the strategy and Leaders reviewed progress on development of the SHMA and Strategy at their meetings in November 2009 and February 2010. The Kent Chief Executives have also received a progress briefing at the January 2010 meeting. The first and second stakeholder events for the SHMA were delivered at Oakwood House in Maidstone on 8 December 2009 and 20 January 2010, with a third event planned for 16 March 2010. The events have been well attended with delegates including colleagues from local government, regional government, HCA, Developers, and RSL's.

2.10 The Kent Housing Group organised a luncheon briefing Chaired by Jon Rosser for lead members for Housing in Kent. David Edwards presented information about the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy and also the "Single Conversation". Neil Davies briefed members on the role of the KEB Housing Task Group and Chaired a question and answer session on the Strategy. The members received a briefing on what the Strategy 'is' and 'is not', this proved to be a good opportunity for Lead Housing Members to be engaged in the Strategy development process and to voice thoughts about the direction and content of the Strategy. Members have asked to meet again at key milestone points in the Strategy development, a further update briefing was delivered to Members on the 14 January 2010 with a third briefing planned for the 8 March 2010 .

### **3. SHMA and Emerging Issues**

3.1 The emerging scope of the Strategy is being refined on an iterative basis to reflect feedback from stakeholders and learning identified in the SHMA.

3.2 The Kent SHMA Specification outlines the requirement to draw together without contradiction or duplication the work that has or is being progressed at the District/Borough or Sub-Regional level, to be able to effectively describe a Kent and Medway perspective.

3.3 A parallel piece of work is being progressed by SILK (Social Innovation Lab for Kent) as part of 'Houses as Homes' to conduct an ethnographic

study of the housing experience of offenders and the impact of differential resettlement outcomes. This research has been designed to build a greater understanding of how housing issues contribute to reoffending to inform stronger joint working between agencies with the overall aim of contributing to a reduction of reoffending.

- 3.4 Work on the Strategy has already stimulated discussion and analysis of Kent perspectives on the nature of Housing in Kent, taking the longer view and thinking through how we shape the future supply of homes and deliver strong, diverse and vibrant communities. We need to build on this as we bring forward the SHMA and Strategy if we are to maximise the impact of the work.
- 3.5 As an example, attention is being given to new opportunities being identified from a potential response from the Private Rented Sector to fundamental changes that have occurred in the housing market since 2007, there has been renewed interest in the private rented sector as a tenure from policy makers and private sector developers and investors.
- 3.6 The HCA are currently exploring a private rented sector initiative which would encourage large scale institutional investors to own and manage private rented properties, supported initially by the HCA in order to reduce the risk of investing in an asset class that is, as yet, unproven. The Kent Strategy presents a significant opportunity to examine the private rented sector within Kent and consider the future of this tenure, given the changes in the market and the recent shift in policy and attitude to this segment of the market. DTZ are working with HCA on this initiative and CBRE are acting for Aviva who have identified a potential investment of £1 billion.

#### **4. Strategy Development**

- 4.1 Clare Skidmore is an independent consultant working on issues relating to Older Adults in partnership with David Weiss Head of Public Private Partnerships and Property Team in Kent Adult Social Services. A number of existing and new work streams are progressing through 'Task and Finish' Groups in partnership with Kent Housing Group, Joint Policy and Planning Board and the Housing Strategy and Enablers Group.
- 4.2 We are also working with the outputs from Farrell's work on the spatial vision for Kent and have provided some housing related ambition statements that reflect the broad themes of the Farrell's work.
- 4.3 The emerging themes for consideration in the Strategy that have been developed from the continuing engagement with stakeholders include: Rural Homes, Disability, Infrastructure, Private Rented Sector, Land, Supply, Regeneration, Design, Climate Change, Empty Homes, Sustainable Communities, Supporting People, Learning Difficulties, Offenders, Young People, Mental Health and Kent Home Choice.

4.4 We have also secured CBRE's support in the development of the Strategy, this is important if we are to effectively respond to our ambition to innovate and look beyond the obvious solutions. CBRE are working with us and DTZ to evaluate a range of strategic options available for addressing the issues identified in the SHMA. The partnership with these market leading international consultancies underscores our commitment to showcase Kent, and provide an opportunity for Kent to influence the development of strategic thinking both at a local and national level.

4.5 DTZ have identified in the development of the draft SHMA the following summary of challenges for consideration in the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy:

- How to plan homes and communities for an aging population.
- What, if anything, to do about growing household income inequality.
- What approach should be taken to poor affordability of home ownership and the extent to which rented homes should be supported?
- How to define and address priority housing needs during a period where new housing delivery is challenging.
- How to secure delivery of market and affordable homes following the downturn.
- How to regenerate deprived areas of Kent and Medway.
- How to improve the environmental sustainability of new homes and the existing stock.

4.6 CBRE have summarised the strategic key issues for development in the Strategy as:

- Access to finance for first time buyers
- Need to facilitate new forms of tenure
- Improving stock
- Maintaining the delivery of affordable housing
- Effective use of assets to deliver more
- Enhancing / learning new skills to respond to new circumstances

## **5. DTZ Margate and Cliftonville**

5.1 A number of linkages have also been established between the Housing Strategy work and the priority to respond to the housing related problems associated with multiple deprivation in Margate and Cliftonville.

5.2 DTZ have been commissioned to develop a model for an intervention that reflects Thanet District Council's Margate Renewal Strategy and priorities

5.3 The aim is to develop a strategy for a housing based intervention in the Cliftonville West and Margate Central wards to address housing and social issues in the area identified at the multi agency meeting chaired by Richard Samuel on 3 December 2009.

5.4 A key priority is to ensure that all stakeholders are fully engaged and that we are able to use the initiative to lever significant inward public and private investment into Margate and Cliftonville. DTZ are due to present their initial findings and recommendations for action in April 2010.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1 So in conclusion, the Strategy will not simply be a re-presentation of existing data sources it will use that information to identify opportunities, approaches, policies and products to support our ambitions for current and future responses to housing issues – across all forms of housing tenure and in relation to existing homes as well as new development. It will stimulate relevant actions on issues that are identified as common concerns across Kent and that would benefit from a pan-Kent strategic approach.

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Chief Executive's Directorate

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### **Background Documents:**

Draft Timetable

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DRAFT KENT & MEDWAY HOUSING STRATEGY			2009		2010			2010		
Activity	Time	Who	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Inception Meeting	#####	DTZ/HTGSG								
Leaders Meeting	#####	PC/DTZ/CBRE/BJH								
KEB HTG	#####	KEB HTG								
KEB HTG SHMA Sub-Group	#####	DTZ/CBRE/HTGSG								
Stake Holder Event (1)	#####	PC/DTZ/CBRE/BJH								
Kent Chief Executive's Meeting	#####	DTZ/CBRE/BJH								
KEB HTG SHMA Sub-Group	#####	DTZ/CBRE/HTGSG								
KHG hosted Members Briefing (2)	#####	KHG/DTZ/CBRE/BJH								
Stake Holder Event (2)	#####	DTZ/CBRE/BJH								
KEB HTG	#####	KEB HTG/CBRE/DTZ								
Draft SHMA	#####	DTZ								
Rural Task and Finish Report	#####	Rural T&F Group								
Kent Partnership	#####	DTZ/CBRE/BJH								
Leaders and Chief Executives Meeting	#####	CBRE/DTZ/BJH								
SILK Task and Finish Report	#####	SILK								
T&F Reports from Groups	#####	T&F Groups								
KEB HTG	#####	KEB HTG/CBRE/DTZ								
KHG hosted Members Briefing (3)	#####	DTZ/CBRE/BJH								
Stake Holder Event (3)	#####	CBRE/DTZ/BJH								
Regeneration and Economy Policy Overview Committee	#####	BJH								
Kent Economic Board	#####	CBRE/DTZ/BJH								
1st Draft Strategy	Friday, April 23, 2010	CBRE/DTZ/BJH								
Send Draft Strategy to KEB HTG	Tuesday, April 27, 2010	BJH								
Send Draft Strategy to Kent Partnership for comment	Friday, April 30, 2010	BJH								
Circulate Draft Strategy to Stakeholders Group for comment	Friday, April 30, 2010	BJH								
Deadline for return of comments on Draft Strategy	Friday, May 14, 2010	BJH								
KEB HTG	Tuesday, May 25, 2010	KEB HTG/CBRE/DTZ								
Final Strategy Produced reflecting comments from stakeholders	Friday, May 28, 2010	CBRE/DTZ/BJH								
Kent Partnership	Tuesday, June 08, 2010	CBRE/DTZ/BJH								
June Launch Event	After 11 June 2010	CBRE/DTZ/BJH								

On Programme
Slipping
Missed Target
Planned Work
SHMA - Strategic Housing Market Assessment
T&F - Task and Finish
KEB HTG - Kent Economic Board Housing Task Group
KHG - Kent Housing Group
JPPB - Joint Policy and Planning Board - Housing
HSEG - Housing Strategy and Enablers Group
Silk - Social Innovation Lab for Kent

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By: Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member for Regeneration  
Nick Chard, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and  
Waste  
Linda Davies, Director of Environment and Waste

To: Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee – 24 March 2010

Subject: Kent Environment Strategy

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**Summary:**

This report summarises the key points made during the recent consultation on the draft Kent Environment Strategy and sets out the next steps in finalising the document.

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**1. The Consultation process**

- 1.1 This Committee at its meeting on the 30 July 2009 considered the plans for updating the existing Kent Environment Strategy, a Kent Partnership sponsored document. At the 13 October 2009 meeting of the Kent Partnership the draft version of a new Environment Strategy for Kent was debated and it was agreed that the document should go out to wider consultation. The draft strategy was distributed to all KCC Members.
- 1.2 Since the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 the draft Strategy has been widely circulated and available for comment via the web. In addition, a number of consultation meetings have been held including all Local Strategic Partnerships in the County. Some 56 formal responses have been received primarily from key partners and stakeholders. Annex 1 gives an overview of the consultation process.
- 1.3 The consultation process has shown that there is significant interest and enthusiasm for a Kent Environment Strategy. The substantive feedback received has been a general consensus in support of the new tone and focus of the document but with some concerns.
- 1.4 The main points made during the consultation process are, in summary, the need to:
  - Making more upfront the links between the underpinning evidence base and the content of the strategy
  - Clear measurable targets and clearly identifiable links between objectives and the actions taken forward in the final document.
  - Clarity over the interlinkages between the Environment Strategy and other key documents such as the Kent's Regeneration Framework and Local Development Frameworks
  - More detail on flooding and resilience, transport issues, housing growth and heritage

1.5 The content of all the formal responses has been documented in a consultation matrix which can be made available to REDPOSC Members individually if they wish to see it.

## 2 Responding to the Consultation Responses

2.1 Most of the points raised during consultation can be sensibly incorporated in to the document through the redrafting process.

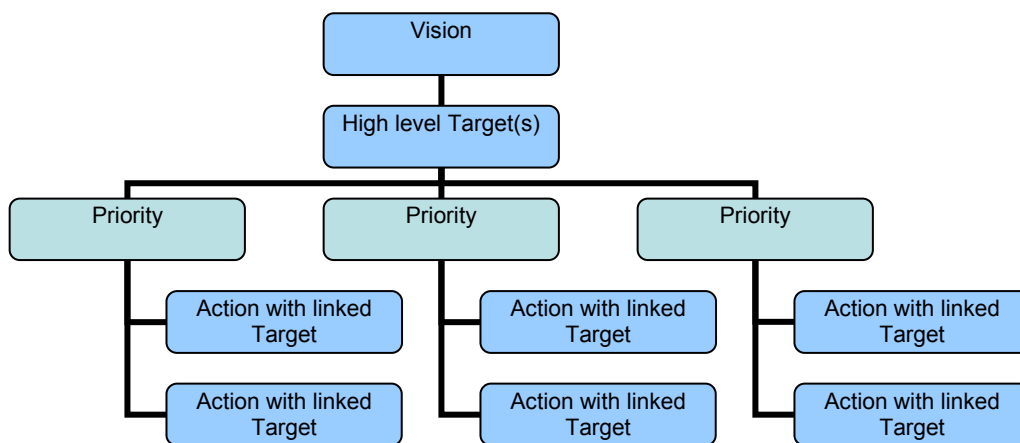
2.2 Therefore the intention is to retain the three key themes identified in the draft as the basis for the final document.

2.3 These are:

- Prosperity within environmental limits
- Rising to the climate change challenge
- Value from our natural and living environments

2.4 For each theme there will be a revised set of objectives from which will flow a limited number of key actions to be taken.

2.5 The structure of the document will also be changed from the draft version to bring far greater clarity and logic to the link between vision, priorities and actions, (see below).



2.6 There still some challenges to meet before the final draft is completed. These include:

- finalising the commitments by key stakeholders to the actions identified
- robustly presenting the evidence base underpinning the strategy and the actions
- ensuring consistency with and across the suite of relevant strategies being progressed
- overtly recognising that there are a range of projects and activities happening in Kent in support of environmental

objectives that are no less important just because they are not included in the strategy

- 2.7 Some consultation responses requested that transport and housing issues are more overtly incorporated in the Environment Strategy. This has been considered. However a better way of achieving the desired outcome is the parallel and linked development of the Integrated Transport Strategy together with the District Local Development Frameworks, the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy and regional spatial framework. Therefore REDPOSC is advised to endorse this approach as a better and more coherent way for taking these issues forward.

### **3 Next steps**

- 3.1 The strategy is currently being redrafted, retaining the 3 main themes but addressing the concerns as outlined in this paper. This will include restructuring the final document along the following grounds
- 3.2 The intention is to bring a final version for approval to the Kent Partnership on their 8 June 2010 meeting subject to resolving the points made above.

### **4 Recommendations - REDPOSC are asked to:**

- 4.1 Support the overall approach and agree next steps.

**Contact: Carolyn McKenzie EHW 1916.**

**ANNEX 1 - Kent Environment Strategy – Key Stakeholder Consultation 2009 – 10**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>April 09</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec/Jan</b>	<b>Feb/Mar</b>
RED Policy & Overview Scrutiny Committee										
EHW Policy & Overview Scrutiny Committee										
Kent Partnership										
Public Service Board										
Kent Economic Board										
Kent & Medway Chief Executives										
All Kent Local Strategic Partnerships <sup>1</sup>										
Formal Open Consultation										
KPOG Policy Forum										
Kent Environment Directors Group										
Kent Rural Board										
Kent Biodiversity Partnership										
Environment Stakeholder Group <sup>2</sup>										
Stakeholder Workshops										
Kent Environment Strategy Project Board										
Strategy emailed to all Kent Partnership										

<sup>1</sup> Dates available on request

<sup>2</sup> Includes 3 District Representatives – East, West and Mid Kent.

**By:** Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member, Regeneration & Economic Development

David Cockburn, Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development & ICT

**To:** Regeneration & Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 March 2010

**Subject:** *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* – Launch Feedback

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

This paper updates Members on the launch of *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

Produced by international architect and masterplanner Sir Terry Farrell, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* aims to attract new investors and visitors to the county and to provide a new spatial vision and focus for high quality growth.

Work continues now to complete the nine Regeneration Framework strategies underpinning *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent*. The conclusions and actions from these strategies will be developed into a single spatial vision and action plan for the county to be published in December 2010.

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The launch of *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* on 28<sup>th</sup> January was one of the most ambitious and carefully targeted events ever undertaken by KCC.
- 1.2 Following a national launch by Minister for the South East Jonathan Shaw at St Pancras Station, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* was launched locally to targeted audiences in Ebbsfleet, Ashford and Folkestone following the line of the new High Speed 1 rail service.
- 1.3 Venues and audiences for the four individual launches were carefully selected to:
  - Highlight the revolutionary change the High Speed Rail Link has brought to the county;
  - Build the case for substantial public infrastructure investment into Kent;
  - Showcase the county to inward investors and developers; and
  - Share the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* document with the many people from the

public, private and voluntary sectors who helped develop it.

- 1.4 Guest lists were developed with partners including Locate in Kent and Visit Kent to target key groups and individuals in pursuit of the above aims.
- 1.5 The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent launch followed a year of consultation by Farrells including a series of 10 wide-ranging events and workshops to gather the views of public, private and community sector partners. During this time, Farrells have also provided expert consultancy and support, including in the development of the Kent Transport and Culture strategies.

## **2. Launch**

- 2.1 21<sup>st</sup> century Kent was officially launched by Jonathan Shaw MP, Minister for the South East, at St Pancras Station in London. The document was then launched locally to targeted audiences in Ebbsfleet, Ashford and Folkestone.
- 2.2 The programme for each launch followed a similar format at each venue with a welcome by the hosts including the Leaders of 5 Borough/District Councils. Tailored presentations to each were then given Sir Terry Farrell and Paul Carter and the sessions were chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Kevin Lynes.
- 2.3 Venues were carefully chosen and audiences targeted for specific messages and outcomes. Press attendance was high at each launch, with a significant number of journalists including BBC SE travelling with Sir Terry and Paul Carter for the whole day.
- 2.4 Venues, themes and messages are detailed in the attached table. Press coverage and feedback from partners has been extremely positive to date.
- 2.5 Investment and business opportunities continue to be developed as a result of the launch and the wide-ranging interest and goodwill generated.

## **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* is an ongoing project being developed by KCC in its strategic capacity to complement and add value to local planning and regeneration strategies across Medway and Kent.
- 3.2 Underpinning 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent are nine detailed strategies on Business, Skills, Integrated Transport, Environment, Later Life, What Price Growth?, Housing, Culture, Digital issues. These will be published throughout the year and together will provide the solutions and actions

necessary to realise the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent vision. Each will be published individually under the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* brand.

3.3 As a result of the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* launch, additional consultation and influencing activity has been identified to complement and add value to that already planned and underway for the regeneration framework strategies. This includes proposals for:

- The Kent Rail User Summit (25<sup>th</sup> March);
- A Digital Summit;
- Rural Board feedback
- Targeted focus groups on *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* themes;
- Youth discussion; and
- Targeted on-line activity through discussion groups, etc; also aimed at reaching national audience.

This activity will be further supplemented and developed through discussions with Kent and Medway's Leaders, Chief Executives and Regeneration officers.

3.4 Drawing together the detailed actions and conclusions from the nine strategies and supplementary work, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent* will be reproduced in December 2010 to provide a single spatial vision and action plan highlighting key solutions from the individual strategies.

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 REPOSC Members are asked to note the contents of this report and the next steps proposed.

Author Contact Details:

David Godfrey, SEDICT  
Chief Executive's Directorate

Email: david.godfrey@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 07920 428556

#### **Background Documents:**

*21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent*, Sir Terry Farrell, published 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010

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The Launch of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Kent				
Launch	St Pancras	Ebbsfleet	Ashford	Folkestone
<b>Theme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “21<sup>st</sup> Century Kent connected for business and growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Massive regeneration in the Connected County”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Ambitious growth in Garden of England for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “A thriving coast, a thriving community”</li> </ul>
<b>Key Message(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent connected for business and coordinated for growth</li> <li>• High quality housing, people and living on London’s doorstep</li> <li>• Visionary and assertive local leadership will deliver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceptional Thames Gateway connections to London, Kent and Europe</li> <li>• Workplace for Kent, workforce for London and beyond</li> <li>• Quality living, people and housing in quality communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great to do business in the Garden</li> <li>• Natural home for new industries</li> <li>• City scale facilities in the countryside</li> <li>• Exceptional Ashford links to London, Europe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent’s coast is the place for culture, heritage and leisure</li> <li>• New connections, cultural renaissance and wealth of attractions make Kent a visitor destination of choice</li> <li>• New business opportunities on Kent’s connected coast</li> </ul>
<b>Intended Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent recognised as a place to invest by public and private sector</li> <li>• Links with “new” London neighbours (GLA, Camden, St Pancras) strengthened</li> <li>• “21st Century Kent” seen as policy exemplar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ebbsfleet “offer” and opportunities reinforced</li> <li>• New momentum and focus offered to local agencies and partnerships</li> <li>• Increased urgency to deliver Ebbsfleet growth and regeneration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Ashford powerhouse” offer and opportunities reinforced</li> <li>• New momentum and “Garden” focus offered to local agencies and partnerships</li> <li>• Increased urgency to deliver Ashford growth and regeneration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boost to develop new and coordinated visitor offer</li> <li>• New business focus on Kent’s ports and resorts</li> <li>• Community support to deliver new coastal vision</li> </ul>
<b>Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPs, peers, policy makers and opinion formers in national and local government</li> <li>• Targeted business, including rail and regeneration/development</li> <li>• Transport, environment and architectural/design representatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key property developers and property companies operating locally</li> <li>• Local companies identified by Backing Kent’s Business</li> <li>• Regeneration representatives – Board, MAA, Leaders, Local Government</li> <li>• Environment, Design and Transport representatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key property developers and property companies operating locally</li> <li>• Local business, including landbased industries</li> <li>• Ashford’s Future Board, Ashford Company Board</li> <li>• Regeneration and environment representatives</li> <li>• Local Government Leaders and officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design/Creative companies</li> <li>• Local business, including renewables</li> <li>• Heritage and tourism organizations</li> <li>• Regeneration/environment representatives</li> <li>• Education representatives, HE and FE</li> <li>• Community and workshop consultees</li> <li>• Local Government Leaders and officers</li> </ul>

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**By:** Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member, Regeneration and Economic Development

David Cockburn, Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development & ICT

**To:** Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 24 March 2010

**Subject:** Update on Major Projects

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

This report provides Members with an update on the progress of major regeneration projects.

It further provides an update of bids coming forward for funding from the Regeneration fund.

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**1. Introduction**

**1.1** This report provides Members with a quarterly update on the progress of major regeneration projects being delivered by Regeneration and Economy.

**1.2** The tables that follow present progress against projects in Thanet, Dover, Kent Thameside and Ashford and for Backing Kent Business, Backing Kent People and No Use Empty. A summary is also presented showing those bids that are coming forward for support from the Regeneration Fund.

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
<b>Ashford Growth Area - Lead Officer: Mike Bodkin</b>				
Ashford Growth Area	Delivery of the Ashford Programme to support sustainable economic growth	Total Programme value: £53.5m public sector funding (of which £22m GAF 3 and £5.5m KCC funding).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tender for Victoria Way scheme returned within overall budget cost estimates, contract expected to be let by late March.</li> <li>• Funding Agreements on Junction 9 - Drovers roundabout scheme nearing completion.</li> <li>• Progressed Land acquisitions for Victoria Way and Junction 9 - Drovers</li> <li>• Started work on strategic tariff using work from study being undertaken by URS for KCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commencement of works for Victoria Way and Junction 9 – Drovers roundabout.</li> <li>• Completion of infrastructure costings to feed into strategic tariff.</li> <li>• Review and revise KCC internal governance arrangements.</li> </ul>
<b>Kent Thameside – Lead Officer: Mike Bodkin</b>				
Homes and Roads	To deliver 11 major transport schemes to support growth of 20,000 homes and 50,000 jobs	Total cost - £200m (at 2009). (Price base varies for funding commitments) Regional Transport Programme (DfT) £46m (at 2008) HCA £23m (at 2008) DfT £26m (at 2007) Eastern Quarry £40m (at 2007) Developer Contributions £63m (at 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked closely with CLG/HCA to achieve approval of Homes and Roads funding.</li> <li>• Continued negotiations with Land Securities over re-profiling of their contribution (£40m).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of governance arrangements including legal framework.</li> <li>• Establishment of programme investment fund and administrative arrangements.</li> <li>• Commencement of preparation of first Progress Report</li> </ul>

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
Ebbsfleet Valley (including Eastern Quarry)	To deliver 11,000 homes and new community adjacent to Ebbsfleet station	In an excess of an estimated £100m worth of infrastructure secured by KCC and DBC to support the development of Eastern Quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions on revised master planning proposals by Land Securities have been ongoing</li> <li>Briefing for local and county members held by Land Securities in March</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substantial completion of adjustments to masterplanning negotiations with Land Securities.</li> <li>Clearer understanding of proposed timescale for next phases of development of Ebbsfleet Valley.</li> </ul>
<b>Dover - Lead Officer: David Hughes</b>				
Dover Priory Station Approach Environmental Improvements	Improvements to public realm next to Station and along part of Folkestone Road towards town centre	Total project cost - £2m. Funded by KCC (£1.1m), Network Rail (£0.7m), SEEDA (£0.1m), INTERREG (£0.12m) and Dover DC (£0.05m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resurfacing and footway works started on Folkestone Road and around station building.</li> <li>Provision of new stepped access from Folkestone Road and from Tower Hamlets residential area.</li> <li>Landscaping contract let to Jacobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Folkestone Road resurfacing works in April.</li> <li>Complete improvements to Station Approach and to new Priory Steps in April.</li> <li>Complete handover to Network Rail in April.</li> <li>Plan formal opening for later in quarter.</li> </ul>
Dover Sea Change Programme	Programme comprises improvements to 4 tourist attractions within Dover Castle, environmental improvements to Esplanade, upgrading of Bleriot Memorial, cable car feasibility study and multi faceted community engagement project.	Total project cost - £7.75m. Funded by DCMS (£3.85m), English Heritage (£2.5m), KCC (£0.65m), DHB (£0.34m), Dover DC (£0.3m) and SEEDA (£0.11m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Works Agreement and Collateral Warranty agreement for Esplanade project.</li> <li>Appointed Ringway as principal contractor to Esplanade project.</li> <li>Commenced construction of main elements of Esplanade project completed by end of March.</li> <li>Dover Cultural Strategy completed by the end of March.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start final Dover Castle project (Secret Wartime Tunnels).</li> <li>Commence Esplanade soft landscaping works.</li> <li>Complete Esplanade main contract works.</li> <li>Complete cable car initial feasibility work.</li> </ul>

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
<b>Thanet - Lead Officer: Theresa Bruton</b>				
East Kent Opportunities LLP Theresa Bruton	Limited liability partnership created by KCC and Thanet DC to develop land holdings at Manston Business Park and Euro Kent adjacent to Westwood Cross. EuroKent spine Road opened November 2008	KCC purchased Manston Park landholdings in June 2006 £5.35m. Now sits alongside TDC equivalent landholding at EuroKent in the LLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Business Plan for EKO LLP being considered by Management Committee 24/3/10.</li> <li>• Contracts with Solicitors on two purchases at Manston.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timing for submission of EuroKent planning application to be addressed alongside Thanet District Council's progress with LDF Core Strategy.</li> <li>• Implementation of updated business plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Margate - Lead Officer: Keith Mackenney</b>				
Rendezvous site development	On the seafront site adjacent to Turner Contemporary development work is underway to bring forward a planning application for a quality mixed-use development at the eastern end of the Rendezvous site that is sympathetic to the Turner gallery and provides strong and effective linkages to the Old Town and the Winter Gardens. R&E are working with Thanet District Council (TDC), to transform the Grade 2 listed, Winter Gardens into a successful, modern operation.	Total cost will be determined by the eventual direction of the project.	<p>As reported to REDPOSC in January, the initial scheme involving a quality hotel and residential development has been reviewed and options are being considered linked to the Winter Gardens.</p> <p>Discussions are taking place to explore TDC's aspirations for the site in the context of other developments planned for Margate's eastern seafront.</p> <p>Detailed viability and feasibility work is being progressed with specialist hotel consultants, TRI, whose report will be delivered in early March.</p>	The direction of this work will be greatly influenced by the results of the TRI investigations which will reviewed by the project's steering group before being shared with other members of the Margate Renewal Partnership.

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
Development on the Dreamland site	To work with the Margate Renewal Partnership and site owners to deliver the Dreamland Entertainment Complex & Heritage Amusement Park on a 10 acre site around the listed cinema and scenic railway.	£12.4m (Phase 1) including: SeaChange £4m HLF £3m TDC £0.75m Developer £4m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land owner's contribution to the project not now expected to be forthcoming during the project's first phase. As a result a revised funding approach has been agreed with the Sea Change team.</li> <li>Gardiner Theobald has been appointed as project management consultants and revisions to the project plan have been agreed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The design team will be appointed by the end of March.</li> <li>Design work to be completed during August with work commencing before the end of the year.</li> <li>The second round HLF decision has been delayed until November.</li> <li>Phase 1 development work to be completed by the end of 2011.</li> <li>The park will open spring/summer 2012.</li> </ul>

**Countywide - No Use Empty Lead Officer: Steve Grimshaw**

	Initiative launched in 2005 as part of its PSA 2 commitments to examine better ways of delivering services and working more effectively with district councils by returning long term empty properties back into use.	£5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Towards 2010 Target exceeded.</li> <li>Completion of Mail shot targeting owners of Empty Properties across all districts in Kent.</li> <li>The value of loans paid in 09-10 has increased to £630k (from £500k).</li> <li>The value of loans approved awaiting payment has increased to £ 880k (from 595k).</li> <li>Total value of loans administered since the start of the NEUI will stand at £2.5M by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.</li> <li>10 further Loan Applications under consideration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Districts have identified a further 5 properties for which loan applications are likely to come forward.</li> <li>Newsletter distribution.</li> <li>Further publicity in local press and potential feature in Kent Messenger.</li> <li>Two more districts have indicated they are considering joining the Loan Scheme.</li> <li>A new fund within the NEI (currently being considered specifically for the original 4 East Kent Partners). If agreed this would be launched to run through 2010/2011 to 2013.</li> <li>Planning Appeal Decision regarding 1<sup>st</sup> Direct Purchase 28-30 King Street, Margate due in June.</li> </ul>
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Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NUEI/Thanet District Council held further discussions with the owners of the Fort Road Site (Margate). If the offer of a loan is not progressed then it is likely that TDC will use their powers to Compulsory Purchase (CPO) the site.</li> </ul>	

**Countywide – Backing Kent People Lead Officer: Rob Hancock**

	The campaign brings together partners from across the public and voluntary sectors to help Kent people whether the recession and make it easier for them to get the help they need.	£40k allocated. £13k spend to date on launch, publicity materials, production of young persons money leaflet etc		
Backing Kent People Week	Advice given through KCC's Gateways to help people through the recession	Training provided in house. £1k on materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake survey of outcomes of BKP week with Gateway staff and Plan second BKP week subject to outcome of review.</li> </ul>
Money Box Magazine	Magazine produced for Kent residents to highlight the extent of money support services available in the county.	£5k for design, production, printing and distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effectiveness of the magazine to be measured and production of a second edition to be completed in conjunction with Town &amp; Country Housing Group as KCC's partners. Second edition planned for June/July subject to results of the evaluation.</li> </ul>

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
The creation of the Kent Credit Union.	KCC has spearheaded the creation of a “people’s bank” for the county to help those who are financially excluded and provide a community saving organisation.	An original KCC development budget of £100k plus £250k allocated to Kent Savers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorisation received from the FSA to trade.</li> <li>• Staff (Chief Officer, Loans officer) recruited.</li> <li>• Launch 5<sup>th</sup> March</li> <li>• Operations started – systems tested in Gravesend with roll out to priority areas (Swale, Gravesham, Maidstone and Dover) in next few months.</li> <li>• Kent Savers services available from the KCC Contact Centre.</li> <li>• Premises occupied (Old Town Hall Gravesend)</li> <li>• Comprehensive marketing strategy produced.</li> <li>• Hardware and software in place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct marketing to Gravesend residents</li> <li>• Marketing directed to potential savers to start with KCC staff promotion via payslips.</li> <li>• Outreach worker recruited to focus on priority areas.</li> </ul>

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
Kent Citizens Advice Bureau advice project	KCC is working with 12 CABs organised as Kent & Medway Citizens Advice (KAMCA) to increase their capacity and to provide advice to more people, particularly in areas of debt, benefit and employment	£250k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Monitoring information provided by the CAB.</li> <li>· Data summarises an increase in the number of debt cases (total of over 16,000) an increase of 33% and welfare benefits (total of over 15,000) and increase of 24% over the last quarter.</li>   <li>Additionally, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of clients seen increased by over 20%</li> <li>• Number of employment enquiries increased by 21%</li> </ul> </li>   <li>· KCC's fund has enabled individual CAB's to increase the number of volunteers and their training, provide services at outreach locations and offer additional times for access (inc Saturdays).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Complete delivery of projects for agreed funding to end March.</li> </ul>

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
The creation of the Kent & Medway Financial Inclusion Partnership	KCC is working to create an independent Kent & Medway Financial Inclusion Partnership to take responsibility for the on-going delivery of the BKP campaign.	£4k allocated to Partnership.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop TOR and membership of Partnership in partnership with Town &amp; Country Housing Group with a view to holding first meeting end March / April.</li> </ul>

**Countywide – Backing Kent Business Lead Officer: Jim Mckenzie**

<b>Backing Kent Business</b>	To support Kent businesses through the recession via KCC 10 Commitments and to develop a new relationship with business	£120,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14<sup>th</sup> December Backing Kent Business (BKB) partner meeting – a key meeting marking the year since BKB was launched in Dec 2009 considered the future of the BKB campaign. Partners were of the view that there was still a key job to do as it will still be a very difficult in 2010 for Kent business as the economy slowly moves to recovery. Also BKB is an accepted 'brand' within the business community which should be further exploited.</li> <li>Migrating the KCC online Business Support Centre on the newly designed KCC website – some issues with linkages to information which is being resolved. Site constantly updated with additional advice and information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further business breakfast meetings being planned in April with Channel Chamber, Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber and Canterbury 4 Business as an opportunity for Cabinet Member to discuss BKB.</li> <li>22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 business conference and exhibition – Kent's premier business event and Backing Kent Business will have a stand.</li> </ul>
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Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Progress since last quarter Jan 10 – Mar 10	Actions planned for next quarter April 10 – June 10
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17<sup>th</sup> March BKB partners meeting.</li> <li>• BKB 'Annual Report' being prepared, to mark the first year of BKB with an update on the 10 Commitments and other KCC activities which support Kent businesses e.g. Produced in Kent, Locate in Kent, tourism etc.</li> <li>• KEiBA launch 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010.</li> <li>• Attended Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Kent regional Committee meeting with Kevin Lynes guest speaker.</li> <li>• Business Consultation Forum held on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan.</li> <li>• Institute of Directors (IoD) business breakfast held on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan – number of businesses engaged in a Q&amp;A session with Kevin Lynes</li> <li>• KCC Chairman's Mid-Kent Reception 27<sup>th</sup> Jan with a focus on Backing Kent Business – Kevin Lynes presented at the event.</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> March KCC Chairman's East Kent reception with focus on Backing Kent Business.</li> <li>• Backing Kent Business partners meeting 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – considered the way forward for the BKB campaign to support Kent businesses covering a number of opportunities around local procurement e.g. supply chain directory for wind farm developments, public, public procurement.</li> </ul>	

## 2. Regeneration fund bids

2.1 To date, one bid has been received for funding from the Regeneration Fund.

Bids	Overview	Sub-Group	£
Wind Farm supply Chain Directory	The aim of the project is to develop and maintain a local wind farm supply chain directory in Kent matching the needs of developers with the capabilities of local businesses.	31 March 2010	15k

## 3. Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note progress against each of the projects and the bids seeking funding from the regeneration fund.

### Lead Contact Officer:

Director of Economic Development  
Barbara Cooper  
Tel: 01622 221856

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By: Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 March 2010

Subject: **UPDATE ON SELECT COMMITTEE WORK**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on Select Committee work going on in 2010.

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### **Current Select Committees**

1. (1) Previous reports promised that all POSCs would be kept up to date on the work of all Select Committees.

Work is currently progressing on the following Select Committees:-

#### **Renewable Energy**

(2) This Committee held its first meeting on 26 January 2010, at which it elected a Chairman, Keith Ferrin, and agreed its Terms of Reference, scope and list of potential witnesses. As a departure from Kent's regular Select Committee style, the Committee is trying the Parliamentary method of seeking written evidence first, from which Members will then decide, at a meeting on 31 March, whom they wish to invite to give oral evidence. Hearings, at which oral evidence will be gathered, are planned for April and May. The Committee's final report will be considered by the County Council on 14 October 2010. The contacts in Democratic Services for this Committee are Research Officer Sue Frampton (01622 694993) and Democratic Services Officer Christine Singh (01622 694334), who will be able to supply further information on the work of the Select Committee to any Member who requests it.

#### **Extended Services** (previously titled Extended Schools)

(3) This Committee will hold its first meeting on 19 March 2010, at which it will elect a Chairman and agree its Terms of Reference, scope and list of potential witnesses to be approached to give oral evidence. Hearings, at which oral evidence will be gathered, are planned for late April through to June. The Committee's final report will be considered by the County Council on 9 December 2010. The contacts in Democratic Services for this Committee are Research Officer Gaetano Romagnuolo (01622 694292) and Democratic Services Officer Theresa Grayell (01622 694277), who will be able to supply further information on the work of the Select Committee to any Member who requests it.

## Future Select Committee Work

2. (1) Work is due to start in Summer 2010 on the following Select Committees:-
- Dementia
  - Educational Attainment of Pupils and Schools in Areas of High Deprivation

(2) At its meeting on 24 February, the Scrutiny Board received an update on the current Select Committee Topic Review Programme. Although resources to support reviews are all currently allocated, there is potential to start new reviews in November 2010 and January 2011. The Board agreed that Members would be asked if there are any topics they would like to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future topic review programme. If Members do have any suggestions of topics they should contact the Democratic Services Officer for this POSC.

### Recommendation

3. (1) Members are asked to note the progress of the Renewable Energy and Extended Services Select Committees, and the further Select Committee work which is planned to start in the summer of 2010.

(2) Members are also asked to consider if there are any topics they would like to put forward for inclusion in the future topic review programme, and to advise the Democratic Services Officer of any such topics.

Theresa Grayell  
Democratic Services Officer

Background Information: *Nil*

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