

To: Cabinet

From: Keith Ferrin, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways, and Waste,
Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Supporting
Independence,
Adam Wilkinson, Managing Director of Environment &
Regeneration

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Subject: Regeneration Strategy for KCC

Classification: Unrestricted

This paper provides an update on E&R's plans for a three year KCC Strategy for Regeneration. It will provide a focus for the County Council's contribution to the economic development and regeneration of Kent

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Economic Development & Regeneration are central to Kent County Council's corporate agenda. Successive Leaders of KCC have placed economic prosperity at the heart of Kent's Community Strategy and Towards 2010 targets.
- 1.2 The recently published sub-national review of Economic Development and Regeneration places a duty on local authorities to deliver economic development in their area, it repositions County Council as the primary delivery body for economic development.
- 1.3 Also recently published, 'Strong & Prosperous Communities' puts local government in a very significant place in terms of the agenda for action that is being laid out to deliver. The agenda today is much bigger than institutional reorganisation; global forces impacting on Social, Environmental and Economic Regeneration are central to the role of local government over the next 10 years.
- 1.4 The basis for progress that we have to establish in the short and medium term is partnership. Strong & Prosperous Communities lays out a clear requirement for a new relationship between Local Government and Local Partners; for stronger relationships with third sector and business through LSP's and, a duty to co-operate with public bodies in the delivery of targets.
- 1.5 Strong & Prosperous Communities also lays out clear expectations for a new relationship between Local Government and Local Communities. It is a double devolution agenda, from central government to local government and from local government to communities. Key to the future is a new duty to inform, consult and involve; asset transfer to communities to own and manage; community kitties and, the establishment of empowerment champions.

- 1.6 KCC's strong existing commitment to economic development and regeneration and the forthcoming changes to the policy framework within which we operate combine to make a compelling case for reviewing the way KCC articulates its ambitions, priorities and actions in terms of social, environmental and economic regeneration.

2. Regeneration Strategy Scope & Approach

- 2.1 The proposed Strategy for KCC's role in Kent's regeneration is the continuation of a long term corporate commitment to regeneration through the activities of Education, Social Services, Arts, Culture, Environment & Transport, and above all, a commitment to tackle deprivation at its root causes.
- 2.2 The strategy will be a living, dynamic document, updated every three years and with an annual action plan. It will set out KCC's regeneration priorities and how these relate to existing overarching Kent documents including Community Strategy, Kent Prospects and strategies for local transport, health, environment, skills, culture and so on. It will also make explicit how KCC's Towards 2010 targets contribute to achieving KCC's corporate regeneration ambitions.

3. Intelligence Led Regeneration

- 3.1 The excellent work of KCC's own Analysis & Information Team has underpinned the success of achieving PSA and LAA targets, providing baseline information and helping to measure progress through the life of the action plans.
- 3.2 The proposed new strategy will go further, it will establish a baseline for Kent across a wide range of indicators under the four broad pillars of Social, Economic & Environmental Regeneration and Connectivity.
- 3.3 Detailed analysis of the baseline indicators will provide the basis for resource allocation to deliver against regeneration priorities and will also provide the basis for conversations with key delivery partners about possibilities for aligning strategies and resources.

4. Consultation & Engagement

- 4.1 During October/November 2007, preliminary discussions were held with District Council regeneration and economic development departments.
- 4.2 This initial engagement will be followed up in February 2008 via workshops with District Council Leaders, Chief Executives and lead officers where development of the strategy will be further discussed. South East England Development Agency and Kent Economic Board are also key consultees, as well as Locate in Kent and Kent Tourism Alliance.
- 4.3 Environment & Regeneration Policy Overview Committee will be consulted on the draft strategy in April 2008.

5. Regeneration Board

- 5.1 Ownership of KCC's strategy for Regeneration by Chief Officers and Cabinet Members right across KCC is essential. It is proposed therefore to establish a cross directorate Regeneration Board with key Cabinet Member representation. The primary purpose of the Board will be to lead the development of the strategy and to oversee and monitor its implementation.

6. Financial Implications

The Regeneration Strategy for KCC will be produced within Environment & Regeneration's existing budget provision. Outcomes of the strategy will be fully costed and built into future budget discussions.

7. Timeframe

- 7.1 KCC's Strategy for Regeneration along with its first annual plan will be published by May 2008.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Cabinet Members and Chief Officers are asked to note this report, and support the development of the Strategy and support the establishment of the new Kent Regeneration Board.

Contact

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Background Documents

Department for Communities & Local Government (July 2007) *Review of sub-national economic development & regeneration*, HM Treasury

Department for Communities & Local Government (October 2007) *Strong & Prosperous Communities – The Local Government White Paper*, HMSO