

From: Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Simon Jones, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee
22 March 2022

Subject: **District Visits Programme 2022**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report outlines the proposed programme of future Member visits to Kent districts in 2022.

Recommendation: The Cabinet Committee is asked to receive and endorse the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the November 2017 meeting of this Cabinet Committee, Members agreed that officers arrange a programme of informal visits to Kent districts. The objective was to provide an opportunity for Cabinet Committee Members to gain an understanding of the economic development and regeneration opportunities and challenges within each of the Kent districts.
- 1.2 The last visit was to Ashford Borough Council in October 2019. Planned visits in 2020 and in the autumn of 2021 to Thanet, Maidstone, Canterbury, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 To reflect the breadth of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee, it is proposed that the purpose of the visits be widened to include key community assets and programmes. The exact details of each visit will be proposed by the District or Borough Council and discussed with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, and the Chairman of this Committee.

2. Programme of Further Visits

- 2.1 Member visits to Kent districts are arranged in collaboration with district and borough officers. The format for each visit involves a day-long tour of the principal community assets/programmes, economic development and infrastructure developments within each district.

2.2 The programme of visits for 2022 will now restart assuming Covid-19 continues to allow this. Therefore, dates have been offered for visits to:

Tonbridge & Malling	25 March	(Confirmed)
Canterbury	21 April	(Confirmed)
Sevenoaks	25 May	(Confirmed)
Thanet	30 June	(To be confirmed)
Maidstone	15 July	(Confirmed)

2.3 As dates are confirmed Members will receive invitations.

2.4 The Committee has already visited Swale, Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Dartford, Tunbridge Wells and Gravesham as well as the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

2.5 As agreed by the Committee, should places be available, invitations will be extended to the Chair and Members of the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee.

3. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of coach hire is approximately £350 per visit.

4. Recommendation

Recommendation: The Cabinet Committee is asked to receive and endorse the report.

5. Contact details

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