

Appendix 2 Taking forward priorities from the Thanet Strategic Context - summary of actions

Key Strategic Action	Objective	Lead & partners	Current position	Next steps
1. Improvements in HS1 Line Speeds (Ashford-Ramsgate)	To address Thanet's perceived peripherality by achieving physical improvements to the HS1 line between Ashford and Ramsgate that bring the journey time between London and Ramsgate to approximately one hour.	Network Rail with KCC	Potential line speed improvements (e.g. in signalling and addressing 3 permanent speed restrictions) have been jointly identified.	Network Rail is currently seeking funding approval to undertake this work. If successful, this would take place in the period immediately post 2014.
2. The creation of a Thanet Parkway station	In association with improved line speeds, the creation of a Thanet Parkway station adjacent to the airport would enhance the attractiveness of Thanet as a place to live, work and invest. It would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the competitiveness of and pedestrian access to Manston Airport • Increase the attractiveness of Manston Business Park and EuroKent to employers • Increase potential demand for commuter housing and hence housing investment • Facilitate small business growth locally serving London clients 	KCC with TDC	KCC has submitted an "Access to East Kent" RGF bid seeking a contribution to the capital cost of the parkway station and pump-priming funding for a new daily service between Manston and a European hub airport. Access to the preferred location for the station would be provided from the East Kent Access road currently under construction.	Next steps are dependent upon the results of the RGF bid expected in early April.

<p>3. The Cliftonville West/ Margate Central Housing Intervention Strategy</p>	<p>Housing intervention is a key element in the Margate Task Force strategy to transform and regenerate Margate Central and Cliftonville West (areas of high deprivation and dependency incurring disproportionate public costs) into a flourishing coastal town with a strong identity, sense of community and independence. The housing intervention strategy identifies seven strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enforcement strategy, using legal powers to raise standards of housing and management of tenanted properties • A management strategy delivered through an intervention agency that will acquire and manage properties to drive up standards • A tenure diversification strategy to reduce levels of private sector rented and increase owner occupation • A marketing strategy that addresses poor perceptions of the area • A public realm strategy that complements housing investment with improvements to 	<p>KCC with TDC and HCA</p>	<p>A consultant team (Turner & Townsend, DTZ, BBP Regeneration) has been engaged to devise a housing intervention delivery plan. A stand alone agreement will be required between KCC, TDC and HCA to deliver the Housing Intervention.</p> <p>Funding - KCC has committed £10m of funding to the Intervention (£5m in 2011/12 and £5m in 2012/13). TDC has committed £2m from its HRA in 2011/12. HCA has committed £500,000 to be spent in the 2010/11 financial year and is expected to match the funding contribution of the other partners over the life of the project.</p> <p>TDC has committed an officer resource to the Intervention activity.</p> <p>Pilot projects are being progressed - the former Embassy Hotel has been acquired by TDC and surveys / designs have been produced. Discussions with the planners will be commenced soon.</p> <p>As part of a mixed tenure community, Registered Providers and Housing Associations are also being consulted about the plans.</p>	<p>As existing vehicles are deemed unsuitable to deliver the intervention, legal advice will be sought on the most appropriate structure.</p> <p>Direct development activity will continue in 2011/12 on priority and opportunity properties to build momentum and confidence in the intervention proposals.</p> <p>Alongside the direct development work, other opportunities will be explored to lever in private sector funding.</p> <p>The procurement of a private sector delivery partner will be commenced</p>
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	<p>the public realm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personal services strategy, improving support services to disadvantaged residents • A community management strategy where the Margate Task Force will seek to manage the placement of vulnerable individuals into the intervention area. 			<p>dependant upon further market testing of the appetite for investment</p>
<p>4. Delivering the Thanet Work & Skills plan</p>	<p>There is a strong ongoing requirement for investment in skills and education to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employers can recruit the staff they need with the relevant skills • Thanet residents can benefit from the jobs being created • those on benefit can move into work and off benefit. 	<p>KCC with TDC, Job Centre +</p>	<p>There has been a substantial programme of skills and employability work in Thanet, delivered primarily through Thanet Works. The abolition of SEEDA and the Future Jobs Fund means that the funding framework for skills development and tackling worklessness is undergoing major change.</p> <p>A Thanet Work & Skills plan is in place but economic development partners need to ensure that there is continuity of funding so that skills and employability training is not lost and continuous improvement in effective delivery is achieved.</p>	<p>To take forward a strategy for the delivery of the Government's Work Programme in Thanet, bearing in mind the difficulty in dealing with small entrenched pockets of worklessness.</p> <p>Fifteen prime training providers have been identified and work with them is progressing.</p> <p>A brokerage network will be developed that brings together trainers, employers</p>

				and those looking for work.
5. Improving broadband speeds and access	Electronic connectivity is as important to economic development in Thanet as physical connectivity. The objective must be to ensure that broadband speeds and coverage across the district are such that they do not inhibit growth and development, particularly given the objective of fostering the creative sector.	KCC with TDC and private sector	At this time it is anticipated that the market will deliver NGA Broadband to the majority of homes and businesses in Thanet. Under these circumstances and in these areas, state aid rules preclude additional public sector funding of broadband provision. Consideration will need to be given to those parts of Thanet (Birchington, Westgate and Minster) where the market is not expected to deliver.	The partnership approach must be to identify the level of latent demand and, with the involvement of the private sector and local communities, bring pressure on ISPs to take early steps to deliver the improved service.
6. Agreeing a Thanet-wide partnership approach to regeneration and economic development.	To establish a high level strategic group of key partner organisations united around an prioritised growth agenda and capable of taking forward and co-ordinating major development and infrastructure projects.	KCC/ TDC/ HCA etc	Based upon the Thanet Strategic Context report and against the background of the Pfizer closure, informal discussions have recently taken place around the district's future growth and regeneration priorities. The Margate Task Force, comprising KCC, TDC, the HCA, the Police, Fire Service, PCT and Job Centre +, and with a full time director, is already working to achieve the objectives outlined in 3 above.	The main regeneration partnership in Thanet, the Margate Renewal Partnership, is expected to cease operating during the summer. By this time it is anticipated that a new approach and strategic agenda will have been agreed.