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To Corporate Policy Overview Committee – 8 November 2007

Subject: European Affairs update

Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

This report provides an:

- Overview of benefits to Kent of previous European Structural Funds in Kent 2000-2006
 - Update on the development of the new Structural Funds programmes (2007-13) including current issues
 - Overview of other EU funding opportunities from “Thematic Programmes”
 - Update on actions regarding the issue of Eurostar stops at Ashford
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 KCC’s European activities are at a crossroads between two financial EU programming periods (2000-06 and 2007-13). Programmes such as Interreg III are currently coming to an end whilst some new programmes such as Interreg IV are only now being finalised.
- 1.2 This will result in a few months gap in the funding cycle for those in KCC and Kent accessing EU funding. A lot of efforts have gone over the last few months into preparing for the next round of funding in Kent.
- 1.3 Furthermore, the relocation of the Kent Brussels Office to “International House” has provided an opportunity to think about Kent’s connections in Europe and beyond, as well as clarify how it wishes to work with partners in the South East of England, in particular with the newly formed Southern England Local Partners office.

2. Overview of Benefits to Kent of Previous European Structural Fund Programmes 2000-2006

- 2.1 At the July meeting of this Committee there was a request for greater clarification as to the breakdown, on average, of European funding made available for Kent over the last few years. The estimate is a total of almost £100m spread over the lifetime of each relevant programme.

Programme	£m
European Social Fund	18.7
Leader+	1.35
Urban	8.2
Interreg 3A	24
Objective 2	26.6
Other	21

2.2 In the light of the observations made by this Committee I thought it would be helpful to get behind the headline figures and provide more details on how some of this money has actually been used. It is not possible to track and meaningfully show every detail of every funding programme but the attached document (Appendix 1: European Structural Funds in Kent 2000 – 2006) highlights the diversity of projects supported. For each example the document includes the impacts and outputs of the different projects wherever possible.

3. Update on the Development of the New Structural Funds Programmes (2007-13)

3.1 An earlier report to the Corporate Policy Overview Committee on 26 April 2007 outlined the potential sources of EU funding in support of Kent's priorities in the new Structural Funds programming period 2007-13. A target of €100 million had been proposed and a number of the new programmes for which the county is eligible have now been launched or are in the final stages of development. The attached document (Appendix 2: European Structural Funds in Kent 2007-13) provides more detail on each of the programmes.

3.2 Interreg

The draft Interreg IVA cross-border cooperation Operational Programmes (North and South) worth €350 million in ERDF funding, will be submitted to the European Commission for approval in November with a first call for project proposals likely to be in early to mid 2008. KCC has been represented on the North programme development working group and has coordinated the county's responses to the 12-week consultation process on the draft programmes which began in August.

3.3 The North West Europe (€350 million), North Sea (€150) million Interreg IVB transnational cooperation programmes and the Interreg IVC Interregional (networking) programme (€321 million) have now all been approved and are currently inviting first calls for project proposals. KCC is, for example likely to be a partner in two SEEDA-led Interreg IVB projects: 'PACE' (ports-based developments involving Dover and Ramsgate) and 'PRICE' (follow-up project to 'HST' which supported station improvements at Ashford, Ebbsfleet and Dover).

3.4 Competitiveness Programme

The South East Competitiveness Programme comprises €21 million in European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) and €203 million under the European Social Fund (ESF) covering education, training and employment

measures. The programme is expected to be approved by the European Commission by the end of the year. Again, KCC has been a member of the Reference Group overseeing programme development.

3.5 Key Issues

Within the various programme arrangements there are three key outstanding issues that we feel need to be addressed. First, under Interreg IVA, to increase the currently proposed number of local Interreg officers who will work with project leaders to develop good quality projects. Second, to seek a higher EU contribution to Interreg IVA projects than the 50% proposed in order to support smaller organisations and to avoid difficulties in finding match-funding. Third, to ensure that KCC continues to be represented on the decision-making bodies for the new cross-border and competitiveness programmes. These issues are explored in more detail below.

4. **Facilitation Network**

4.1 Under the cross-border Interreg programme, the facilitation network is the network of Interreg projects officers 'on the ground' that help local project leaders develop their projects. Facilitation is essential to the success of the programme in that it is there to achieve well developed, relevant and strategic projects.

4.2 The 2000-2006 Franco-British Interreg IIIA Programme has employed a cross-border network of seven officers to facilitate project development covering a total eligible population (UK and France) of 8 million people (the Interreg Officer for Kent based in European Affairs Group (EAG) has helped the county secure 131 projects worth £24 million). The European Commission has, however, proposed allocating only two UK 'contact points' to facilitate project development for the new Interreg IVA cross-border programme involving England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. In the UK alone these contacts points would need to cover an extremely large eligible area across the East, South East and South West English regions with a total population of 10.5 million people.

4.3 In Kent, we consider that such arrangements are clearly insufficient to deliver effective programmes and EAG has therefore produced a position paper calling for an appropriate level of technical assistance support to programme facilitation.

The Leader of the Council has officially written to the European Commission and CLG to express his concerns about the situation and seek a revised proposal from the European Commission.

5. **Co-financing**

5.1 The principle of 'co-financing' means that most EU-funded projects receive only a percentage of the total cost of the project in EU grant with the balance provided by the project partner as 'match-funding'. In the case of the new Interreg IVA programme a general co-financing rate of 50% has been

proposed for the programme despite the European Commission raising the ceiling to 75% when it last revised the Structural Funds regulations.

- 5.2 We have been promoting our view with the programme authorities that it would be better to offer the higher rate. This would enable more organisations to participate in the programme, (especially those less-represented areas such as the voluntary sector) and increase the overall quality of projects by being selected on merit rather than ability to provide match-funding. Our experience also suggests that obtaining the latter, especially by recourse to complex, hard to monitor arrangements involving staff time and overheads, involves a disproportionate effort better spent on the project itself.

6. Steering & Monitoring Committees

- 6.1 It is important for KCC to continue to be represented on the future programme decision-making bodies, both at the Steering and Monitoring Committee level, in order to continue influencing the delivery of the programme for Kent and other partners' benefit.
- 6.2 Traditionally, the Steering Committee is a technical body, meeting on a quarterly basis, responsible for project selection whilst the Monitoring Committee is a more strategic forum overseeing the overall direction of the programme. Member involvement should be at that strategic level.
- 6.3 In the case of Interreg IVA and the Competitiveness Programme, The Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council have made a number of representations to the relevant programme authorities (CLG, SEEDA and SEERA) in support of KCC's inclusion on the Committees. Discreet lobbying has also been undertaken at officer level.

7. Overview of EU Funding Opportunities from "Thematic Programmes"

- 7.1 Traditionally, Kent organisations have focused on the Structural Funds programmes, which are allocated according to set criteria at the outset of each programming period. These programmes are called geographically based programmes because not all regions in the EU territory are equally eligible to them.
- 7.2 Beyond the Structural Funds programmes there are a whole range of other EU funding programmes, often smaller and more targeted, which nonetheless offer very interesting opportunities. They are called thematic programmes which cover more or less the spectrum of EU policies and of Local Government activities. There are no geographical restrictions to access those programmes.
- 7.3 These thematic programmes will become increasingly more important to the County and promoting their uptake will become a more important role for the European affairs Group. The first stage of this is to have produced a funding guide - "Connecting Kent to EU Funding" which will be updated on a regular basis. This will be circulated to Members to Members under separate cover.

8. Update on Actions Regarding the Issue of Eurostar Stops at Ashford

- 8.1 Since knowing of Eurostar's plan to end direct train services from Ashford International Station to Brussels in November 2007, the position of the County Council has been that, while welcoming the level of service announced for Ebbsfleet, the proposals for Ashford are fundamentally inconsistent with Ashford's growth area status, the wider regeneration agenda for east Kent and the coastal towns. The County Council has therefore played a major role in campaigning to retain an appropriate Ashford - Brussels service, and, as part of work with passengers, the business sector, public sector bodies, MPs and MEPs to question Eurostar and Government on the decision, KCC members and officers have made extensive use of the research, intelligence gathering, analysis, drafting and organisational capabilities of the European Affairs Group.
- 8.2 In July 2007, two meetings took place with Eurostar where passengers, members of the Council and other stakeholders had an opportunity to debate the Ashford situation with Eurostar. The first meeting, held under the chairmanship of the European Commission on 4th July 2007 in Brussels, brought together rail operators, local authorities and investment agencies, passenger representatives and rail infrastructure owners and managers from the UK, France and Belgium.
- 8.3 This meeting, designed to allow all parties to state their position and to explore possibilities to bring these positions together, resulted in:
- A commitment by all organisations to further talks and a proposal by the Commission to host a progress-checking meeting in Brussels at the end of 2008
 - A common, Kent - Nord-Pas de Calais position on the future of international services to Calais and Ashford International Stations.
 - Some clarification of certain aspects of the overall financial situation of Eurostar UK, London and Continental Railways the contractual obligations of both organisations to the Department for Transport
- 8.4 On 16th July, the conclusions of the Brussels meeting were submitted for the consideration of Cabinet. Cabinet members discussed with Eurostar the proposed changes at Ashford and passenger campaign leader, Mrs. Edith Robson, was also given the opportunity to debate the changes. At the end of the meeting, Cabinet agreed to continue to support the development of international high-speed rail services in Kent in so far as they are consistent with passenger aspirations, the economic and social needs of the growth areas, their catchment areas and the principles of sustainable development. Cabinet also concluded to work in partnership with passengers and passenger organisations, MPs, MEPs, District Councils, SEEDA, French local and regional Government, and all other relevant stakeholders to press for retention of an appropriate service between Ashford and Brussels.

8.5 Subsequent work underway to take forward the conclusions of both meetings above has initially concentrated on how to widen and deepen the evidence base for an appropriate service between Ashford and Brussels through working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders. Local authorities in north west Europe who may face similar issues have also been identified and discussions on the possibility of closer links have been initiated.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is requested to:

- Note the report and to comment on its contents;
- Endorse the actions taken so far and to support the ongoing work in resolving the key issues outlined in paragraph (number to be given); and
- Invite a future report detailing the progress made on key points of this report.

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European Structural Funds in Kent 2007 - 2013

Introduction

This paper outlines the main EU funding opportunities available to Kent in the Structural Funds programming period 2007-13. These do not include the other, non-'mainstream' Structural Funds programmes, such as the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) or Competitiveness and Innovation (CIP) Programme. These are covered in a separate EAG document: 'Connecting Kent to European Funding 2007-13'. More details on the new programmes can also be found on the programme websites and these have also been provided where available.

The background to each programme also briefly covers Kent's involvement in the equivalent programmes in 2000 – 2006 (where a total of some €100 million was secured for KCC and the county). As can be seen, in terms of future EU funding, Kent will again be eligible to participate in several major programmes from 2007-13. These include both the cross-border (local co-operation between adjacent areas) and transnational (wider co-operation between larger European regions) strands of Interreg, the new Regional Competitiveness and Employment (ERDF) Programme and the European Social Fund (ESF).

The new programmes provide a significant opportunity to help support those priorities identified as being fundamental to the development of the county. A critical driver is therefore to ensure a match of EU spend against the targets established in Kent County Council's 'Towards 2010' programme. An analysis of future EU Structural Funds programmes against the latter's targets is set out at **Annex 1**.

In order, however, to ensure that KCC and Kent organisations maximise their take up of projects from the funding opportunities identified, it should be emphasised that sufficient resources will need to be devoted in particular to the process of project facilitation, strengthening communication, awareness-raising and partnership working. On this basis, the County Council should realistically be seeking to secure some €100 million (Structural Funds and other EU programmes) into Kent over the next few years to meet the priorities it has established.

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Background

The current 2000-2006 Franco-British INTERREG IIIA Programme aims to develop cross-border co-operation between eligible areas in South East England and Northern France. The Programme seeks to: “strengthen cross-border co-operation and promote balanced spatial development through the promotion of an attractive and welcoming region”. The eligible area for the programme consists of Kent, Medway, East Sussex, Brighton & Hove, Nord- Pas de Calais, Seine-Maritime and Somme.

Current Status of the Interreg IIIA Programme



The INTERREG IIIA Programme is now entering its final stages of activity and KCC and Kent organisations have been very successful in running jointly beneficial partnerships with colleagues in Northern France and bringing significant EU funding into Kent since 2001.

With around 102% of the Programme’s **€110m (£68m)** ERDF funding (European Regional Development Fund) currently committed, there are now only limited opportunities to submit further small (micro-project) applications under the current Programme before the end of the year and before the INTERREG IVA programmes (see below) are launched during 2008. Before the transition to the new programmes, it is useful to highlight some of the key achievements in Kent:

- Total no. of project applications (to date): **291**
- Successful projects: **223**
- **131** approved projects worth £24 million from organisations in Kent & Medway (**59%** of projects).

Kent County Council has secured **32** successful Franco-British INTERREG IIIA projects bringing **£8.2m** in EU ERDF funding to the authority out of a total project

value of **£14.5m** for both sides of the Channel.

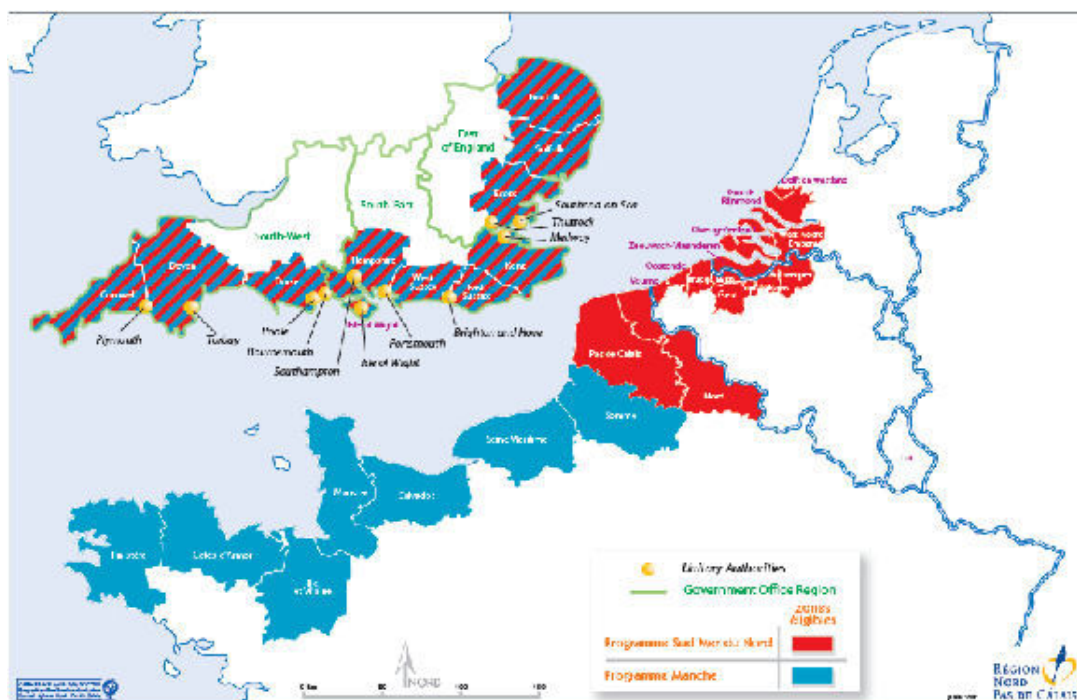
Recent examples of successful projects include the 'Pride, Side-by-Side' KCC tourism project (£350K ERDF) which supported some elements of the Tour de France in Kent; 'Business Efficiency Clubs' (£150K ERDF) supporting local SMEs; KCC 'Cross-Channel Greenways' (£1.1 million ERDF) which included the Tonbridge to Penshurst cycle route.

£24m ERDF money has been brought in total to Kent & Medway by INTERREG IIIA projects.

INTERREG IVA

As can be seen from the map below, the new Interreg IVA cross-border programme 2007-13 has been greatly expanded with the whole of the UK eligible area (from Norfolk to Cornwall) able to participate in both a 'North' (England, France, Flanders, and Netherlands) and 'South' (England and France) programme on mainland Europe.

INTERREG IVA ELIGIBLE AREAS 2007-13:



- Each programme is worth some £120 million in ERDF funding.
- Not least because of our historical links with Nord-Pas de Calais and the programme geography, Kent is likely to focus on the North Programme and EAG has, for example, been strengthening links with partners in West Flanders and Pas-de Calais aimed at developing future Interreg projects.
- Nonetheless, Kent is eligible to participate in both programmes and there will also be a common priority (exchange of best practice and networking) encompassing the two (managed by the North Programme)

Priorities

- The three main priorities for the North Programme are to: Supporting an economically competitive and attractive and accessible areas; Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment; Improving quality of life.
- The Managing Authority for the North Programme is the **Regional Council of Nord-Pas de Calais** and the **Regional Council of Upper Normandy** manages the South Programme.
- External consultants have drafted the Operational Programme (OP), the key document detailing programme priorities and management and financial information for each Programme. The OP was due to be submitted to the Commission is **November 2007**.
- With the support of Nord-Pas de Calais, Kent County Council has been the only local authority on the “North” Programme Working Group which is steering the development of the Operational Programme. The English delegation is otherwise comprised only of the DCLG, RDAs, GOs and Regional Assemblies.
- This has therefore provided an important opportunity to ensure that Kent’s priorities (including ‘Vision for Kent’; ‘Towards 2010’ and ‘Kent Prospects’) were fed into the development of the new programme.
- Estimated start date for both Programmes: **mid 2008**.

Website: (pending approval of new programmes) www.interreg3.com

Background

Interreg IIIB North West Europe (NWE) programme 2000—2006

Kent has been eligible to participate in this programme encompassing regions in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, UK and Switzerland (as an external partner). Transnational programmes tackle issues which go beyond national borders, supporting regions who want to develop joint innovative projects by sharing expertise and development costs.

The NWE programme has allocated around €325 million in ERDF

There were 9 calls for projects (roughly 2 per year)

215 projects applied for funding of which 99 were approved at an average co-financing rate of €3.2 million

Partnerships ranged from 5-18 partners

Key projects for Kent have included;

- HST (High Speed Train) (€22 million ERDF), environmental and urban design improvements in and around HST stations including Ashford, Ebbsfleet and Dover.
- Planarch 2 (€1.4 million ERDF) included developing the value of heritage within the spatial planning process and promoting the region's archaeological treasures
- Finesse (€0.4 million ERDF) brought together 10 partners to develop intermodal freight services between S.E. England, France and Belgium
- Impacte (€3.5 million ERDF) focused on sustainable ports-based development including a feasibility study into the costs of reinstating a rail connection at the Port of Dover
- EMDI (€1.1 million) has developed a 'Strategic Vision for the Channel Area' which has provided input to the development of the new Interreg IVA cross-border programmes.

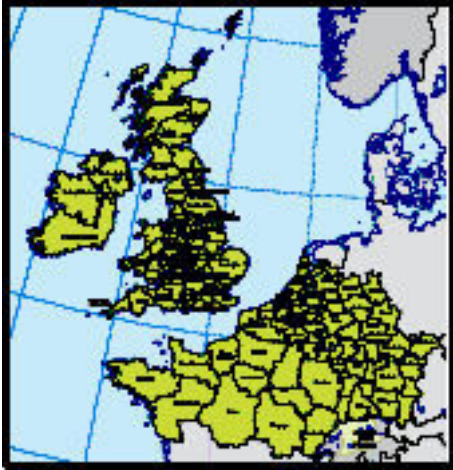
INTERREG IVB 2007—2013

Following successful lobbying by EAG, Kent will in future be in two Transnational Co-operation programmes: the North West Europe (NWE) programme (as now) covering the UK, Ireland, Belgium and parts of Netherlands, France, Germany and Switzerland; and newly in the North Sea Region (NSR) programme with eligible UK partners linked to those in Flanders, Netherlands, Norway and parts of Sweden and Germany. The programmes are worth a total of €350 million and €150 million respectively, and will have a strong focus on promoting innovation in businesses, environmental management, improving accessibility and promoting sustainable and competitive communities (the latter being a particular priority of the UK government).

Another important new feature will be the designation of proposed 'territorial corridors' and identification of a small number of larger 'strategic' projects.

Both programmes have now been launched and a first call for project applications ran from September to October 2007.

Kent is also eligible to participate in Interregional Co-operation activities (Interreg IVC) involving networking and exchange of best practice particularly in the fields of innovation, environment and risk-prevention (see separate sheet).



Transnational North West
Europe area



Transnational North Sea Region

Websites: www.nweurope.org
www.northsearegion.eu

Background

The aim of Strand C of Interreg, (interregional co-operation), is the exchange and transfer of experience which can contribute to the effectiveness of EU regional policy. There is one programme for the whole EU (unlike the 4 different zones under Interreg IIIC).



The Interreg IVC programme was approved by the European Commission on 11 September 2007 and has a budget of €302 million. The Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat is based in the Regional Council of Nord-Pas de Calais in Lille. In addition, four Information Points will support the JTS and deliver information and technical advice to applicants. They are based in Katowice (Poland), Lille (France), Rostock (Germany) and Valencia (Spain).

Themes of Co-operation

The programme is organised around two thematic priorities related to the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas. A certain number of sub-themes are defined for each of the priorities:

Priority 1: Innovation and Knowledge economy

- Innovation, research and technology development
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- The information society
- Employment, human capital and education

Priority 2: Environment and risk prevention

- Natural and technological risks
- Water management
- Waste management
- Biodiversity and presentations of natural heritage
- Energy and sustainable transport
- Culture, heritage and landscape

The programme will support two types of project: Regional Initiative projects ('classic' interregional co-operation from networking activities, transfer of experience and pilot projects) and 'Capitalisation' projects (transfer of regional development good practices into Structural Funds mainstream programmes)

Website: www.interreg4c.net

Background

In the current programming period Kent has benefited from EU support for urban regeneration and restructuring respectively under URBAN 2 (€118 million in Kent Thameside) and Objective 2 (€35.7 million in Thanet plus Hastings).

The new Competitive and Employment programme for the South East will receive some €24 million of ERDF funding from the EU, which equates to around £15 million and will be matched by a similar amount of funding from the 'Single Pot' budget managed by SEEDA. The European Social Fund element of the programme for the South East will receive some €203 million (£135 million) and will be co-financed with match-funding primarily from the Learning Skills Council and Job Centre Plus (please see separate section on the ESF).

Programme

SEEDA has been designated Managing Agent for the new programme and together with the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) and regional partners (including KCC) has been engaged in developing the Operational Programme (OP) since July 2006. The OP is expected to be approved by the European Commission by the end of 2007.

Aim

The aim of the Operational Programme is to:

'Promote competitiveness in South East England whilst contributing to reducing the region's ecological footprint'

Objectives

To achieve this aim, the Programme has established three objectives;

- To raise levels of knowledge and innovation across all business sectors in order to support more resource efficient business practices, boosting profitability and long-term competitiveness
- To stimulate innovation and job creation in new and emerging ecologically driven market sectors.
- To reduce the rate of Growth of the Region's ecological footprint.

Priorities

These objectives will be delivered through two priorities:

- Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption
- Technical Assistance

As ERDF resources are limited, the impact of the funding will be maximised through a focused approach. The programme is pan-regional but due regard will be given during implementation to matters of social inclusion and territorial cohesion. The OP stresses that it is essential that the weaker parts of the South East region gain strong

benefit from the Competitiveness Programme whilst traditionally excluded groups are also supported to secure equality of opportunity.

Websites: www.seeda.co.uk
www.gose.gv.uk

Background

The European Social Fund (ESF) aims to improve employment opportunities by providing financial support towards the running costs for vocational training schemes, guidance and counselling projects, job creation measures and other steps to improve the employability and skills of both employed and unemployed people. The total ESF grants to projects in Kent during the period 2000-2006 was just over £18.7m (£7.5m to KCC projects).

Basic Structure of 2007-2013 Programme

The latest information indicates that the programme will see:

Reduction in Funding - Overall there has been a drop of at just over 42% in the ESF Funding for 2007-2013 dropping to £135m for the South East.

New Priorities - There will be two main priorities: extending employment opportunities and developing a skilled and adaptable workforce.

Similar Delivery Mechanisms - Current co-financing arrangements will remain largely in place (see page 2).

Contracting Issues – The decline in contracts offered via local agencies for local organisations means that more funding will be awarded to larger bidding consortiums.

Regional Skills Partnerships - Will basically oversee policy issues related to ESF at a local level.

Transnational Element – No further EQUAL Programme but innovative transnational training projects could still be supported in a limited way via the regional ESF programme.

1. Funding Priorities for 2007-2013

Extending Employment Opportunities (possible lead CFO Jobcentre Plus) - The purpose of this priority will be to increase employment and thereby promote social inclusion. Main strands:

Reduce Worklessness amongst Disadvantaged People, including those facing Multiple Barriers to Work (£37.4m) - Funding should be used to support the employability and skills of unemployed and inactive people, particularly disadvantaged groups - at least 50% should be aligned with and complement DWP employment programmes.

Address NEET 'Hotspots' (£12.3m) - Ring-fenced for work with young people aged 14-19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET. 3 NEET "Hotspots" in Kent.

Distribute Community Grants (2.5%, £1.3m) - Funding to be distributed as small grants to community groups (formerly Global Grants).

2. Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce (possible lead CFO Learning & Skills Councils) - This priority will focus on raising levels of skills in the workforce in order to increase productivity, enterprise and competitiveness. Main strands:

Reduce the Number of People without Basic Skills (£10.2m) - Support basic skills training not provided for in mainstream programmes, supporting those in greatest need of assistance with basic skills

Improve Access to and Success Rates in Level 2 Qualifications (£10.2m) - Will be used to support training at level 2.

Increase Progression to and Achievement of Level 3 and above (£8.2m) - To support training at level 3 and above (with no more than 5% of Priority 2 spent on activity at level 4 and above). This priority will prepare the workforce of SMEs (up to 250 employees) and particularly small enterprises (up to 50 employees)

Skills for Enterprise in Deprived Areas - Focuses on improving skills amongst the self-employed and within existing small enterprises (up to 50 employees) in deprived areas characterised by low levels of business activity

Co-Financing

All ESF funds will be allocated via Co-financing arrangements. In basic terms "co-financing" means channelling both ESF monies and the required matchfunding via specific organisations (Co-financing Organisations - CFOs) in a single funding stream. ESF provides 50% of the funding the rest is provided by the CFO. Each CFO then allocates these funds through a specification based tendering process, whose main objective is to link European grants more closely with national funding streams and target these resources more effectively. There are likely to be 3 CFOs in the South East the Regional LSC, SEEDA and the Department for Work and Pensions.

It is clear that anybody interested in the programme will need to consider forming or being involved in a bidding consortium. Funding is distributed via specifications and some of these will cover areas outside Kent so partnerships with bodies outside the County may also be required.

KCC Working Group

An internal KCC Working Group has been established in order to develop a cross-directorate ESF bidding consortium and explore options for external partnerships with other local authorities, private and voluntary sectors in Kent and the South East. The aim is to secure a more equitable share of ESF funding for Kent in the new period 2007-13 with a target of £25-30 million based on socio-economic statistics. As a prerequisite for future biddings, the Working Group has submitted an Expression of Interest to the South East LSC

ESF Timetable

22 July 2007	SE ESF Consultation ends
6 Aug	Meeting of the SE LA ESF Consortium
11 Sept	ESF Specifications available (LSC & SEEDA)
Nov 2007	Deadline for applications
April 2008	DWP Prospectus available

Potential Sources of EU Funding for Kent Priorities 2007 – 13

Annex 1

Programme	Eligible Area	Priorities	Total Programme Budget (ERDF)	Potential Funding to Kent (Estimate)	Key 2010 targets
1) Structural Funds					
Interreg IVA quadrilateral Cross-Border Co-operation	UK: (Norfolk to Cornwall) France: (NPDC to Brittany) Belgium: (West Flanders) The Netherlands: (Zeeland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurship; SME support; new technology; links between urban and rural areas - Environmental sustainability; accessibility, including marine issues - Collaboration through culture, tourism, health and education 	€300 million	€30 million	1, 2,3 45 7, 25, 48
Interreg IVB North West Europe (NWE) Transnational Co-operation	Belgium France Germany Ireland Luxembourg UK Switzerland (as external partner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing NWE knowledge based economy - Managing NWE natural resources efficiently - Improving connectivity through intelligent and sustainable transport solutions - Promoting sustainable and dynamic communities 	€350 million	€5 – 10 million	45 34 2, 9
Interreg IVB North Sea Region (NSR) Transnational Co-operation	Norway UK Sweden Germany Denmark The Netherlands Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building on capacity for innovation - Promoting sustainable management of the environment - Improving the accessibility of places in the NSR - Promoting sustainable and competitive communities 	€150 million	€5 million	1 2 45 34

Interreg IVC Interregional Co- operation	Whole of EU	- Innovation and knowledge economy - Environment and risk prevention	€302 million	€1-2 million	1 45
Regional Competitiveness and Employment (New Objective 2)	One programme in each English region	- Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption	€24 million (South East Region)	€5 million	1,2,3,9
European Social Fund (ESF)	All of England	- Extending employment opportunities - Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce	€220 million (South East Region)	€35 million	9, 20
2) Other EU programmes					
	Whole of EU	Inc. e.g. – FP 7 (Research) - Competitiveness and Innovation (CIP) - MEDIA (Culture)	See IAG 'Connecting Kent to European Funding	€20 million	
Rural Development Programme for England (EAFRD)	All of England Each region to have 1 programme	- Land based sector (agriculture and forestry) - Environment and countryside - Quality of life	£5.26 million (South East + London)	€1 million	4, 45

Key relevant 'Towards 2010' targets

Target

- 1 Substantially increase number of new jobs, companies, business start-ups
- 2 Concentrate on the regeneration of Kent's deprived areas and support business growth
- 3 Support a programme of town centre regeneration
- 4 Support rural businesses and communities, entrepreneurial culture
- 7 Fulfil Kent's potential as a premier tourist destination
- 9 Through Supporting Independence Programme (SIP) reduce number of people on benefits
- 20 Build strong business-education partnerships that benefit both employers and schools
- 25 Promote Kent as a centre for the arts, develop music and cultural venues
- 34 Tackle urban congestion, reduce journey times through integrated traffic light management systems
- 45 Protect and enhance Kent's ancient woodland and access to countryside, coast and heritage
- 48 Encourage people of all ages to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing



European Structural Funds in Kent 2000 – 2006

Examples of key projects

**European Affairs Group, September
2007**

Introduction

It is estimated that Kent has secured some £100 million in EU funding from “mainstream” i.e. excluding ‘Pan-European’ programmes such as FP6 (Sixth Framework Programme for Research) in the current programming period 2000 – 2006. These have included Interreg, Objective 2, Urban; Leader +, European Social Fund (ESF) and EQUAL.

The purpose of this document is to provide examples of projects that have been implemented under each of the programmes in order to answer the question: ‘What has the money been spent on and what has it achieved?’ This includes projects led by the County Council as well as its partners within the county including for example; District Councils or the Universities. In particular, the main achievements, impacts and outputs of each of the projects have been provided and quantified wherever possible.

The list of projects is far from exhaustive as it would be impracticable to include them all. For example, under the Thames Gateway Urban II programme, some 88 projects within Dartford and Gravesham (11 led by KCC) were approved between April 2002 and June 2007. As regards the Interreg IIIA Cross-border programme, 131 projects are from organisations in Kent and Medway (KCC has submitted 31 successful Franco-British projects bringing £8 million to the authority) representing 59% of the total number of projects worth £24 million in European Regional Development Funding (ERDF).

More details on the programmes and projects may, however, usually be found under the websites for the different programmes and these have also been provided where available.

URBAN II

Urban Thames Gateway Kent is a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) initiative, focusing on socio-economic issues in small urban areas. The programme covers 10 wards in Dartford and Gravesham, home to some 48,000 people.

The overall aim of the programme is to help the target area achieve social inclusion in line with the rest of the Thames Gateway area and to share in the prosperity of the South East of England.

The Urban programme remains operational to 31 December 2008 and will have provided approximately £8 million of European funds as well as drawing in an additional £12 million of public and private sector match funding to total investment of more than £20 million.

Urban is based on three key themes:

- Priority A: achieving social inclusion;
- Priority B: community access to learning;
- Priority C: business infrastructure development and regeneration

Website: www.urban-thames-gateway.co.uk

Directory of EU Funded Projects in Kent and their impacts

European Funding Programme	Project Title and Brief Description	Value of European Grant (£) for Kent/KCC	Main Achievements, impacts & outputs
Urban II Thames Gateway (£8.2m) – Urban Regeneration	Fastrack: Fastrack is the first modern bus rapid transit system designed to serve this UK growth area.	£350,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport access improvements to Ebbsfleet Station, involving bus lanes and junction priority measures. Provision of real time travel information as well as high quality shelters
	Gravesend Riverside and Heritage Trail: This project extends and improves the Gravesend Riverside and Heritage Trail in Gravesend town-centre, making it more accessible to local residents and helping to attract more visitors to Gravesend.	£112,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical improvements such as the removal of part of the static river defences by the Town Pier Provision of access to the river for all.
	The Old Rectory Business Centre: The project brings back into viable economic use a vacant 15th Century grade 2* listed property in the Northfleet area.	£470,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbishment of state of the art office space. Since opening in April 2005, the workspace area has been full with the initial 70% of tenants being small start-up businesses from the Urban area.
	Swanscombe ICT Project This project aims to develop local people qualified to take advantage of	£144,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dedicated ICT training centre over two floors supported by a project manager in The Old Library building in Swanscombe

<p>the ICT opportunities that will arise from the major developments in the wider Kent Thameside area.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free training for local residents and neighbouring areas leading to employment or upskilling
<p>Gunn Road Environmental Improvements Funding awarded to carry out environmental improvements to provide a cleaner and safer environment</p>	<p>£205,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has created 8000 square metres of new green space development • 205 linear metres of new, improved public rights of way • New street lighting • Development of a strong and robust Residents' Association

Objective 2

Objective 2 aims to revitalise those areas facing structural difficulties whether industrial, rural or urban. Structural problems vary from region to region and cover a wide variety of different types of socio-economic difficulties, generally reflecting a high level of unemployment.

Objective 2 money was allocated to the whole of Thanet between 1994-1999 and a second bid for funding for 2000-2006 resulted in 12 of Thanet's 23 wards qualifying for funding along with one ward in Dover (and seven wards in Hastings). Transnational funding was also put into those Thanet wards which failed to receive money as part of the second bid. Over £26.6 million will have been brought to the South East, mostly to Thanet, from 2000-2006 (up to £50 million over the past decade). Some 70 projects have been funded under the programme's four priorities: business development; spatial development; heritage, culture and the environment and community economic development. The main organisations involved have been Thanet District Council, Thanet Community Development Trust, Business Link Kent, Thanet Campus and Ramsgate Town Partnership.

Website: www.go-se.gov.uk/gose/euroFunding/objective2
www.thanet.gov.uk

European Funding Programme	Project Title and Brief Description	Value of European Grant (£) for Kent/KCC	Main Achievements, impacts & outputs
Objective 2 Thanet (£26m) – Areas Suffering Industrial Decline	East Kent Spatial Development Company: The project has developed a pioneering scheme to unlock potential development for the area whereby this 'not for profit' company has, for example, paid for a massive improvement to the local electricity infrastructure, opening up new business development opportunities.	£3,207,852	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new electricity substation bringing additional capacity to Thanet Central Island • Improvement to the local electricity infrastructure.
	Thanet Campus: The project was developed with the aim of providing a Higher Education Institute in the area to help raise the local employment skills base.	£700,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 students studying a range of degree and diploma courses with a business and technology bias
	Thanet Innovation Centre: The centre which opened in 2002, aims to stimulate innovation and encourage entrepreneurship in local companies.	£1.3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of 45 office spaces • 100 people are now employed at the Centre, mainly in the knowledge based small-business sector.
SEPIA (South East Programme of Innovative Actions)	Modules included: Brainstorming Innovative Actions (BIG) The aim of BIG was to raise awareness in individual entrepreneurs and SMEs of the opportunities available to help develop	£1.05m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 579 attendees,54 workshops,26 start-ups, 27 jobs created • 240 SMEs engaged

	ideas and strategies. Knowledge is Power (KiP) Knowledge management programme for SME owners and managers in Thanet		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 spin-off companies established
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INTERREG IIIA

Interreg IIIA is a European Union funding programme which aims to stimulate co-operation between regions divided by an international border. The aim of the Franco-British Interreg IIIA Programme is to develop cross-border co-operation between eligible areas in South East England and Northern France. The priorities of the programme are to strengthen cross-border co-operation, promote balanced spatial development and an attractive and welcoming region. The programme has been running since 2001 and closes in 2008.



Website: www.interreg3.com

European Funding Programme	Project Title and Brief Description	Value of European Grant (£) for Kent/KCC	Main Achievements, impacts & outputs
Franco-British Interreg IIIa (£68m) Cross-Border Co-operation Programme	<u>Transfrontier Co-Operation in Youth Information Services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 specialist information provisions (Lille & Folkestone) hosting 2 dedicated bilingual workers acting as ‘hubs’ to the network in each region, to develop cross border links and to strengthen them through the use of new technologies • To increase awareness and mutual understanding of each other’s cultures & the opportunities offered in each other’s regions through increased contact (virtual or face to face) that will help to address young people’s inhibitions and reluctance to participate in cross border visits, thus contributing to the creation of a Europe where the notion of citizenship is central. • Themed exchange visits with young people from across the Kent/Nord-Pas de Calais region. • To improve the Kent/NPDC information & advice network for young people 	£188,374	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up and developing provision at C@fe-IT – an Information & Advice Centre for young people aged 16 – 20, developed in accordance with European information principles and guidelines and utilising new technologies to provide young people and youth workers with relevant, current information from credible sources. • Development of a credible, up to the minute, sustainable cross border information network across Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais utilising new technologies and centred on the C@fe-IT bilingual website and including bilingual information leaflets and brochures. • Increased mobility of young people through themed exchanges providing the opportunity to explore themes of citizenship, communication, diversity and inclusion through sport, workshops and forums leading to a variety of diverse outcomes such as performances at a youth arts festival, cross border football tournaments, production of a travel brochure, proposals for a cross border youth forum and poster design. • Increased awareness, self confidence and

	<p>aged 13-30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop cross border, bilingual webpages in the two main information provisions. • Developing secure webchats dealing with themes relevant to and decided upon by young people 		<p>skills in young people and youth workers involved in the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of meetings, residential stays and opportunities for job shadowing giving youth workers and young volunteers the opportunity to learn and share best practice. • Increased mobility and opportunities for youth workers to explore principles of cross border working, take ownership of the project and develop proposals to sustain future cross border work.
	<p>Cross-Channel Community History Network: (University of Greenwich, Kent County Council, Conseil de Pas de Calais) This pilot project seeks to explore the shared history and culture of Kent and Pas de Calais through the historic collections kept by both authorities. The idea is to explore the collections for material that will be of relevance to communities (particularly maritime communities) on both sides of the Channel.</p>	£30,499	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased contact between council officers, academic historians and communities on both sides • an increased appreciation of our shared history and culture • a bilingual website • a bilingual publication • a bilingual display particularly targeting schools for display in both Pas de Calais and Kent • the production of a plan for an Interreg IV bid to take the project forward and expand it
	<p>Chemin de Vie Phase I and II – To create opportunities for people with disabilities and other disadvantages to participate in cross-border cultural</p>	<p>Phase I £69,400 (50% grant rate)</p>	<p>Quantifiable outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 291 people took part in Phase I on residential visits or day trips. ▪ To date 500 people have participated in Phase

<p>exchanges who would otherwise be unable to because of their social and/or medical circumstances. Phase II has attracted new membership and incorporated an added dimension in terms of sensory awareness and project delivery to young D-deaf.</p>	<p>2003-05</p> <p>Phase II £102,481 (40% grant rate) 2005-07</p>	<p>II.</p> <p>‘Soft’ outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased interpersonal skills and awareness of others ▪ Growth in confidence and language skills through tuition and exchanges ▪ Inter -peer motivation and support ▪ Staff interest and participation in regular progress; well-established human resources laying foundation for long term sustainability. ▪ A great sense of achievement!
<p>Cross-Channel Greenways: (Kent County Council) This included the Tonbridge to Penshurst cycle route, work on the North Downs cycle route from Rochester to Canterbury and improvements to the Medway Valley path as well as more local improvements to public rights of way.</p>	<p><u>£1.1m</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of the Tonbridge to Penhurst Cycle Route
<p>Historic Fortifications Network: (Kent County Council) investment towards the physical conservation of Kent’s heritage sites. Activities have includes restoration and refurbishment to sites including Dover Castle, Tonbridge Castle and the Castle Keep in Canterbury as well as producing</p>	<p>£760,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical improvements to Dover Castle, Tonbridge Castle and the Castle Keep in Canterbury to improve accessibility

	brochures and guides such as “Walking the Walls”.		
	Environmental Stewardship: (Kent County Council) <u>This project has piloted a number of energy and resource saving initiatives in Kent schools and KCC buildings in an effort to demonstrate that financial savings can be made and carbon footprints reduced.</u>	£190,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of “smart metering” in a number of Kent schools to enable real-time monitoring of energy usage • Installation of lighting controls in Kent schools • Pilot insulation techniques for boiler houses and water efficient taps in KCC buildings.
	Town Centre Renaissance (Shepway District Council) A joint approach to the regeneration of both Folkestone and Boulogne town centres including capital refurbishment works, exchanges on Town Centre Management and Basic Skill Training Courses.	£860,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical improvements to the main shopping area in Folkestone (Sandgate Road and Guildhall Street, Rendezvous Street)
	DEEP: <u>The project will produce a profile of the current business support available within the port economies on both sides of the Channel.</u>	£180,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Kent SMEs involved in the project • 2 projects that are aimed at improving or developing the integration of transport services • 40 participants in cross-border training, exchange and demonstration opportunities • 4 new Trans frontier networks established between Business Support Agencies and private bodies (including SMEs)
	Cruise Connection (2002- 2005) Kent		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in cruise calls to Dover

<p>C.C. Cruise Connections is a partnership promoting the Kent/Pas de Calais region to the worldwide cruise tourism industry. The sales and marketing campaign is targeted to stimulate interest in the regions and communicate the key message that we are a cruise friendly destination. The objective is that this campaign will produce new business through new ship calls to Dover and Boulogne and more port of calls with longer stays in the regions.</p>	<p>£225,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Profile House Party at Leeds Castle hosted by Duke of York for all the major international cruise operators • New marketing activity including website and trade material • Attendance at key Cruise Exhibitions
<p>Transmanche Tourism Research Programme – Information for Decisions (2005 – 2007) Kent C.C. The overall purpose of the Programme is to furnish enhanced “information for decisions” that will assist tourists and citizens in pre-planning visits; help tourism businesses to improve their turnover or maintain their competitive edge; and allow tourism professionals to adopt a more long-term and sustainable approach to tourism development in the Region.</p>	<p>£152,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Year Cross Channel Market Study • Volume and Value of Tourism Study • New Geographic Information System – interactive website map
<p>Eazybreaks (2003-2005) Kent C.C. The purpose of the project was to encourage people to visit the Region</p>	<p>£851,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of Kent as a destination • Developed 86K visitor database • Distributed 305K brochures

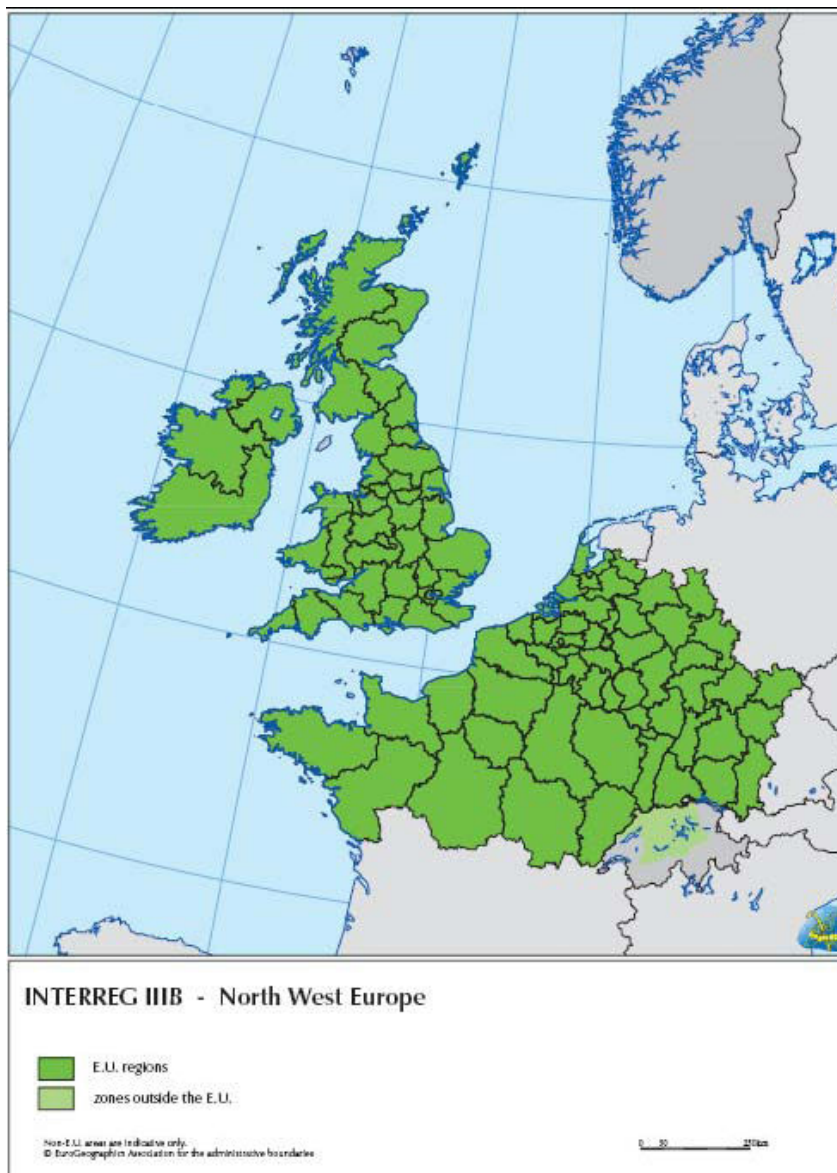
<p>Transmanche and to develop the flow of visitors between Kent and Nord Pas de Calais through the “Eazybreak” campaign, promoting to N European markets and developing markets further afield; make the residents feel part of a “Region Transmanche”; develop a network of tourism officers, information centres, cross channel service providers and further develop institutional co-operation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted 84 press trips • Attended 33 exhibitions in UK and key European markets • Developed Kent website
<p>Good Living (2005-2007) Kent C.C.</p> <p>The new theme of ‘Good Living’ reflects the benefits of tourism from the perspectives of both visitors and the host communities. Visitors benefit from proposed improvements to the quality of the tourism product, facilities and offers; while residents will benefit economically and socially from direct involvement in determining and helping to realise the region’s future tourism development. The partners combined their resources and skills to improve the promotion of the whole region, with a particular focus on developing short-break business across the region and throughout the year.</p>	<p>£740,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed Kent-wide website and online booking engine • Developed “Pride in Kent” – a programme designed to recognise exceptional service in the tourism service sector • Developed series of “Good Living” campaigns – “Relax, Refresh, Inspire” • Kent-wide Tourism Audit conducted
<p>Pride Side by Side (2007-2008) Kent C.C.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year of the Cycle – of which the centrepiece is the Tour de France – a year

<p>The project will foster increased pride in the Transmanche region with the aim of enhancing significantly the visitor experience for residents and visitors through the active involvement of residents as tourism champions. Capitalising on the year in which the Tour de France 'goes Transmanche'; emphasis will be placed on healthy and sustainable ways of appreciating the region. The importance of tourism to the continued regeneration of the region's economy will be strengthened through the project, as will the region's reputation for hosting major events offering significant tourism development potential in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.</p>	<p>£388,000</p>	<p>long cycling events and activities programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the "Pride" programme – a comprehensive training programme aimed at residents and tourism businesses • London outdoor marketing campaign aimed at London visitors, residents and commuters to stimulate visits to Transmanche region • Enhance region's potential in run up to 2012 Olympics
<p>Flavours of the Region The project supported the development of the quality food sector in Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais. Its primary aim was to support, develop and promote quality produce to ensure that money remained regionally as well as help nurture long term sustainability across the region. The project combined exchanges of experience in promotion and the development of joint activities to create and endorse a marketable identity for Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais food and</p>	<p>£298,880</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a bilingual restaurant guide • Creation of a joint, bilingual recipe book • Creation of a number of promotional tools: posters, fact files, flyers, brochures, banners, advertising, table talkers, beer mats and pop-ups • Organisation of promotional events • Organisation of two culinary competitions • Attendance at numerous trade and public shows • Organisation of a TV show involving a Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais • Development of ongoing media coverage

<p>drink that embraced and reinforced the importance of quality produce.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an updated and improved web site • Raising awareness amongst catering organisations concerning regional food and drink • Raising awareness with school children • Development of a number of education tools
<p>Link:Ed (Linking Nord-Pas de Calais and Kent Educationalists): The project is raising awareness of our partner region of Nord-Pas de Calais, France and its key characteristics in order to develop mutual comprehension and encourage collaborative approaches through the exchange of best practice. The project will meet the professional development needs of educationalists and inspire creative and innovative approaches to teaching and learning within the national curriculum through the observation of best practice.</p>	<p>£845,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Kent Schools Linked with Schools in the partner region to consolidate a Kent/Nord-Pas de Calais education exchange network. • Around 390 students visited the partner region engaging in school linking visits and Vocational Education visits to develop mutual comprehension. • Over 200 Kent Educationalists involved in Best Practice Study Visits, School Linking Seminars, School group visits and Vocational Education visits to and from the partner region. • Strengthening of cross-border co-operation in the service of the citizen. • Vocational Education Study visits for students from both regions highlighting differences and similarities in pedagogical and working practices.

INTERREG IIIB

Strand B of Interreg promotes co-operation between partners in different EU regions on territorial or 'spatial' development projects of a transnational nature. These focus on issues of mutual concern which go beyond national borders (originally concerned with flooding and drought). Transnational co-operation is concentrated within programme areas that cover large groupings of European regions and of which four are of interest to all or parts of the UK. Kent has been eligible for the North West Europe (NWE) Cooperation programme covering nearly half of the EU population in which all areas of the UK have been eligible to participate. The NWE programme has been focused around five priorities: an attractive and coherent system of cities, towns and regions; external and internal accessibility; water resources and prevention of flood damage; natural resources and cultural heritage; enhancing maritime functions and promoting territorial integration across seas.



Website: www.nweurope.org

INTERREG IIIB

European Funding Programme	Project Title and Brief Description	Value of European Grant (£) for Kent/KCC	Main Achievements, impacts & outputs
Interreg IIIb North West Europe Transnational Co-operation Programme (£220m)	HST (High Speed Train): The project aims to investigate and demonstrate the means by which HST stations and station area developments can serve local needs and development priorities.	£15.8m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and urban design improvements in and around HST stations including Ashford and Ebbsfleet • Improvement of public transport interchanges • Creation of business passengers' facilities • Physical improvement of feeding stations
	Planarch: Kent C.C. Planarch aims to protect and enhance the historic environment and 26 archaeological heritage within the framework of spatial planning. The project is led by Kent County Council and brings together eight partner organisations from Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The project has four objectives: increase information about heritage sites, develop joint approaches to archaeology, integrate archaeology into spatial planning and raise public awareness on this issue.	£1.8m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint methodologies for locating archaeological remains and establishing their value • Development of archaeological master plans for the Thames Gateway
	FINESSE: The FINESSE project entails research and practical preparations for sustainable, intermodal transport and logistical operations, in particular, by way of transferring freight onto rail-ferries between Dover	£290,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility Study into re-instating rail freight in Dover • Port strategy to underpin future Interreg projects including the above (HST)

	and Calais, and shipping containers and trailers.		
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INTERREG IIIC

Interregional cooperation under INTERREG IIIC focuses on the whole of the European Union and neighbouring countries, including Norway and Switzerland. For programme management purposes the territory is split into four zones (North, West, East, South) each with its own Secretariat. Strand C is intended to improve the effectiveness of policies for regional development, mainly through exchange of information and experience. By sharing knowledge the aim is to enable the partnerships involved to develop new solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges.



INTERREG IIIC Administrative Zone Map

- North Zone
- East Zone
- South Zone
- West Zone

European Funding Programme	Project Title and Brief Description	Value of European Grant (£) for Kent/KCC	Main Achievements, impacts & outputs
Interreg IIIC (West)	<p>Attention to Warning And Readiness in Emergencies (AWARE) A 3 year (2005-7) project aimed at: improvement of the information and communication systems between authorities in cross border regions before during or after a disaster.</p>	£60,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful conduct of a number of table-top emergency exercises across international borders. • Successful conduct of a large scale, live, trans-national flooding evacuation exercise. • Development of a web based system for managing information in trans-national emergency exercises. • Development of a QA system for evaluating the conduct of emergency exercises. • Development of an approach for improving disaster planning awareness amongst young people.

LEADER +

Under the LEADER+ programme for the South East, a total of £7.3 million is available to rural communities in the New Forest, West Oxfordshire, Mid-Kent, Wealden and Rother and the Isle of Wight. The programme aims to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in the local area. The focus is on developing and testing small scale and innovative projects to meet development needs in a sustainable way. Funding under the LEADER+ programme is provided through Local Action Groups (LAGs) which are partnerships of local organisations and people drawn from different community and economic backgrounds within the local area.

LEADER +

European Funding Programme	Project Title and Brief Description	Value of European Grant (£) for Kent/KCC	Main Achievements, impacts & outputs (bullet points)
Leader+ (£2m) - Rural Development	Wealden Wheels: Wealden Wheels is an innovative community transport initiative run across five rural parishes to solve access issues for those without easy access to a car.	£140,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community enterprise set up • three minibuses purchased to provide transport to after-school clubs, medical and other services
	Food Trails: This project aims to establish tourist trails to raise awareness of the links between landscape and local produce. These have promoted Kentish Apples, Wine, Beer and Romney Lamb and have been prepared in partnership with PROW, Produced in Kent and the KTA. The trails use existing right of way infrastructure to provide themed walks and cycle rides - thus adding value to the existing tourism offer and signposting Kentish producers.	£28,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 food themed tourist trails have been developed to promote Kent produce.

European Social Fund (ESF)

ESF is the European fund for supporting improvements in education, training and employment and is of primary importance in achieving a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. It has therefore provided financial support in the whole of the South East region towards the running costs for vocational training schemes, guidance and counselling projects and job creation measures. The total of ESF grants to projects in Kent during the period 2000-2006 was just over £18.7 million (£7.5 million to KCC projects).

A specific initiative funded through the European Social Fund 'EQUAL' provides funds to projects which test and promote new means of combating discrimination and inequalities in the labour market.

Website: www.esf.gov.uk
www.equal.ecotec.co.uk

European Funding Programme	Project Title and Brief Description	Value of European Grant (£) for Kent/KCC	Main Achievements, impacts & outputs
European Social Fund (£48m) – Supporting Training and Employment	Mentoring for Success: (Business Link Kent) The aim of the project is to improve the management skills of micro-businesses and SME's through the provision of Mentors backed up by flexible training delivered on site.	£344,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150 people from 120 companies have taken part in the Mentoring for Success program 50 senior professionals were given the skills to develop their mentoring capabilities.
	Inclusion in Learning: This project provided a programme of mentor training, mentoring and motivational activities for 13-16 year olds across Kent & Medway. The target group was young people who had dropped out of the education system and who had been identified as being at risk.	£1m	The project helped to retain 5,000 'at risk' young people in the education system
Rural Revival (ESF Global Grant)	The Learning Bus: An introduction to Information and Communications Technology to adults in rural communities in Kent.	£10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 rural locations served by the ICT bus in Kent
ESF -EQUAL	Kent Equal Employability Partnership (KEEP) A network of 15 private, public and voluntary organisations working across Kent over the two-year period from May 2002-2004 , KEEP partners helped to	£1.75M	£1.25M to develop and deliver (Actions 1 and 2) KEEP which achieved it's objectives by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing training in social and employment related skills to those that needed them 2. Supporting people towards employment and

	support almost 700 disabled or otherwise disadvantaged people of Kent to enter training and sustainable, long-term employment.		<p>continuing that support when they entered employment</p> <p>3. Supporting the development of three "social firms", training and developing the workforce to enable the creation of commercially viable businesses in the future.</p> <p>£500K to deliver Action 3 – dissemination and policy influencing. The work of KEEP continued under Action 3 of the Equal programme until 14th November 2005, where key messages from the project were delivered to partners at a local, regional, national and European level. It is hoped that the lessons learnt from this project will be useful for current and future projects in this field</p>
ESF -EQUAL	The Evolve Development Partnership was initiated in September 2004 and focuses on the most deprived districts in Kent. The aim is to promote 'employability' to disadvantaged and vulnerable adults through offer three types of services: Pre-vocational Training; Mentoring; Advice and Guidance.	£4.2m (50% matched in-kind by KCC and partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of innovative methods of engagement with 700 disadvantaged adults • Partners from NHS, MCCH and The Prince's Trust working in collaboration with KAES and ASS. • 5 projects involved with supporting adults to re-enter the world of employment, training or education.