

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

**TO:** Regeneration & Economic Development Policy Overview  
Committee – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**SUBJECT:** Kent Spatial Vision

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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## **Summary**

This paper outlines the work currently underway in conjunction with consultants Terry Farrell and Partners to develop a Spatial Vision for Kent.

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of progress and to invite comments to inform the further development of this work.

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This paper outlines the work currently underway in conjunction with consultants Terry Farrell and Partners to develop a Spatial Vision for Kent.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of progress and to invite comments to inform the further development of this work.
- 1.3 This report will be supplemented by a presentation at POC by the Farrells team.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Building on their work in the Thames Gateway, and for Medway Council, Sir Terry Farrell's consultancy (Farrells) has been commissioned to develop a county-wide spatial vision for Kent.
- 2.2 The Vision will build on the County's identity, character and strengths, to articulate the County Council's ambitions for the Kent of around 2050.
- 2.3 Following introductory sessions with the Leader, Chief Executive and others, Farrells have developed their ideas and produced an inception report which proposes that the spatial vision be developed under three main themes:

- Connected County;
- The Coastline – Ports & Resorts;
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Garden of England.

- 2.4 The purpose of the Vision is to develop a Prospectus that will provide guidance and direction; to help future decisions around investments and priorities, and attract inward investment. It will not replace existing policies, but will complement local planning and other documents.
- 2.5 The Vision will guide and support the delivery of an integrated spatial, economic and environmental development programme; addressing a range of key issues including the impacts of climate change, transport, growth, landscape and natural environment, improving design, moving to a low carbon economy, and the changes required to achieve some of the resulting challenging goals.
- 2.6 The Vision will also be guided by and operate alongside existing plans of the County Council, and in particular its Regeneration Framework, the Integrated Transport Strategy and the emerging Housing Strategy.

### **3. Next steps**

- 3.1 A number of workshops have been held across the County during June and July under the three themes. The purpose of the workshops was to bring together a range of stakeholders to examine Farrells' current proposals, to help inform the next stages of this work by exploring the issues and challenges currently facing the county, and discussing approaches and aspirations for the future.
- 3.2 Invited participants have included all the Kent Districts and Borough Councils, plus Medway Council, Essex, Surrey and East Sussex County Councils.
- 3.3 The workshops covered a range of issues within the themes, including coastal issues, transport, landscape, growth, heritage and culture, learning, economic development and investment.
- 3.4 Following these events a Vision event is to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, integrating all the themes and drawing out the key conclusions that are to be included in the final report itself that is due for submission by the end of the summer. **A report from this event and the earlier workshops will be tabled at the meeting.**
- 3.5 A programme of wider consultation on the proposals will follow later in the year to include groupings of interested organisations, developers, house-builders, and the community sector.
- 3.6 It is anticipated that the Vision will generate national and regional interest as the first expression of spatial planning at the county level in

the south-east since the adoption of the SE Plan and the abolition of the Structure Plan. To this end opportunities are being explored to promote the vision at appropriate national events.

#### **4. Recommendations**

Members of the Regeneration & Economic Development Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

- a. note the progress of this work
- b. comment on the progress to inform the further developments of this work.

Lead Contact Officers:

Mike Bodkin  
Head of Urban Regeneration  
01622 221960

Val Hyland  
Regeneration & Projects Manager  
01622 221373

#### **Background documents**

Kent Spatial Vision Inception Report by Farrells consultants