

**BY:** Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member Regeneration  
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**TO:** Regeneration & Economic Development Policy Overview  
Committee – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**SUBJECT:** Update on Major Projects

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

This report provides an update to Members on the progress of major Regeneration Projects.

FOR INFORMATION

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**1. Introduction:**

1.1 Below is an update on the progress of the major Regeneration Projects currently underway.

**Project Title :** **Backing Kent Business**  
**Lead Officer :** Jim McKenzie  
**Progress:** A wide programme of activity has been completed/underway

- Westminster briefing set out the key challenges facing Kent business, how KCC was responding and what additional support is required from government.
- Olympics business breakfast held to raise profile of procurement opportunities of the Olympics with Kent business.
- Social Care Expo attended to understand better the challenges facing the sector and how KCC can respond.
- Kent Ambassadors briefed on BKB and how KCC is engaging with the business community as part of developing a new relationship with business
- BKB stand at the Invicta Chamber of Commerce business exhibition – 120 stands, around 40 businesses engaged with.

- Kent Messenger monthly BKB column published focusing most recently on the Westminster event and on Locate in Kent achieving the 'Best Regional Agency Worldwide' in a recent benchmarking report of investment promotion agencies
- Work ongoing through consultants to ensure that KCC procurement is "small business friendly". Pilot being run through Kent Highways Services and discussions have been held with two main contractors. Looking at consortium development opportunities of small business and workshops with business being planned
- FSB 'South East Local Authority Small Business Awards' application submitted focusing on BKB
- Kent Excellence in Business Awards (KEIBA's) achieved record entries and a sell out Awards evening at Leeds Castle on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. First year of KCC/Kent Messenger run awards.

**Project Title: Port of Ramsgate/Offshore Wind Farms**

Lead officer: Theresa Bruton (Neil Hilkene)

Progress:

#### Thanet Offshore Windfarm

- More than 40 of the 100 foundation monopiles are now in place for the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm.
- Project developer Vattenfall will shortly be tendering for the construction of a new operations and maintenance base at Port of Ramsgate with construction planned to start around September.
- Vattenfall are sponsoring the yacht racing week in Ramsgate which takes place in August.

#### London Array

- Following the improvements to financing reported last month, the London Array consortium has announced that it is to proceed with phase 1 of the development. Phase 1 comprises 175 turbines (630MW) out of a planned total of 271. Alongside this Siemens have confirmed the supply of turbines to phase 1. A start on the project is now imminent with the first works being the construction of the onshore substation at Graveney.
- The first works on the construction of the onshore substation at Graveney start this month. The offshore construction works do not start until early 2011 following a years ecological and environmental survey work.
- The start of works triggers payment of the community benefits package which includes a £300k sum for local community projects.
- There is a further fund for local nature conservation which will be implemented by the Kent Wildlife Trust.

- Work to determine skills development and supply chain issue is being progressed by officers and partners.

**Project Title: Manston/Eurokent JV**

Lead officer: Theresa Bruton

Progress:

- East Kent Opportunities, the joint venture LLP between KCC and TDC, agreed a strategy which reflects judicious land sales to encourage regeneration at Manston and the pursuit of a planning application at the Westwood site.
- Two offers to purchase land have now been received from existing occupiers at Manston and will be considered by the Committee. A response to interest expressed by an adjoining owner will also be considered.
- In respect of the Westwood site the preparation of a planning application remains on schedule and ongoing relationships with key stakeholders remain positive.

**Project Title: No Use Empty**

Lead officer: Theresa Bruton (Steve Grimshaw)

Progress:

- Following the achievement of the Towards 2010 target nearly one year ahead of schedule (728 have been recorded versus a target of 650), a revised target is being considered as well as exploring how the initiative could become more innovative within the overall budget available.
- £3M of potential loans have been identified since the beginning of last year. Whilst not all will come to fruition it is a sign that the scheme is very much needed and continues to generate much interest from a variety of sources.
- A wide range of projects continue to be progressed, ranging from advice to enforcement to a recent CPO of a Margate Hotel.
- Since expansion of the scheme from East Kent to County wide, all 12 District Councils have joined the initiative and Thanet, Dover, Sevenoaks and Dartford have embraced the loan scheme, others are in the pipeline.

**Project Title: Ashford's Future**

Lead officer: Mike Bodkin

Progress:

- Ashford's Future Company and Partnership Boards met in June and agreed capital and revenue spend for the period to March 2011.

- Decision pending on bid for Regional Infrastructure Funding to forward fund cost of redeveloping M20 Junction 9 and nearby Drivers Roundabout.
- Promotional activities linked to launch of HS1 Services being planned. Refurbishment of existing Domestic Station Concourse now underway.
- £16.7m Community Infrastructure Funding awarded for construction of Victoria Way, town centre relief road.

**Project Title:**            **Dover Pride**  
**Lead officer:**            Dave Hughes  
**Progress:**

Town Centre Regeneration partnership chaired by KCC. Current key projects include:-

- Dover Priory Station environmental Improvement. (R&E, KCC).
- Sea Change programme. Dover's waterfront and Dover Castle. (R&E, KCC).
- Building Schools for the Future (BSF). (CFE, KCC).
- Dover Growth Point status. (Dover DC).
- Sea Sports Centre. (Lead by local Development Trust).
- Western Docks expansion. (Dover Harbour Board)
- Wellington Docks regeneration. (SEEDA)
- Connaught Barracks. (HCA).
- Buckland Mill. (SEEDA/Dover DC).
- Coombe Valley regeneration. (HCA with East Kent PCT overseeing relocation of hospital).

**Project Title:**            **Kent Thameside Regeneration Partnership**  
**Lead officer:**            Mike Bodkin  
**Progress:**

Multi agency partnership for the Dartford/Gravesend, part of the Thames Gateway Growth Area chaired by KCC. Current key projects include:-

- Fastrack
- Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme (Homes & Roads)
- Employ Kent Thameside
- Ebbsfleet Valley (including Eastern Quarry)

**Project Title:** Margate Renewal Partnership  
**Lead officer:** Keith MacKenney  
**Progress:**

Multi agency partnership for Margate town. Chaired by SEEDA. Current key projects include:-

- Turner Contemporary Gallery. (Communities, KCC).
- Rendezvous site development. (R&E, KCC).
- Fort Road development. (R&E, KCC/TDC working with private sector owners).
- Dreamland Heritage Amusement Park and cinema refurbishment. (TDC).
- Exploration of potential development of Winter Gardens. (TDC).
- Delivery of Margate Parking, Access and Movement Plan. (R&E, KCC).
- Development of Arlington site and refurbishment of the tower. (Private sector).
- For the central area, Housing Renewal Programme. (TDC) and multi-agency task force (Communities, KCC).

**Project Title:** Swale Forward  
**Lead officer:** Mike Bodkin (Hilary Coleman)  
**Progress:**

Multi agency partnership for the Swale Borough part of the Thames Gateway. Current key projects include:-

- Sittingbourne Town Centre (Swale BC/KCC re NRR).
- Queenborough – Rushenden (SEEDA/KCC re RRR).
- Sheerness/Sheppey (Swale BC).
- Swale Parklands (HCA/KCC)

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 Members of the Regeneration & Economic Development POC are asked to note the progress on the major Regeneration Projects.

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