

**Highlights of the visit to Dover District Council and the key economic development and regeneration priorities:**

A detailed information pack was provided to all Members attending the visit

**Summary of the morning's presentation:**

Why is Dover important?

- Dover is the Gateway to Kent
- Port of Dover is Europe's busiest passenger/ro-ro port
- Key to the county's future economic prosperity
- First impression for foreign visitors
- If Dover works, Kent works
- If Kent works, UK PLC works
- Dover is a key foundation for East Kent
- All eyes on Dover post-Brexit

Need for KCC support

- DDC feel Dover is now at a "Tipping Point" with major private sector investment
- Public sector investment to realise full potential
- Unlock potential of Dover town centre
- Addressing the Brexit challenge (and perception)
- Lobbying for improved transport infrastructure
- Investing in our heritage and culture
- Reversing long-term deprivation and unemployment

Transport Infrastructure

- M2/A2
- Third Thames Crossing
- Brenley Corner improvements
- A2 Dualling – Lydden to Dover
- Bifurcation of traffic to Port of Dover
- M20/A20 (Operation Stack and Dover TAP)
- Lorry Parking
- Brexit
- Public transport
  - SE Franchise renewal (HS1 under 1 hour to Dover)
  - Thanet Parkway
- Dover Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
  - Whitfield Urban Extension to town centre then to Dover Priory
  - £15.8m from MHCLG Housing Infrastructure Fund
- North Deal Access
  - Improving access for future development
  - Connecting to A256 to ease pressure on A258

Development Locations

- Discovery Park
- Betteshanger Sustainable Business Park – Hadlow College
- Tilmanstone Colliery
- Snowdown Colliery
- Connaught Barracks – Fort Burgoyne

- White Cliffs Business Park
- Western Heights and Farthingloe potential development site

#### Housing Allocations

Whitfield Urban Extension	5,750
Aylesham Garden Village	1,200
Dover Waterfront	500
Discovery Park	500
Connaught Barracks (Homes England)	500
Buckland Mill (Homes England)	400

#### Tourism & Culture

- Dover supports the county's tourism industry
- 11 million passengers through the Port of Dover
- UK's second busiest cruise terminal
- The Open returns to Sandwich (12-19 July 2020)
- A New Vision for Sandwich
- Tourism and economic benefit
- Dover Castle
- Western Heights
- Lydden Circuit
- Investing in heritage/visitor assets:
  - Maison Dieu
  - Kearsney Parks
  - Fort Burgoyne
  - Roman Painted House

#### Dover Town Centre

- St James 157,000 sq. ft. of new leisure and retail
- £53m investment by Legal & General
- £4.2m HLF bid for the £8.388m Maison Dieu project
- Market Square – Coastal Community Fund application
- Discovery Centre – potential for joint project alongside the current KCC plans for the building
- Connectivity to Waterfront and Western Docks Revival

#### **Walking Tour of the Town Centre - highlighting issues raised in the morning's presentation including:**

- Dover Roman Painted House
- Dover Discovery Centre
- Market Square
- Biggin Street and Cannon Street No Use Empty Projects
- St James commercial development
- Proposed new access to the seafront

Summary of short presentation by the Port of Dover on the Dover Western Docks Revival and the extensive re-modelling works in progress.

The presentation was provided on a Memory Stick to all attendees

## **Afternoon Tour of the Western Heights**

- View over the Western Docks Revival project
- Tour of the Drop Redoubt
- View over the potential site for the Commonwealth Memorial Project
- Explanation of the potential of the Western Heights to contribute to the visitor economy of Dover alongside Dover Castle and the revitalised town centre.

## **Key Asks of KCC:**

KCC were asked to consider:

- Support for the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Maison Dieu project and £600,000 KCC contribution to overall project costs
- Support for the Coastal Communities Fund bid for the Old Town/ Market Square project and £480,000 KCC contribution to overall project costs
- A joint approach to future of the KCC owned Discovery Centre
- A joint approach to the Western Heights eg potential projects at a Commonwealth Memorial site, Drop Redoubt, Citadel, South Front Barracks and Grand Shaft Barracks