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To: Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 November 2009

Subject: Update on Major Projects

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report provides an update to Members on the progress of major regeneration projects.

It further provides an update of bids coming forward for funding from the Regeneration fund.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Regeneration Framework defines 5 priorities and 2 cross cutting themes:

1. Building a new relationship with business
2. Unlocking talent to support the Kent economy
3. Embracing a growing and changing population
4. Building homes and communities.... not estates
5. Delivering growth without transport gridlock

And

- Minimise environmental costs and address the challenge of climate change
- Diversity of Kent's communities.

Clearly, successful regeneration will be dependent upon all directorates playing a role - whether this be CFE through improving education attainment levels or EHW through delivery of new highway schemes or improved public transport. Progress against these projects will be picked up as part of the monitoring framework for the Regeneration Framework and by specific directorate related POSCs.

1.2 Therefore, this report will focus on those major projects being delivered by Regeneration and Economy.

The tables that follow present progress against projects in Thanet, Dover, Kent Thameside and Ashford and for Backing Kent Business, Backing Kent People and No Use Empty. A summary is also presented showing those bids that are coming forward for support from the Regeneration Fund.

Project	Summary of project outcome	Cost of Project KCC/Partners £	Key milestones/ activities to date	Progress since last quarter	Actions planned for next quarter
Thanet - Lead Officers as listed					
East Kent Opportunities LLP Theresa Bruton	Limited liability partnership created by KCC and Thanet DC to develop land holdings at Manston Business Park and Euro Kent adjacent to Westwood Cross	KCC purchased Manston Park landholdings in June 2006 £5.35m. Now sits alongside TDC equivalent landholding at EuroKent in the LLP	Euro Kent spine Road opened November 2008	Negotiations with existing occupier at Manston to purchase land continues and Heads of Terms have also been issued to an adjoining landowner	Planning application for EuroKent (Westwood) site to be submitted early 2010 and relationships with key stakeholders remains positive
Rendezvous site development Keith Mackenney	On the seafront site adjacent to Turner Contemporary development work is underway to bring forward a planning application for a quality mixed-use development at the eastern end of the Rendezvous site that is sympathetic to the Turner gallery and provides strong and effective linkages to the Old Town and the Winter Gardens. R&E working with Thanet District Council, to transform the Grade 2 listed, Winter Gardens into a successful, modern operation	Total cost will be determined by the eventual direction of the project.	Officers from KCC and TDC have been working with CTM Architects to bring forward a mixed- use development proposal after the withdrawal in 2008 of development partner, Gleeson	The initial scheme involving a quality hotel and residential development has been reviewed and options are being considered linked to the Winter Gardens where discussions are taking place to explore TDC's aspirations for the site in the context of other development planned for Margate's eastern seafront	Once design and viability work has been completed, a decision on the way forward will be reached in early 2010

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Development on the Dreamland site Keith Mackenney	To work with the Margate Renewal Partnership and site owners to deliver the Dreamland Entertainment Complex & Heritage Amusement Park on the 10 acre site around the listed cinema and scenic railway.	£12.4m (Phase 1) comprising: SeaChange£4m HLF £3m TDC £0.75m Developer £4m	- Business Plan produced (early 2009) - Bids made to Sea Change and HLF in April 2009 - Rides acquired for the amusement park by early 2009. - Dreamland Trust created to front bids and operate the attraction	Result of Sea Change bid delayed by DCMS. HLF bid dependent upon this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result of Sea Change bid expected by end Nov 2009. Project Director to be appointed Dec 2009. Negotiations with site owners to be concluded by early 2010.
Dover - Lead Officer: David Hughes					
Dover Priory Station Approach Environmental Improvements	Improvements to public realm next to Station and along part of Folkestone Road towards town centre	Total project cost - £2m. Funded by KCC (£1.1m), Network Rail (£0.7m), SEEDA (£0.1m), INTERREG (£0.12m) and Dover DC (£0.05m)	Main works contract awarded to Jacksons Civils in August 2009 following tender process over early summer. Works started early Sept and will be completed in March 2010	Works started on Folkestone Road. Landscaping contract let to Jacobs.	Complete Folkestone Road works; commence works on Station forecourt

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Dover Sea Change Programme	Programme comprises improvements to 4 tourist attractions within Dover Castle, environmental improvements to Esplanade, upgrading of Bleriot Memorial, cable car feasibility study and multi faceted community engagement project.	Total project cost - £7.75m. Funded by DCMS (£3.85m), English Heritage (£2.5m), KCC (£0.65m), DHB (£0.34m), Dover DC (£0.3m) and SEEDA (£0.11m)	Projects completed: 3 of 4 Dover Castle projects, Bleriot Memorial.	Planning consent granted for Esplanade in October, and tendered for main contract	Start final Dover Castle project (Secret Wartime Tunnels); commence main contract works for Esplanade; complete cable car feasibility
Countywide Backing Kent Business Lead Officer: Jim Mckenzie	To support Kent businesses through the recession via KCC 10 Commitments and to develop a new relationship with business	£120,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec 2008 Launch of BKB • Jan 2009 BKB partners signed concordat for joint working • Feb 2009 first meeting of BKB partners • Feb 09 online Business Support Centre operational • April 2009 2020 conference & exhibition badged as BKB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August - further meeting with BSF team to discuss opening up the supply chain to Kent businesses • September – Profiled at Channel Chamber of Commerce major business event with over 100 attendees • October - breakfast meeting with Invicta Chamber businesses – issues around transport, procurement • October - Launch of Kent Investment Club funded by KCC and managed by Finance South East 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov-Dec - BKB article in the Kent Messenger Business News • November –Launch of Kent premier business event '2020 Vision' to be held in April 2010. • November - Chairman's West Kent Reception with a BKB focus • December – 1st anniversary of the Launch of BKB • December – Kent Ambassadors briefing in House of Lords • January - Kent Excellence in Business Awards (KEiBA) Launch of second year - a KCC/Kent Messenger • Jan/Feb – series of business breakfasts planned

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2009 first of a series of business breakfast meetings • June 2009 Westminster briefing on BKB 	developing the business angel network in Kent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October – Launch SEEDA funded Innovation and Growth Team with match funding from a wide Kent-based partnership including KCC which aims to provide intensive assistance to potential high-growth innovative businesses in Kent and Medway 	
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Kent Thameside - Lead Officer: Mike Bodkin

Homes and Roads	To deliver 11 major transport schemes to support growth of 20,000 homes and 50,000 jobs	Regional Transport programme DfT £49m HCA £21.5m DfT £26.1 Eastern Quarry £40.2m Developers Contributions £63.2m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme appraisal submitted October 2009 	Programme appraisal submitted October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of legal documents to underpin programme • CLG decision expected Nov 2009 • Treasury decision expected early 2010
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Ebbsfleet Valley (including Eastern Quarry)	To deliver 11,000 homes and new community adjacent to Ebbsfleet station	In an excess of an estimated £100m worth of infrastructure secured by KCC and DBC to support the development of Eastern Quarry	Planning Permission granted		Developers presenting a revised development proposal to local authorities including KCC on 6 November
Ashford Growth Area Lead Officer: Adele Harrison	Delivery of the Ashford Programme for Development to support sustainable economic growth	Total Programme value = £53.5m public sector funding (of which £22m GAF 3 and £5.5m KCC funding)	£15m Regional Infrastructure Funding secured to deliver J9 M20 improvements and enhance capacity Work started on Victoria Way scheme. Land acquisitions being progressed to unlock sites and enable road works. Full scheme to be completed by March 2011. Branding and marketing strategy	GAF 3 funding reduced by 13% £3.5m from £25.5m to £22m. In September the Partnership agreed revisions to project budgets to accommodate this cut. No contractually committed projects have been affected.	Work starts on J9 M20 scheme. Voluntary land acquisitions to be progressed (full scheme completion by March 2011) Work starts on a cost plan to inform the development of the Ashford Strategic Tariff. Evidence gathering from service providers to determine community infrastructure requirements needed to support planned development. Ashford advertising campaign to be run on Heart FM

			<p>developed to build on Ashford Best Placed in Britain brand and capitalise on opportunities from launch of HS1.</p> <p>Revised designs agreed for Gateway Plus and £1m additional funding approved to deliver enhanced scheme.</p>		<p>Submit Gateway Plus planning application submitted and progress detailed designs</p>
<p>Countywide Backing Kent People Lead Officer: Keith Mackenney</p>	<p>The campaign brings together partners from across the public and voluntary sectors to help Kent people weather the recession and make it easier for them to get the help they need.</p>	<p>£40k allocated. £13k spend to date on launch, publicity materials, production of young persons money leaflet etc</p>			
<p>Backing Kent People Week</p>	<p>Advice given through KCC's Gateways to help people through the recession</p>	<p>Training provided in house. £1k on materials</p>	<p>Materials produced and Gateways staff trained in their use and in advising callers.</p>	<p>BKP week took place in October having been promoted on local radio.</p>	<p>Impact of week to be assessed (November 2009)</p>

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Money Box Magazine	Magazine produced for Kent residents to highlight the extent of money support services available in the county.	£5k for design, production, printing and distribution.	Magazine designed and produced in conjunction with the Town & Country Housing Group.	Magazine distributed through Gateways and housing associations during October	Feedback on value of magazine to be obtained (November 2009)
The creation of the Kent Credit Union.	KCC has spearheaded the creation of a "people's bank" for the county to help those who are financially excluded and provide a community saving organisation.	An original KCC development budget of £100k plus £250k allocated to Kent Savers.	KCC identified the demand and potential to develop a large Credit Union as a community venture.	- Working with an interim CU chief officer, KCC has worked with a shadow board of directors to finalise the creation of the organisation.	Pending final authorisation from the FSA, the independent Credit Union is expected to be launched in December 2009. Chief officer and loans officer recruited to take the work forward.
Kent Citizens Advice Bureau advice project	KCC is working with 12 CABs organised as Kent & Medway Citizens Advice (KAMCA) to increase their capacity and to provide advice to more people, particularly in areas of debt, benefit and employment	£250k	Each CAB has allocated its share of the funding against its own priorities and monitoring arrangements have been established. (April 2009)	In the first quarter of the financial year clients seen increased by 20%, benefit enquiries by 24%, employment enquiries by 21% and debt enquiries by 33%.	Evidence of additional outputs from this funding will be provided on a quarterly basis.
The creation of the Kent & Medway Financial Inclusion Partnership	KCC is working to create an independent Kent & Medway Financial Inclusion Partnership to take responsibility for the on-going delivery of the BKP campaign.	£4k allocated to Partnership.	Initial steps have been taken to create the formal partnership through Companies House		The KMFIP Board will be created and key issues identified along with a forward delivery plan for the new Board.

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<p>No Use Empty Lead Officer: Steve Grimshaw</p>	<p>Initiative launched in 2005 as part of its PSA 2 commitments to examine better ways of delivering services and working more effectively with district councils by returning long term empty properties back into use.</p>	<p>£5m</p>	<p>728 long term properties brought back into use.</p> <p>March 2008 target exceeded by 31% which secured government reward grant of £2.24m</p> <p>Scheme extended countywide</p>	<p>Since April 2009 about 120 properties have been brought back into use</p> <p>£800k of loan approvals are pending</p> <p>No Use Empty identified as a model of excellence in Audit Commission Report</p> <p>Scottish and Welsh governments have referred to No Use Empty as model of excellence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 2009/10 target increased in June 2009 from 650 to 850 properties (revised target is expected to be exceeded) · A further 20 loan applications expected to be considered · Proposals to set up a new fund with the 4 original scheme members being considered in recognition of the scheme's success to date in those areas

2. Regeneration fund bids

2.1 Three bids have been received for funding from the Regeneration Fund. These include:

Bids	Overview	Sub-Group	£
Kent Foundation	A charitable trust set up to support training and advice for business start ups in the 18-30yr old age group. A request for funding in 2010-11 to enable Kent Foundation to consolidate its future by securing alternative funding sources	19 November 2009	£60k
Low Carbon Housing	To develop and roll out a Kent Area Based private domestic housing retrofit programme to reduce carbon emissions, provide savings for Kent residents and economic opportunities for Kent business	19 November 2009 (TBC)	£200k (TBC)
Role of innovation in meeting the challenges in Unlocking Kent's Potential	To develop technological solutions to support delivery of regeneration projects	19 November 2009	£80k

3. Recommendations

3.1 Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- comment upon the content and presentation of the report
- note progress against each of the projects.

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