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To: Regeneration and Economic Development Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 19 January 2010

Subject: Half-year monitoring 2009/10

Classification: Unrestricted

SUMMARY

This report summarises the 2009/10 half-year monitoring results for the Regeneration and Economy division's annual business operating plans and includes the Executive Director's statement of progress to date.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Regeneration and Economy Division is part of the Chief Executives Department. Reporting to the Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development and ICT, the division is responsible for driving the delivery of KCC's recently launched Regeneration Framework: "Unlocking Kent's Potential."

The majority of the Division's activities are undertaken with reference to the Local Government Act (2000). This empowers local authorities to undertake activities they consider necessary to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well being of their local area and/or of the local people. Section 39 of the 2004 Planning Act supports the regeneration role of the division in that there is a "duty to deliver sustainable development" which also includes achievement of good design and energy efficiency. The Local Government Act 1972 empowers local authorities to provide tourism services. The legislative framework for development investment activity is contained within the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, Circular 05/2005 Planning Obligations and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Highways Act 1980 and Land Compensation Act 1973.

2. HALF-YEAR MONITORING PROCESS

Business plans represent the operation of the County Council's services within the context of its Policy Framework and are clearly linked to its Medium Term Financial Plan and annual budget as approved by the council.

The unit plans are in effect the annual operating plans for KCC and they continue to be an essential product of directorate planning systems. Their primary purpose is to:

- Ensure that delegated authority to carry out activity in the coming year is approved
- Align annual unit resources (FTE and budgets) with core activity and projects

- Articulate operational performance targets and tasks, which will be monitored during the year
- Identify the relationship with the units' customers and stakeholders during the coming year.

A report on progress against the Towards 2010 targets went to Cabinet on 12 October 2009 and County Council on 15 October 2009 and is therefore not part of the half-year monitoring of the annual unit business operating plans.

3. SUMMARISED OUTCOMES

Business Units are expected to run a 100% half-year check of progress on their 2009/10 Business Unit Operating Plans. Most of the projects/developments/key actions set out in these plans are 'On course' or 'Done and ongoing'. Due to the economic climate 20% of these actions are 'not on target' to complete this financial year and are listed with reasons and proposed actions in Appendix 1. The Executive Director's statement outlining progress is also included in Appendix 1.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The targets and commitments for which the Corporate portfolio holders and officers in the Department are responsible are largely on track for achievement at the end of 2009/10.

4.2. An annual review of 2009/10 performance will be presented to this Committee in July 2010.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Members are asked to NOTE this report

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**Chief Executives Department
Regeneration and Economic Development
2009/10 Half Year Monitoring
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The “Backing Kent Business”(BKB) campaign, launched in December 2008, through its focus on 10 commitments by KCC to help Kent businesses has already increased the number of invoices paid by KCC to Kent businesses within 20 days (previously 44% increased to 78%) and introduced the Kent Business Support Centre which has had over 30,000 visitors. Since the launch, over 482 new contractors are being assessed. BKB is developed, supported and championed by the Regeneration and Economy unit.

The Regeneration & Economy unit has formally launched the Regeneration Framework - ‘Unlocking Kent’s Potential’ which has necessitated the realigning of Regeneration & Economy business activity and the setting up of the Regeneration Board with resultant support functions.

The Kent-wide “No Use Empty” initiative has already surpassed the original target set for this year (the target was increased from 650 to 850 in June 2009). The ‘No Use Empty’ initiative has been widely praised across the UK as a unique partnership between county and local councils, achieving tangible results and setting an example for others to follow.

The development of a county-wide spatial vision for Kent has been commissioned which will focus on three themes; Connected County, The Coastline – Ports & Resorts and 21st Century Garden of England. The Regeneration and Economy unit was recently selected as Regeneration & Renewal Magazine’s *Local Authority Regeneration Team of the Year*. The award recognised work on Ashford Shared Space that was described as “a ground breaking project, creating an extensive area of shared space, and turning a one way ring road into a series of 2 way streets”.

David Cockburn
Executive Director Strategy, Economic Development and ICT

Progress against Business Plans

Exception reporting against both core services and forecast activity levels and projects, developments and key actions

The following are those not expected to be completed and the reasons why/action to be taken:

Activity / Projects not expected to be completed as planned	Reason(s) why and actions to rectify
Economic Development	
<p>Coastal Towns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margate Rendezvous Site development • Margate Public Realm Strategy • A2 Slips, Canterbury <p>Development Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kings Hill business space development <p>Growth Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northfleet station refurbishment • Gravesend Old Town Hall commercial occupation • Homes and Roads • Re-location of Ashford Learning Campus <p>Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Office campaign 	<p>Revising approach in light of responses received to proposed scheme may lead to further delays</p> <p>Being reviewed in light of proposed sea defence works</p> <p>Outside KCC control (developer withdrew) – maintaining a watching brief.</p> <p>Outside KCC control (economic downturn). Continue to market site to businesses.</p> <p>Outside KCC control (external funding not being provided), No further action at this stage.</p> <p>Revising approach to a more phased occupation that will see first commercial tenants taking up leases in January 2010 and working on possible project to give Young Entrepreneurs virtual office space.</p> <p>Ministerial approval now given subject to Treasury approval</p> <p>Outside KCC control (Partner funding issue). No further action at this stage.</p> <p>Outside KCC control (change in government direction) – maintaining a watching brief.</p>

Activity ahead of schedule:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlocking Kent's Potential launched in October. Regeneration Board established along with the mechanisms (Programme Office) to support its efficient operation. • Launch and progress of Backing Kent Business including progress against the 10 commitments and mechanisms for improving relationship with business. Recognition by Audit Commission etc. • Launch and progress of Backing Kent People including progress to establishing the Kent Credit Union (scheduled for an October launch). Kent Savers moving into Gravesend Old Town Hall from January 2010 • The opening of The Bridge - Kent's first school of the future. • No Use Empty initiative is now Kent-Wide and the target set for 2010 has

already been surpassed. Even the new stretched target looks like being achieved ahead of schedule.

- Good progress on Parklands (750k being invested by KCC Regeneration Fund) project in Swale with identification of new cycle routes on Sheppey and progress toward development of Milton Creek Country Park
- Multi-Area Agreements were approved by Government in September. Specific actions are being progressed in relation to transport, skills, housing and funding
- The Commission for Rural Communities visit on 21 & 22 July was a success, placing the spotlight on Kent in terms of rural transport and deprivation. National recognition of Rural Board model and Community Shop Guide published with partners this year.
- Many National Awards received for Ashford Shared Space
- External funding achieved for Junction 9 and Drovers and Victoria Way, Ashford
- Kent Design Awards launched
- New business awards - wholly KCC/KM owned (KEiBA's) - successfully launched
- Kent with partners from France, Belgium and Holland has been successful in securing funding over 3 years from the Interreg 2 Seas programme for three projects two of which will be led by KCC; a sustainable tourism research initiative (total project costs of 3.2m euros of which KCC element is 764k Euros, Coastal Action on Sustainable Tourism project (total project costs of 2.8m Euros of which KCC element is 725k Euros). KCC is also a contributory partner to a third project, Greet the World," totalling 4.4m Euros of which the KCC element is 869k Euros
- Construction started on public realm works at Dover Priory. Completion expected March 2010
- £7.75m Sea Change programme is well underway with 3 of the 4 Dover Castle improvements completed, the Bleriot Monument project completed and esplanade public realm improvements due to start in January 2010
- A number of Kent tourism businesses won awards at the Regional South East Excellence Awards
- Major new visitor campaign announced and will be launched in Spring 2010
- Successful implementation of Kent Greeters Programme – a first for Europe and now being replicated by other Counties and in Pas de Calais
- Despite a late start to the Leader + Programme the LAG Executive has approved ten projects so far with a programme spend of circa £225,000.
- Good communication channels have been set up and the first of a number of LAG sub groups have been formed (Local Authority officers sub group) to help develop sector specific projects for development.