

From: Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee
- 28 November 2019

Subject: Members' Recent Visits to Ashford Borough Council

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report is in two parts. It summarises the outcomes of the recent visit by KCC Members to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and outlines the programme of future visits to other Kent districts in 2019/20.

Recommendation: The Cabinet Committee is asked to receive and endorse the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the November 2017 meeting of this Cabinet Committee, Members agreed that officers arrange a programme of informal visits to Kent districts. The objective was to provide an opportunity for Cabinet Committee Members to gain an understanding of the economic development and regeneration opportunities and challenges within each of the Kent districts.
- 1.2 This report summarises the main outcomes of Members' visit to Ashford Borough Council on 11 October 2019.

2. Visit to Ashford Borough Council

- 2.1 The visit to ABC on 11 October was arranged with the full support of ABC senior officers of the Council who provided a briefing about the economic development and regeneration opportunities and challenges for the district which are listed below.
- 2.2 District Deal:

ABC emphasised the importance of the deal between KCC and ABC and the significant progress made in delivering key strategic projects and improved ways of working together.
- 2.3 The 'Big 8' Projects: all being delivered successfully or have been completed:
 - Commercial Quarter
 - Junction 10a of the M20

- Chilmington Green
- Designer Outlet expansion
- Elwick Place
- International College Campus
- Jasmin Vardimon
- Ashford International signalling

2.4 The New Emerging Big 8 Projects:

- Carbon Neutral by 2030
- South of Ashford Garden Community
- Town Centre Masterplanning
- Victoria Park / Conningbrook
- Vicarage Lane and Multi-Storey Car Park
- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Newtown Works
- Cultural Centre

2.5 The importance of the provision of broadband infrastructure.

2.6 The highlights of the visit are detailed more fully in Appendix 1 to this report. These will be followed up by Officers as appropriate and with the relevant organisations.

2.7 Presentations made on the day are available from the author of this report.

3. Programme of Further Visits

3.1 Further Member visits to Kent districts are being arranged in collaboration with district and borough officers. The format for each visit involves a day-long tour of the principal economic development and infrastructure developments within each district.

3.2 The visit programme for 2019/20 is:

Thanet	postponed from 22 November at request of TDC to 2020 due to the General Election
Canterbury	postponed from 13 December at request of CCC to 2020 due to the General Election
Maidstone	5 February 2020
Sevenoaks	18 May 2020

Members will be advised of new dates for visits to Canterbury and Thanet.

The Committee has already visited Swale, Ashford, Folkestone and Hythe, Dover, Dartford, Tunbridge Wells and Gravesham.

A visit to Tonbridge and Malling is being arranged for next year.

3.3 As agreed by the Committee, should places be available, invitations will be extended to the Chair and Members of the Environment & Transportation Cabinet Committee.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of coach hire is approximately £350 per visit.

5. Recommendation

Recommendation: The Cabinet Committee is asked to receive and endorse the report.

7. Appendices:

Appendix 1 - GEDCCC District Visits Programme - Highlights of the visit to Ashford Borough Council on 11 October 2019

6. Contact details

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