

GEDCCC District Visits Programme

Highlights of the visit to Canterbury on 2 September 2022.

These highlights were also outlined in a slide presentation which is available from the author of the report to GEDCCC if requested.

1. Introduction

Overview of Place Services

- Regeneration
- Property
- Culture and Heritage
- Planning and Local Land Charges
- Environmental Health
- Engineering
- Harbour and Foreshore
- Transport and Environment
- Parking

Profile of the district:

- Population of 157,400
- Second largest population in Kent
- The economic powerhouse of east Kent, hosting:
- Kent's only city
- Four universities
- Three World Heritage Sites
- The home of the Church of England
- The county's largest visitor economy
- A working harbour
- 21.6km of coastline
- The Kent Downs AONB, which accounts for 1/3 of the district

2. Local Plan:

Currently being developed to 2045

3. Main challenges:

- Low wage economy
- Polarised age profile
- Congestion and air quality in the city and parts of our towns
- High future housing needs targets
- Impacts of Operation Brock on road networks
- Rapidly changing high street

- Stodmarsh and waste water discharges
- Increasing need for bus lanes and bus gates in the city

4. Main opportunities to harness:

- Levelling up agenda - two bids submitted
- A new hospital in Canterbury
- An ambitious Local Plan focussed on sustainable growth
- Resurgence in 'staycation' market
- New green investment - hydrogen and solar
- Taking back control - waste and housing services
- Modal shift - cycling, park and ride, walking
- Securing our green spaces for future generations

5. Levelling Up Bids:

Two Levelling Up Fund bids submitted to government:

1. Unlocking Canterbury's Tales of England

- Westgate improvements
- High Street improvements including the clock tower
- Canterbury Castle
- Promote green spaces and EV charging points and cycling/walking routes

2. Transformation of Herne Bay's Seafront

- King's Hall Landmark Music Centre – the venue would be transformed into a new multi-purpose music development, production and performance and community space.
- Central Bandstand Landmark Leisure Hub – currently in a poor condition and partially closed, the bandstand would be fully repaired and restored
- Connected Seafront – the project will create a new cycle and walking route, providing a safe and attractive link from Greenhill to the railway station and Memorial Park and through to the town centre and seafront.

6. The main projects in the district and part of the City Centre Tour

Canterbury

Beaney Library & Museum - 10 years on

Riverside development – recent opening of the Curzon cinema and retail units

Kingsmead Leisure Centre – prospective project to expand and refurbish the centre

Herne Bay

Beach Street redevelopment - proposals for the comprehensive and high quality redevelopment of the important town centre site

Whitstable

Harbour and seafront

7. KCC's support is required to:

- Lobby for the new hospital in Canterbury
- Enable the delivery of a visionary Local Plan for the district
- Deliver the infrastructure improvements to our road networks
- Eastern movement corridor and city circulation plan
- Harbledown road improvements
- A2 new slips and Brenley Corner improvements
- Sturry Road bus lane
- Plan and fund (with dev contributions) two new secondary schools on the coast
- Lobby for a speedy resolution to the Stodmarsh issue
- Support the delivery of KCC elements of our LUF bids and ambitions
- Support Network Rail and Southeastern railway and station improvements