

From: Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for Economic Development  
Simon Jones, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee  
9 November 2023

Subject: **District Visits Programme**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Past Pathway of Paper:** None

**Future Pathway of Paper:** None

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** This report outlines the outcome of the recent visit to Dover district as part of this programme and key issues raised during these visit as well as potential future visits.

**Recommendation:** The Cabinet Committee is asked to note the report and make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member on the future visits programme and that invitations to attend the visits be extended to the Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Community & Regulatory Services.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In 2017 Members of this Cabinet Committee 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, regeneration, community and infrastructure opportunities and challenges within each of the Kent districts.

1.2 This report outlines the programme of future visits to Kent districts in 2024 and a proposed new formalised internal monitoring process for key issues raised during these visits.

## 2. The visit to Dover

2.1 The visit details of the visit are summarised in Appendix 1 of this report.

2.2 The key priorities for Dover District Council are:

- Dover town centre
- Emphasis on connectivity to the beach/seafront
- Dover Beacon building
- Proposed new/refurbished access to the seafront via underpass.
- Renewed emphasis on heritage and archaeology
- Renewed tourism strategy and economic development strategy
- Need to re-brand Dover and make more of the coast as a tourist and leisure attraction

- Key transport projects

2.3 The main asks of KCC from the visit were:

- Discovery Centre - continued close working on the redevelopment, including reaching an agreement on the presentation and access to Local Studies collections
- M2/A2 Brenley Corner improvements
- A2 Dualling – Lydden to Dover
- Bifurcation of lorry traffic to Port of Dover via M2 and Folkestone via M20
- Potential for improvements at Whitfield roundabout as a DDC priority to improve it

2.4 These asks are to be reported at the next available meetings of:

Growth & Communities Divisional Management Team  
Highways & Transportation Divisional Management Team

to determine a response to Dover District Council and escalated, if required to:

Growth, Environment & Transportation Corporate Management Team for a response.

The initial response will be provided at the next meeting of the Growth, Economic Development & Communities Cabinet Committee meeting (January 2024)

2.5 An overview of the visit and an itinerary for the district are provided as Appendices 2 and 3 respectively.

**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, regeneration, community and infrastructure within each district. The content of each visit is principally determined by the district council, but key county council initiatives or aspects may also be included.

3.2 The visit programme for 2023 was delayed due to Local Elections:

Dover	2 October 2023
Maidstone	11 December (postponed) now likely to be January 2024
Further district visits	To be arranged from February 2024

3.3 The Committee has in the past visited Swale, Ashford, Folkestone and Hythe, Dover, Dartford, Tunbridge Wells, Gravesham and Tonbridge & Malling, Sevenoaks and Thanet as well as the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

3.4 These visits will be continued for a new cycle, following Cabinet Committee's recommendation to the Cabinet Member.

3.5 As agreed by the Cabinet Committee, should places be available, invitations will be extended to the Chair and Members of the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee. It is proposed here that this also now be formally extended to the Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Community & Regulatory Services.

#### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of coach hire is approximately £525 per visit.

#### 5. Recommendation

**Recommendation:** The Cabinet Committee is asked to note the report and make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member on the future visits programme and that invitations to attend the visits be extended to the Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Community & Regulatory Services.

#### 6. Contact details

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