

**Highlights of the visit to Maidstone Borough Council:**

**In attendance:**

**Maidstone Borough Council:**

Leader Of Maidstone Borough Council Cllr David Burton  
Paul Cooper Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Development

Officers

Alison Broom	Chief Executive
William Cornall	Director of Regeneration and Place
Angela Woodhouse	Director of Strategy, Insight & Governance
Chris Inwood	Economic Development Manager
Sarah Tobias	Innovation Centre Manager

**Kent County Council:**

Members of Growth, Economic Development & Communities Cabinet Committee (GEDCCC).  
Members of Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee (ETCC)

Avtar Sandhu	(Chair GEDCCC)
David Brazier	(Vice Chair GEDCCC)
Derek Crow-Brown	
Rosalind Blinks	
Mark Hood	

Attendance by other Members:  
Paul Cooper

**Officers:**

Steve Samson	(Interim Head of Economy)
Rob Hancock	(Programme Manager, Strategic Development & Place)

**Welcome**

Leader Of Maidstone Borough Council Cllr David Burton  
Paul Cooper Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Development

Avtar Sandhu Chair of GEDCCC thanked MBC for facilitating the visit on behalf of KCC.

**Main focus of the visit:**

**Employment Land developments**

- Maidstone Innovation Centre
- Woodcut Farm (Loc8)
- Former Sygenta Works (Yalding Enterprise Park)
- Lidsing Garden Community
- Heathlands Garden Community

- Town Centre – Maidstone East & Maidstone Riverside

### **Local Plan – key features**

- Plan for long term sustainable growth
- Coordinated delivery of new homes & jobs to support population growth
- Important to provide sufficient employment sites to ensure sustainable economic growth of the borough
- Local Plan found to be sound by PINS and will be published soon

### **Business**

Economic Vision: By 2030 Maidstone will excel as the 'Business Capital of Kent'

Five strategic priorities:

- Open for business
- Greener more productive economy
- A thriving rural economy
- Inclusive growth
- Destination Maidstone

Top 4 sectors are Construction; Professional, Scientific and Technical; Transport services and Business Administrative services.

### **The tour of Maidstone Innovation Centre**

The Centre generates income by offering several membership packages through the provision of flexible work space:

- Office Space from 141 sq ft
- Hot Desk & Co-working Studio
- Conference & Event Space
- Breakout Areas

Currently supports over a total of 52 businesses made up of 32 inhouse businesses & 20 virtual businesses, providing employment for 200 individuals.

### **Site visit to LOC8**

Part of the afternoon site visits included this logistics and warehousing site on a former 450 acre farm site with phase two in planning for delivery.

### **Maidstone Town Centre**

#### Approach:

Lift the tone of the town centre to make it a thriving place for projects and events which is characterised by MBC putting on events so community groups not charged. Mote Park events are charged with the money raised used to support community groups

Aim: Emphasis on re-invigorating the town centre through events and activities as well as supporting rural communities.

Funding: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Project A - Building Pride in Place through promotion of the Town Centre and Events.  
Project B- A Safe and Attractive Town Centre achieved through Greening and Lighting  
Project C - A Community Arts Hub & Maker Space  
Project D - Links from the Town Centre to Lockmeadow

### **Rural areas within the borough**

Aim: Supporting and Improving community infrastructure

Funding: Rural Prosperity Fund

### **Housing provision**

- 1,000 Affordable Homes Programme
- MBC Housing working with Golding Homes
- 10year plan to build 1000 homes directly as a £200m investment.

### **Key Asks of KCC:**

- KCC to confirm future of the Adult Education Centre
- Continue to working in partnership with KCC on key buildings such as Oakwood House and also Sessions House as a heritage anchor building.
- Further One Public Estate opportunities – new developments for disabled/elderly via joint ventures.
  
- Joint funding bids/opportunity for Joint Venture with KCC on downsizing for older people
- Leveraging CIL & S106: sites for new uses in the town centre and cooperation with KCC to ensure KCC 106 CIL money is spent