

From: Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee
- 9 May 2018

Subject: Members' Visit to Dover District April 2018

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report is in two parts. First, it summarises the outcomes of the recent visit by KCC Members to Dover District. Secondly it outlines the suggested programme of visits to other Kent districts later this year.

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 be tasked with arranging 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.

2. Visit to Dover District

2.1 The visit to Dover District on 19 April was arranged with the full support of officers and Members of Dover District Council.

2.2 Opportunities and challenges for economic development and regeneration in Dover District were recorded during the visit.

- Dover Old Town Projects (Maison Dieu, Market Square, Discovery Centre, Roman Painted House and Roman Lawn, High Street, connectivity to the Seafront, No Use Empty Projects)
- St James Commercial Development
- Discovery Park
- Betteshanger Sustainable Business Park and Country Park
- Infrastructure projects including A2 Dualling (Lydden to Dover) and bifurcation of traffic to the Port of Dover
- Dover Western Docks Revival
- Western Heights – opportunity for the local economy to benefit from tourism potential

These are described more fully in Appendix 1 to this report.

2.3 During the visit the Leader of Dover District Council identified four projects where he sought KCC's financial support:

- £600,000 KCC contribution to overall project costs and support for a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Maison Dieu project
- £480,000 KCC contribution to overall project costs and support for a Coastal Communities Fund bid for the Old Town / Market Square project
- A joint approach to the future of the KCC owned Discovery Centre
- A joint approach to the Western Heights, for example, potential projects at a Commonwealth Memorial site, Drop Redoubt, Citadel, South Front Barracks and Grand Shaft Barracks

2.4 The Cabinet Member for Economic Development will seek further information from Dover District Council as to how KCC might help, against the background that no finance provision for these projects has been included in KCC's 2018/19 budget.

3. Programme of Further Visits

3.1 Future Member visits to Kent districts are being arranged in collaboration with district and borough officers and Members. The format for each visit will be similar to that for Swale, Dartford and Dover, involving a day-long tour of the principal economic development and infrastructure developments within each district. An information pack and location map will be provided to each Member.

3.2 The next visit to Ashford Borough Council is planned for June 2018. The itinerary has yet to be finalised with district council colleagues, but it is anticipated the town centre, transport, housing and the southern expansion of the town will be the main features.

3.3 Visits to Thanet and Gravesham are being planned. Maidstone Borough Council was asked if they can organise a visit in the autumn of 2018.

3.4 Owing to the scale and complexity of proposed development a separate visit to the Ebbsfleet Garden City will be arranged for Members.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of coach hire is expected to be £350 per visit.

5. Recommendation:

5.1 The Cabinet Committee is asked to receive and endorse this report.

6. Appendices:

Appendix 1 - GEDCCC District Visits Programme

7. Contact details

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