

## Economic development consultations (Edenbridge) – Weds 26<sup>th</sup> March

<p><b>Employment &amp; skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problems finding suitably qualified staff</li> <li>• Perception of the skills gaps in the workforce</li> <li>• Links with local colleges, universities or job centres</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No links to job centres, schools &amp; colleges</li> <li>• No training opportunities for young people</li> <li>• Not enough known about industrial estate</li> <li>• No outreach training for colleges</li> <li>• Good community venues for outreach training courses</li> <li>• Good links with Chamber of Commerce through Town Partnership</li> <li>• Links with local businesses for new recruitment</li> <li>• More business breakfasts for industrial &amp; manufacturing</li> <li>• Long-term effect of Sainsburies on the High St</li> <li>• Employment needs of industrial estate not known in Edenbridge</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging more tourists to the district</li> <li>• Providing more places for tourists to stay</li> <li>• Providing tourism advice &amp; support for tourism businesses</li> <li>• Providing networking opportunities for tourism businesses &amp; accommodation providers</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better place for tourism brochures</li> <li>• Excellent tourism forum, good branding &amp; links</li> <li>• Better promotion of smaller tourism assets in Museum</li> <li>• Museum not promoted</li> <li>• Needs a hotel</li> <li>• Edenbridge do tourism well with Partners locally</li> <li>• Dated industrial estates – needs work</li> <li>• Centralised website (maintained) for tourism all located centrally</li> <li>• Environmental improvements needed around industrial estates</li> <li>• Marketing &amp; publicity needed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support services for businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you need business support &amp; advice? What areas of expertise are most important?</li> <li>• Are business loans sufficiently available?</li> <li>• What do you think the Council can do to help businesses in the district be more successful?</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better information on Council support services</li> <li>• Business support from Invicta needs promoted to chief commerce</li> <li>• Start up support needed for new businesses, including tax returns &amp; health &amp; safety</li> <li>• Streamline details of SDC business support</li> <li>• IT &amp; tech support (including social media) for small/micro businesses</li> <li>• Better communication needed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Energy &amp; sustainability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy advice available to businesses needs promoting by SDC</li> <li>• Businesses near river have adapted to flooding well</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can the Council do to help businesses use energy more carefully?</li> <li>• What can the Council do to help businesses to adapt to the changing climate e.g. the impact of severe weather and flooding?</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDC to pressure environmental agencies on their plans</li> <li>• Share SDC Climate/Energy Policy to allow others to learn</li> <li>• A lot of people to support energy efforts</li> <li>• Flood prevention needs a lot of work in Edenbridge</li> <li>• SDC to support local people in pressuring Environmental Agency to take plans forward</li> <li>• Better communication needed</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Places for growth &amp; improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there areas or locations in the district that should be identified for growth or improvement?</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aesthetics need improving on all three industrial estates – they are outdated and not fit for purpose</li> <li>• Leathermarket (in centre) needs redevelopment</li> <li>• Boarded units onto High Street</li> <li>• Warsop, Fircroft Way, Enterprise Way, Commerce Way</li> <li>• Bovis Roundabout unsightly</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying for improved rail transport</li> <li>• Including Swanley in the outer zone of TfL fare zone 6</li> <li>• Improve Swanley train station</li> <li>• Improve Bat &amp; Ball station</li> <li>• Improve roads/junctions that get very congested – specify or identify on the map</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stations need disabled access</li> <li>• Need direct rail connections from Gatwick</li> <li>• Poor access, accommodation &amp; rail links for business travel</li> <li>• Promote cycling from Leisure Centre, new stands being installed</li> <li>• Railway bridge needs to be heightened to allow buses &amp; lorries to travel under</li> </ul>
<p><b>Making the district a good place to do business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the district as a great place to set up a business</li> <li>• Making sure there is employment space to set up and expand a business – what premises' are in short supply</li> <li>• Helping town centres to be more vibrant</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber of Commerce want to turn Station Master House into a business hub (limited funds)</li> <li>• Premises needed for small/micro businesses</li> <li>• Inward investments from Sainsbury's</li> <li>• Make better use of employment space</li> <li>• Need for jobs club to be organised &amp; co-ordinated</li> <li>• Support Chamber of Commerce &amp; their activities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Broadband</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What areas in our district need faster broadband</li> <li>• Helping rural areas have faster broadband</li> <li>• Helping areas who want faster broadband to find local solutions</li> <li>• <i>Other challenges, key issues or opportunities</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superfast broadband available in Edenbridge (except Marsh Green) through Virgin</li> <li>• Marsh Green does not have broadband</li> <li>• Need more information</li> </ul>