

UNLOCKING KENT'S POTENTIAL – WEST KENT INPUT

Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee – 24 October 2013

Report of Chief Officer, Communities & Business

Status: For consideration

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report seeks Members' comments on the draft West Kent input to Unlocking Kent's Potential in advance of wider consultation. A final draft will be brought to Cabinet after consultation.

This report supports the Key Aim of a Dynamic and Sustainable Economy

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Hogarth

Contact Officer(s) Lesley Bowles, ext 7335

Recommendation to Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee:
Members' views are sought

Reason for recommendation: Members' views will be used to inform the final West Kent input to Unlocking Kent's Potential.

Introduction and Background

1. The West Kent Partnership has prepared a statement of shared investment priorities for West Kent in order to inform:
 - The development of Unlocking the Potential, the Kent and Medway growth strategy;
 - The development of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) being prepared by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership; and
 - The case for future investment from other sources as they emerge including future European funding streams.

The draft document includes:

- a brief summary of the current economic opportunities and challenges facing the three West Kent districts, based on the adopted West Kent Investment Strategy 2010-15;

- the area's key locations for growth (commercial and residential), as outlined in adopted and emerging District Local Plans;
- the key infrastructure requirements, both to bring forward specific schemes and to support wider strategic economic growth in both West Kent and other parts of Kent and East Sussex;
- the need to invest in priorities for business, skills and communities.

Conclusion

Members are asked for their views on the content of the paper and in particular the areas identified in the document within the Sevenoaks District before the document is circulated for wider circulation, including to the Economic & Community Development Advisory Committee, town and parish councils and partner organisations.

Key Implications

Financial

No additional financial resources are required to take forward this document. However, it will be used to attempt to access external funding to enhance economic development in the District.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications attached to the consultative document. A full risk assessment will be conducted.

Equality Impacts

An equality impact assessment will be undertaken.

Conclusions

Members' views are sought.

Appendices

Unlocking Kent's Potential – draft West Kent content

Background Papers:

KCC document - Unlocking the Potential

Lesley Bowles

Chief Officer Communities & Business