

# Partnership Matters



## A vibrant community force to drive East Kent forward



***Bringing together a wide range of partners from all different areas of the community, the East Kent Local Strategic Partnership represents a vital driving force to improve the quality of life of those living and working in East Kent.***

Stephen Kingsman, Chairman, EKLSPP

As one of East Kent's long-standing business leaders, I was delighted to be asked to be the founding Chairman of the East Kent Local Strategic Partnership and help build on the strong relationships that already exist through the former East Kent Partnership.

With a new and wider range of partners, my first challenge is to co-ordinate a partnership board of over 40 members, who each bring their individual enthusiasm and input to the table. With its combined expertise, the contribution of such an enormous overall network is immensely valuable.

I am also anxious to build a relationship within the Board based on the genuine respect which I hold for the views and enthusiasm of all the stakeholders in East Kent. It is clear that generally the whole community shares broadly similar views on their vision for East Kent and have very strong ideas on the future potential of their part of the county.

In my view, one of the priorities for this new partnership is to bring together the four Local Authority areas and align their views for East Kent with that of Kent as a whole. This is vital if we are to produce a strategy which everyone can sign up to, that inspires strong support and really produces results.

Even more importantly, East Kent's strategy needs to be aligned with both national and international factors affecting our community. Although the Board has little control over global economics, it is vital that East Kent is able to see through the short-term volatility and produce the right long-term strategy for our area.

As well as bringing together the voices of the community, I have been delighted to find that one of the benefits of our work has been to strengthen individual relationships between Board

members, which in turn has allowed more effective contact between organisations and enabled them to move forward in a way that they perhaps might not have done otherwise.

My task during the first year has been to bring the partnership together and clarify our vision and plans for the future. Now the role of the partnership will need to enter a more proactive phase. We want to build on all the plans that have been made and act as a catalyst to make things really happen for East Kent.

### Thanet successful with seaside bid for Margate

The regeneration of Margate seafront is looking more positive as a successful bid of £30,000 has been awarded to Thanet District Council by the Department of Culture, Media and Sports scheme under the Sea Change Programme.

The grant will help pay for an assessment of the viability of converting the Dreamland Cinema into a major entertainment complex and developing a heritage park on part of the site, celebrating some of the nation's oldest and most important seaside amusement park rides. It is hoped this could inspire a new generation of visitors and revitalise the area.

Thanks to additional financial contributions secured from the landowners and Margate Regeneration Programme (MRP) partners, a feasibility study is underway and scheduled for completion in March 2009. The MRP will oversee the study's production on behalf of the council who will conduct a public consultation as well as work with landowners and other key stakeholders before the feasibility study is completed.



## Which future for East Kent?



**The East Kent Local Strategic Partnership conference, held on the 23rd September 2008, was aimed at engaging stakeholders in a discussion on the future of East Kent, in particular how to develop a Sustainable Community Strategy covering all four districts.**

To move this forward, the EKLSP commissioned Experian, an information and marketing service provider, to undertake a Futures Study, with the aim of providing a strategic vision for the future of East Kent.

Following research into the major trends that are likely to shape the future of East Kent, Experian developed four narratives for the future of the region, which were put forward to the wider partnership conference.

- The first narrative, East Kent as an Academy for Learning and Business, focused on the area as a centre of excellence for learning and skills, and developing businesses in sciences, technology, engineering and digital media.
- East Kent as a Connected Gateway envisaged that the area build further on its role as a connected hub for passenger and freight transport, with the Port of Dover and Kent International Airport growing in regional importance.
- Thirdly, the Energy Powerhouse narrative saw East Kent becoming a leading supplier of energy and energy technologies, including renewable electricity generation and bio-fuel production.
- Finally, the Location, Location, Location narrative focused on East Kent as a great place to live and visit, building on its well known heritage, culture, leisure, sport and entertainment facilities.

Whilst all narratives were identified as having some part to play in the future of East Kent, the Location, Location, Location narrative was largely seen as contributing most to the region. In terms of its feasibility, Academy for Learning and Business was thought to sit better with current trends, policies and resident wishes.

The EKLSP concluded that its vision for 2030 was to transform East Kent, building on its unique location and heritage making it the beacon of innovation, enterprise and education excellence in the South East.

## Canterbury enterprise centre bucks economic trend



The newly established Lakesview Enterprise Centre in Canterbury, which provides office suites for local emerging businesses, is bucking the current economic trend and attracting a wealth of interest from companies seeking high-spec premises and value for money.

The Enterprise Centre, set up by the former East Kent Partnership thanks to funding by SEEDA (£250,000) and the City Council (£100,000), was built in partnership by GW Holdings Ltd and offers 14 small, high quality office suites.

It has already secured units for local businesses including Cantium Electronics, Real Group and Energy PA, and is close to signing up three further companies including an Accountant, a Biometrics company and a Health Therapy business.

The units' first tenants, electronic component distributor Cantium Electronics, was particularly attracted to the Enterprise Centre as it offered a new, clean environment with high-end facilities and value for money – a perfect combination for a start-up business.

## EKLSP website launched

**The EKLSP's new website has been launched, and can be found at [www.eastkentlsp.org.uk](http://www.eastkentlsp.org.uk)**



The website contains information about the EKLSP, its current activities and members. It also details initiatives being undertaken in all four districts, and acts as an information resource. In addition the website has a member's area for board members to access agendas, minutes and any confidential documents.

## Your East Kent LSP board



**Nadeem Aziz**  
Chief Executive,  
Dover District Council



**Sue Buss**  
Principal, Thanet College



**Alison Clarke**  
Principal & Executive  
Director, Canterbury College



**Denise Everitt**  
Chairman Deputy Vice-  
Chancellor, University  
of Kent at Canterbury



**Peter Hobbs**  
Chief Executive, Channel  
Chamber of Commerce



**Trevor Minter**  
Director, Strand House  
and Creative Foundation



**Jane Spurgin**  
Partnership Director, South  
East, Learning & Skills Council  
Kent & Medway



**Paul Watkins**  
Leader,  
Dover District Council



**Robert Bliss**  
Leader,  
Shepway District Council



**Colin Carmichael**  
Chief Executive,  
Canterbury City Council



**Andrew Scott-Clark**  
Deputy Director of Public  
Health, Eastern & Coastal  
Kent PCT



**Bob Goldfield**  
Chairman  
Chief Executive,  
Port of Dover



**Stephen Kingsman**  
Chairman  
Chief Executive,  
Denne Group



**John Molloy**  
Chief Superintendent  
for East Kent, Kent Police



**Alistair Stewart**  
Chairman  
Chief Executive,  
Shepway District Council



**Sheila Watson**  
Archdeacon,  
Canterbury Cathedral



**Monica Box**  
Principal,  
South Kent College



**Kevin Charles**  
Community Affairs Manager,  
Pfizer Ltd



**Des Crilley**  
Director of Community  
Cultural Services,  
Kent County Council



**Steve Griffiths**  
Assistant Director  
Community Safety,  
Kent Fire & Rescue Service



**Alan Marsh**  
County Councillor for Herne  
and Sturry,  
Kent County Council



**Susan Priest**  
Area Director Kent  
& Medway, SEEDA



**Philip Sturt**  
External Relations and  
Communications Manager,  
Jobcentre Plus



**Rodney Williamson**  
County Secretary,  
Kent Association  
of Local Councils

**David Ashworth**, Area Director- South East, English Partnerships

**Charles Bicker**, Chairman, K&M Social Enterprise Network

**Chris Capon**, Kent County Council

**Paul Carter**, Leader, Kent County Council

**Alison Clarke**, Principal & Executive Director, Canterbury College

**Jan Druker**, Senior Pro Vice Chancellor,  
Canterbury Christ Church University

**Sandy Ezekiel**, Leader, Thanet District Council

**John Gilbey**, Leader, Canterbury City Council

**Keith Hargrave**, Principal, The Canterbury Campus

**Bob Jones**, Managing Director, Business Services, Business Link Kent

**Geoff Miles**, Managing Director, The Maidstone Studios

**Gerry Pack**, Chairman, Holiday Extras

**Carol Parsons**, Director, Kent County Council,  
Children, Families & Education Directorate

**Jan Perfect**, Chief Executive, CASE Kent

**Richard Samuel**, Chief Executive, Thanet District Council

**David Tamsitt**, Director of Mental Health, K&M NHS  
and Social Care Partnership Trust

**Janet Waghorn**, Partnership Director, EKLSP

**Rupert Williamson**, Strategic Development Manager,  
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust

**Di Woolloff**, Head of Service, Place East at GOSE

## CRATE Success



***CRATE, a Margate based artists studio and project space, took centre stage in Liverpool on the 20th November at a national conference for creative workspaces run by the National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers (NFASP).***

Crate, represented by artists Caron Otwell and Kirsty Quaife, put Margate firmly on the UK creative map, in a line-up that included a strong endorsement from Barbara Follett, Minister of State for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism for the work of NFASP. She particularly mentioned the importance of developing spaces that support creative industries outside London in the regions.

At the conference, Crate was recognised as a rare gem in the UK. Its value as an organisation resides in that it is artist-led and provides an important platform for the growth of the visual arts sector in Margate. In addition the ownership of the freehold of the building, and its organic, bottom-up approach to its own development makes it sustainable.

It contributes to Margate's culturally led regeneration at a time when many coastal towns are striving to achieve this. Margate's distinctiveness will be as home to Turner Contemporary, and as a centre of excellence for contemporary art - evidenced by exhibitions, festivals and community engagement in the arts. Crate is a pioneer organisation in Margate and it is a model whose importance is recognised by Arts Council England, Thanet District Council, Kent County Council and East Kent Partnership, who invested in its start-up. The Crate model, which provides important focus for the creative community will help to ensure that future creative pioneers and new graduates will be retained.



Creative Margate, led by Margate Renewal Partnership, is a new ten-year cultural programme for the town that aims to compliment and maximise the opportunities presented by Turner Contemporary. It has the development of sustainable, artist-led workspace as a cornerstone of its approach. More information available from [derek.harding@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:derek.harding@thanet.gov.uk).

Thanet District Council also supports creative workspace and artists through the new IsleArts initiative due to be launched very shortly and Arts Development Officer, Heather Sawney, has information on Thanet studio spaces and joining the professional arts community. [heather.sawney@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:heather.sawney@thanet.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01843 577428.

Crate's future is looking bright. Following a renaissance in the organisation, six new artists occupy the studios and Matthew de Pulford has joined the organisation as curator. He has plans to increase Crate's outward facing activities and increase the organisation's profile across the town. Watch this space.  
[www.cratespace.co.uk](http://www.cratespace.co.uk)

