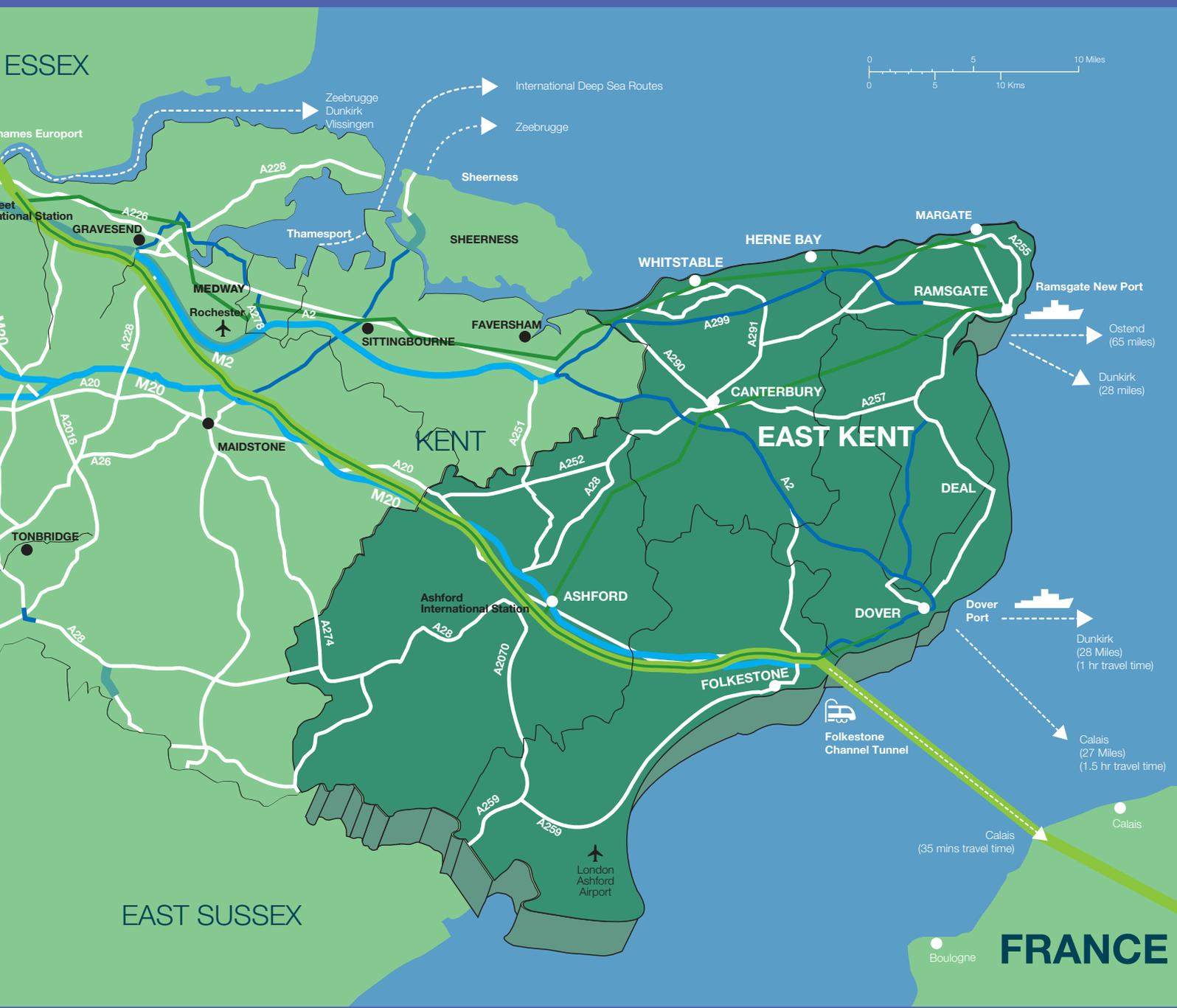


East Kent - The Gateway to UK plc



Foreword

East Kent is of national importance to the UK economy. We are the gateway location that links the UK with continental Europe through key infrastructure - the High Speed 1 rail network, the Channel Tunnel and the ports of Dover and Ramsgate. The importance of investing in our infrastructure is therefore key to the future success of UK plc, as well as to our own economic prosperity

The East Kent economy has enormous potential to grow. We are a significant economic sub-region which combines a distinctive and unique blend of international connectivity, proximity to London and mainland Europe, world class education institutions, incredible coastal assets and a rapidly expanding base of high growth sectors. These are providing a strong platform for growth.

Considerable progress has been made in recent years to deliver economic growth through a combination of private and public sector investment. However, we believe that we can do much better. Looking forward to the next 10 years, we believe that we could create 86,300 new dwellings and generate more than 47,400 jobs. However, to achieve this we need Government recognition of our case and to invest in East Kent. This will deliver good value for money and significant benefits for UK plc.

Cllr Gerald Clarkson - Leader - Ashford Borough Council
Cllr Simon Cook - Leader - Canterbury City Council
Cllr Keith Morris - Leader - Dover District Council
Cllr David Monk - Leader - Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Cllr Paul Carter - Leader - Kent County Council
Cllr Bob Bayford - Leader - Thanet District Council

January 2018



40% of UK trade to Europe goes through the Channel Tunnel and ports of Dover and Ramsgate in East Kent.



East Kent generates £11.9 billion to the UK economy (2016).



395,599 people of working age = 42% of those in Kent, 16% in SE LEP area, 1% in GB.



238,000 total employment = 38% of total employment in Kent, 15% in SELEP area, 1% in GB.



East Kent's two largest universities together have an output of £900 million (2014), employ 7,800 people and attract almost 32,000 HE students.



International Sporting Events - The Open at Royal St Georges, Sandwich brought an additional £17.65 million to the East Kent economy in 2011 and is due to return in 2020.



HS1 – 10 million passengers each year to and from London.



Channel Tunnel - has average of 57,000 passengers per day; since opening has had 25 million trucks, transported more than 320 million tonnes of freight goods and seen 390 million passengers using its services.



The Port of Dover saw 2.6 million lorries carrying £122 billion of freight in 2017 - a 33% increase over the past 5 years



£510 million tourism-related spend (2015).

About East Kent

- East Kent provides the largest single access to the country with 40% of trade going through Dover and Ramsgate ports and the Channel Tunnel.
- We play a critical role in the overall prosperity of the UK offering direct access to multiple inbound and overseas destinations.
- We are a significant economic sub-region which generates £11.9 billion to the UK economy (2016) and offers unrivalled potential for growth.
- We have distinct characteristics that support our potential for growth, including:
 - A rapidly-expanding high growth sector.
 - Fast proximity to London and mainland Europe.
 - Excellent international connectivity.
 - World-class education institutions.
 - Incredible quality of life assets in beautiful coastal and rural settings.
- The return on investing in East Kent will help UK plc to prosper and help us to fulfil our ambitions for growth and bring economic prosperity.

Why Invest in East Kent

- Growth will be achieved through targeted investment in four key objectives:
 - 1. Investing in infrastructure to unlock growth** - we need sites for development, an effective transport and digital infrastructure and targeted upgrading of our road and rail networks (particularly HS1) to enhance domestic and international connectivity.
 - 2. Delivery of business space** – high quality flexible modern commercial space is needed in the right locations to support our businesses to grow and to attract new investment.
 - 3. Supporting innovation, productivity and skills** – creating an environment for innovation, productivity growth and enhancing our workforce talent will strengthen us further.
 - 4. Place making and shaping** – investment will enhance East Kent as a location of first choice that retains and attracts young people, families and entrepreneurs, maximises the potential of our natural assets and enhances our town centres.

- Our investment plans are in line with the Government's economic agenda.
- Our proposed investments aim to capitalise further the benefits from HS1 and the proposed Lower Thames Crossing, and will have a positive impact on the rest of the country, including the Midlands Engine and the Northern Powerhouse, as well as realising appropriate solutions to Operation Stack and the impacts of Brexit.
- The East Kent local authorities have a strong record of working together to plan for and execute investment. through for example, the East Kent Spatial Development Company (EKSDC) which is bringing forward employment space.

Our Investment Priorities

- Our five critical and nationally significant investment priorities for East Kent, particularly in a post Brexit environment where the need to keep trade moving while enabling growth, are:
 - **A2/M2 Strategic network improvements** - required to support the new Lower Thames Crossing, the growth of Canterbury and the ports of Dover and Ramsgate.
 - **M20/A20 improvements** - supporting the growth of Ashford, Dover and Shepway, including junction 10A, a solution to Operation Stack, HGV overnight parking and access to the Port of Dover.
 - **Rail capacity, speeds, frequency and associated infrastructure improvements** - including Ashford SPURS, Westenhanger Station enhancement, and Thanet Parkway.
 - **A28 corridor artery improvements** – stretching across East Kent from Margate in Thanet to Ashford via the City of Canterbury, this includes eight separate but connected transport infrastructure projects to improve road links, address bottlenecks and ease problems of congestion.
 - **Investment in Higher/Further Education, Innovation and Productivity** - in order to enhance further our capacity to drive forward growth.
- Our East Kent Economic Growth Framework background report sets out further specific investment priorities to achieve long- term economic growth across East Kent. We believe that these have the capacity to deliver 86,300 new dwellings and 47,400 jobs in East Kent over the next 10 years.



East Kent - The Gateway to UK plc - is:

Well Connected

HS1 provides direct links to 11 major European cities via the only High Speed rail service through the Channel Tunnel



Economically Vibrant

Major businesses include P&O, Saga, Premier Foods, Coty Rimmel, Cummins Power, Bretts, Vattenfall, Wahl and EDF



Innovative

A Life Science-focused Enterprise Zone at Discovery Park and two innovation centres



Highly Accessible

The Port of Dover is only 21 miles from Calais and the Port of Ramsgate is only 28 miles from Dunkirk.



Close to London

Ashford International is only 38 mins from London



Fantastic Environment

77 miles of stunning accessible coastline



Contact us:

Ashford Borough Council
Andrew Osborne
economicdevelopment@ashford.gov.uk

Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Katharine Harvey
economy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Canterbury City Council
Nick Churchill
business@canterbury.gov.uk

Kent County Council
Dave Hughes
dave.hughes@kent.gov.uk

Dover District Council
Tim Ingleton
Tim.ingleton@dover.gov.uk

Thanet District Council
Louise Askew
Business.support@thanet.gov.uk