

A G E N D A

West Kent Partnership Meeting

Friday 13 June, 2008, 10am Kings Hill Conference Centre

Theme: Empowering Partnership to influence economic and strategic issues affecting West Kent

1. Adam Wilkinson, Managing Director Environment & Regeneration, KCC - Presentation and Q&A (30 mins)
2. Susan Priest, Area Director, Kent, South East England Development Agency – Presentation and Q&A (30 mins)
3. Area Investment Framework
 - AIF final year headline monitoring report –Tony Bartlett (Paper A)
 - West Kent Investment Strategy - Mark Raymond (verbal update)
4. Co-ordinator Report – Wendy Wood (Paper B)
 - West Kent Leader Programme
 - Financial Report
 - Marketing Report
5. Hot issues
 - Dualling of the A21 – Peter Fleming
6. Dates of Next Meetings
 - Thursday 17 July, 08 Kings Hill Conference Centre, 10am
 - Monday 22 September, 08 – Conference 10am-2pm, Chiddingstone Castle - provisional
 - Thursday 16 October, Kings Hill Conference Centre, 10am
 - Thursday 22 January, 09, Kings Hill Conference Centre, 10am
 - Thursday 23 April, 09, Kings Hill Conference Centre, 10am
 - Thursday 16 July, 09, Kings Hill Conference Centre, 10am
 - Thursday 15 October, 09, Kings Hill Conference Centre, 10am

PAPER A

WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP – AIF MONITORING REPORT		APRIL 08 (covering Oct 07-Mar 08)	
Priority for Action	Progress	Successes/barriers/key future actions	Status
Strategic Objective 1		RAISE PROFILE OF WK AS A KEY AREA FOR INVESTMENT	
1.1 Develop and implement communication plan	Action Delivered	Stand at Kent 2020 exhibition Apr 08, sponsoring Best Growing Business Category of WK Business Awards	green
1.2 Develop marketing material for West Kent	Action Delivered	Website developed in partnership with West Kent College students	green
1.3 Partnership Members champion WK and lobby on issues	WKP speakers include Chief Executive South East England Regional Assembly and Director General Planning Communities and Local Government	Common themes for business to be identified at Kent 2020 Exhibition	green
1.4 Raise Tourism offer of West Kent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Heart of Kent Tourism Strategy 2006-11 Seek closer working relationship with Kent Tourism Authority 	Leader will help deliver working through Heart of Kent representatives	Heart of Kent to build Leader projects, possible interreg 4 opportunities Closer liaison established - Heart of Kent & Economic group	Green Green
1.5 Promote WK to maximise 2012 opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominate a WK 2012 contact point Develop a plan with focus on legacy 	WKP co-ordinate links to Kent 2012 manager & other groups	Plan will be developed from current links and involvement of Economic group. Close liaison with WK Local Authorities	Green Green
1.6 Identify ways to work with local business - raise WK profile	Links to SO3.	Businesses to be canvassed at Kent2020 exhibition	green
Strategic Objective 2		MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS TO ENHANCE THEIR SKILLS	
2.1 Support the WK 14-19 Forum in delivery of their activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprise education in WK schools and colleges Improved provision of specialist support for children Extending provision of alternative curriculum 	Most West Kent schools registered with Kent Works No update provided Action Plan developed	Flexibility in programme, more business involvement required No update provided 14-16, 16-18 and 19+ provision continue to be enhanced	Amber Amber Green

Priority for Action	Progress	Successes/barriers/key future actions	Status
2.2 Develop specific proposals in line with business needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land based activities Logistics Leadership and management 	Timescale to be altered to long in line with WKC rebuild Plans for continuing professional development centre at WKC	CPD centre planned with Business Development resources	Green Green Green
2.3 Promote local take up of WK FE/HE training course	Comprehensive prospectuses both Hadlow and WKC	No update provided	Amber
Strategic Objective 3			
SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ECONOMY			
3.1 Establish group to be the voice for WK businesses	Leader Local Action Group to represent rural businesses; website in place to support a group	Businesses to be invited to sign up to more involvement at Kent 2020	Green
3.2 Maximise enterprise devel, innovation & business growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate supply and demand for workspace Encourage and support social enterprise Ensure adequate support for small businesses Identify shared issues for WK businesses 	Action Delivered Business Link Kent is a social enterprise. WKP part funded VAWK post BLK telephone advice line, clinics and support service Issues for landbased and rural identified in Leader bid	Supply and demand study informing Development Control departments Advice available from BLK and VAWK Survey planned at Kent 2020 to identify shared issues	Green Green Green Green
3.3 Encourage WK employers adopt sustainable business & Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	BLK actively promoting CSR. Two WKP sponsored projects link to CSR	Give & Gain completing, Small Business Ambassadors ongoing	Green
3.4 Promote policies that seek the retention of employmt land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage LA planners to liaise for consistency Enc policies to assist farm diversification and rural development 	Meeting taken place, action ongoing	Continued communication, Locate in Kent report informs Planning issues central area to address in Leader	Green Green
3.5 Promote partnerships between schools and businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Enterprise Education in WK schools 	Small Business Ambassadors programme underway and links to Kent Works	Ongoing	Green

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore development of incubator space at schools 	Under consideration at WKC new campus but space limited	TWBC working with Canterbury Christchurch at Salomons – linked to health	Green
3.6 Encourage public sector to support SME via procurement	WK covered by county wide initiative Kent Partnership and Big Solutions	Public sector procurement mailing & event under consideration.	Green
3.7 Support the development and econ enhancement of towns	TW undertook fact finding trip to Chichester	Information sharing between WK districts continues	Green
3.8 Support the dev & econ enhancement of small rural towns	Health checks completed/underway in Hawkhurst, Paddock Wood, West Malling and Edenbridge		Green
3.9 promote and nurture entrepreneurial ventures & start ups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore Enterprise Gateway potential Support entrepreneurship.... 	Core activity for BLK with delivery through WK area team SEEDA redefining strategies – no Enterprise Gateway BLK have ongoing support programmes, also Ent agencies	Ongoing core activity. 121 through enterprise agencies Pre-start support through existing EGs WKP sponsoring Best Growing Business category - West Kent Business Awards	Red Green
Strategic Objective 4			
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRIORITY COMMUNITY AREAS			
4.1 Address community regeneration & economic needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T&M TW Sevenoaks 	Regeneration partnerships in priority communities active TN2 Centre received over 8K visitors Oct-Dec New developments - West Kent Coldstore site, Dunton Green, Swanley Town Centre, Fort Halstead, New Ash Green	Consultation and ongoing reviews and planning YMCA Horizon Project to offer training at TN2 from Sep Work currently ongoing	Green
4.2 Seek to secure development of Childrens Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T&M TW Sevenoaks 	3 childrens centres to be estab – E Malling, N T & S Ton Nov event re Children & Young People well attended Edenbridge and Swanley Childrens Centres being progressd	Secure Implementation Plans for round continue to progress Sevenoaks South and Swanley and District Local Childrens Services partnerships in place, with managers to be appointed by end May	Green
4.3 Promote the emotional & economic well being of children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T&M TW Sevenoaks 	Community based Youth Health project launched Youth Strategy developed 3 lottery funded children's play projects completed in Swanley, Edenbridge and Westerham	Further roll out of health programe Successful bid for Detached Play Work Big Lottery 3 lottery funded projects to be delivered in next 6 months	Green

Priority for Action	Progress	Successes/barriers/key future actions	Status
4.4 Co-ordinate health initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T&M TW Sevenoaks 	Co-ord health improvement proj using Choosing Health Choosing Health projects identified and underway 23 Choosing Health initiatives already running and received successful evaluations. Healthy Lifestyles project in partnership with WKPCT underway	Implement range of new choosing health projects Stronger Healthier Communities co-ord post in place Further initiatives to be developed in partnership WKPCT. Action Plan for Sevenoaks District Health Action Team being developed.	Green
4.5 Promote a healthy voluntary sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T&M TW Sevenoaks 	Action plan agreed with Volunteer bureaux Clearer grants process adopted To be supplied	Address voluntary sector outcomes from KA2 Grants recommended for 08/09 = £311K To be supplied	Green
4.6 Help reduce levels of crime and the fear of crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T&M TW Sevenoaks 	CDRP lead Kent, implementation National Intellig model 13% reduction in crime April 07-Feb 08 Crime fell by 15% 07/08 compared to 06/07	CDRP to be re-branded as Community Safety Pship Working on new 3 year action plan with 56 actions	Green
4.7 Work jointly to encourage sustainable lifestyles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T&M TW Sevenoaks 	Climate change strategy adopted TW SCP performing well Following Nottingham Declaration actions incorporated in SDC Sustainable Community Plan	Implementation of action plan underway New TW LSP – inaugural meeting 23 April 08	Green
Strategic Objective 5			
EXPAND ACCESS TO A RANGE OF HOUSING OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND WORKERS			
5.1 Develop overarching WK housing strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop sub-reg approach to housing needs older ple Develop WK actions for gypsies and travellers Develop housing solutions for vulnerable young ple Investigate cross boundary choice based letting schm 	5.1 (but not sub sections) Completed Future project group meeting to be held in April Stakeholder consultation in April/May led by KCC Supporting People funding committed for this year Phase 1 delayed by 3 months	Potential to identify further areas for joint working Brief to be produced, timeframe agreed, funding ops explrd SEERA reviewing figures on county wide basis Russet identifying potential sites working with 3 Las On target for implementation during 2008	Green Green Green Green
5.2 Seek opportunities for essential worker housing schemes	TWBC negotiating with AXA to investigate capital investment	Action plan to be adopted and implemented	green

Priority for Action	Progress	Successes/barriers/key future actions	Status
Strategic Objective 6	INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN WEST KENT		
6.1 Lobby for improvements to the A21, A228 & M25 sliproads	Regional Funding Allocation programmed to 2016	Pembury Hospital development might promote ColtsHill link	amber
6.2 Develop good working relations with rail franchisee & DfT	South Eastern Railways actively engaging	Secure attendance at sg meetings by Network Rail rep	green
6.3 Provide strategic input into Local Transport Plan	Strategic input from group given, LTP now adopted	Action complete but maintain watching brief	green
6.4 Develop innovative solutions for rural transport options	Working towards links with Communities in Rural Kent	Develop SDC work on a WK level	green
6.5 Investigate development of further Quality Bus P/ships	All districts are, or will be addressing feasibility of QBPs	Continue liaising with bus companies to improve services	green
6.6 Address transport issues related to new Pembury hospital	Transport issues being identified at local level	Group to form view on strategic impacts	Green
6.7 Promote transport facilities in Ton/TW transport hub	Staffing at KCC needs to be adequate for hub	Group to monitor VISUM model and joint strategy for hub	green
Strategic Objective 7	MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAND BASED AND OTHER RURAL BUSINESSES		
7.1 Develop task group to explore remit to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise opportunities to benefit produced in Kent Promote farm diversif including production biofuels Explore potential for rural bus incubator initiatives Lobby for funding for land-based skills training 	Task group has delivered conference, Local Action Group now in place. Leader bid submitted	Decision on LEADER bid expected mid-May 08 Successful Leader bid will deliver on all of SO7 and draw in up to £2M to rural W.	Green Green Green Green

53 priorities for action, 48 (90%) on target for delivery or delivered, four amber (8%) and one red (2%)

2.1.1 More business involvement required. WKP to contact businesses who registered at Kent 2020 and offer opportunity to be involved.

2.1.2 non-report – provide support to Learning and Skills subgroup to help monitor

2.3 non-report – provide support to learning and Skills subgroup to help monitor

6.1 Continue to lobby on Colts Hill Link around Pembury Hospital development but decision currently is no link.

PAPER B – Co-Ordinator Report

West Kent Leader Programme

Background

- 1 Leader is a new source of funding (£29.8 million for the period 2008 – 2013 in the South East) for rural businesses and communities. Funds are awarded to local action groups and shared amongst projects to help address local problems and encourage opportunities for economic development. Leader can support a range of schemes, including farm diversification projects and adding value to farming and forestry throughout West Kent.

Submission of bid

- 2 In January 2008, the West Kent Partnership (WKP) submitted a bid for £2 million of 'Leader' support which is being offered by the South-East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) and through The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)
- 3 The West Kent Leader Programme (WKLP) aims to promote sustainable business growth within the land-based and rural economies in the area. Investment through the WKLP is intended to improve the long-term viability of businesses and to reduce their reliance on future support funding.
- 4 A West Kent Leader Local Development Strategy has been produced setting out key aims and objectives of the proposed project. This is being further developed.
5. The bid proposed that the West Kent Partnership will have a strategic management role with regard to the West Kent Leader programme in the same way as it oversees the West Kent AIF.
6. The Programme will be delivered through The West Kent Local Action Group (WFLAG). Sevenoaks District Council is the accountable body and will employ the programme manager. The WFLAG will have strategic management support from the West Kent Partnership with continuity of involvement of organisations and individuals across both the West Kent and LAG partnerships.

Outcome and conditions

- 7 On 9 May 2008, the West Kent Leader Group received notification that the Leader Panel had approved its bid for funding. SEEDA had originally stated that 100% of administration and facilitation costs would be eligible for funding (capped at 20% of total WKLP bid), and no local budgets were therefore set to supplement the grant. However, the award of grant is now conditional on the West Kent Local Action Group (WFLAG) arranging match

funding of 50% of the total administration costs (£400,000). This is now a requirement of all potential Leader bids.

- 8 The WKLAG is consequently now required to arrange funding for £200,000 (50%) over the next 5 years if it is to secure £1.8 million SEEDA funding.
- 9 It is proposed that the four funding partners of the WKP are requested to provide this match funding. These are Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and Kent County Council. Each partner is requested to make an equal financial contribution (25%) of the match funding, details of which are set out below.

New funding requirements for the period 2008-2013 (to nearest £100)

Years (calendar)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Total (£)	18,100	34,700	35,300	37,000	37,400	37,500	200,000
Each partner		8,700	8,800	9,300	9,300	9,400	45,500

- 10 The WKLAG will continue to explore other external funding options to replace partners' contributions. A meeting is scheduled with SEEDA with all Leader groups to explore alternative options to secure the administration shortfall with a proposal being put to SEEDA that funds for this are made available from the wider RDPE programme in the South East.
11. As part of its strategic role in the potential West Kent Leader Programme, the WKP agreed funding of £10,000 in July 2007 to prepare the Leader bid. Subsequently SEEDA provided funding of £6331. WKP expenditure was £2516. There is therefore £7484 of agreed Leader support funding still unspent. A further £10,616 would be required to make up all the first year shortfall.
12. As local authority budgets have been set for the current year and in support of its strategic role in the West Kent Leader Programme, it is proposed that the WKP make provision to fund the shortfall for 2008 if an alternative way forward cannot be agreed with SEEDA.

Recommendation

13. **The WKP is asked**
 - a. **to formally endorse supporting the West Kent Leader Programme.**
 - b. **To provisionally approve additional funding of £10,616 to support WKLP in 2008 pending the outcome of negotiations with SEEDA.**
 - c. **To agree to consider funding for future years depending on the outcome of the negotiations with SEEDA**

WKP Financial Report - April 08

	2003/4 Actual	2004/5 Actual	2005/6 Actual	2006/7 Actual	2007/8 Actual	2008/9 Anticipated	TOTAL
Income	50000	55000	55000	56000	58700	61331	336031
b/f previous year		36211	4595	11615	-21892	405	30934
Resource available	50000	91211	95806	108421	89229	92265	
Expenditure							
overhead (co-ordinator + marketing)	2429	22955	30456	32009	31948	35000	154797
Projects	11360	27450	23679	43880	26347	57265	189981
Total spend	13789	50405	54135	75889	58295	92265	344778
Net income carried forward	36211	40806	41671	32532	30934	0	
Analysis of Projects							
Key Worker	15000						15000
WKCVS post		6250	18750	12500	12500		50000
Priority Communities		7000					7000
Safety in Action		4600					4600
Volunteering England		9600					9600
AIF review			4929				4929
Ssky				10000			10000
Small Business Ambassadors				5000	5000		10000
Give & Gain				16380			16380
Leader Bid					8847		8847
TOTAL allocated	15000	27450	23679	43880	26347		136356
							136356

External Funding (SEEDA)

Home based businesses Project	25000
Destination Management System	25000

2007/08 Year End Figures - Notes

Additional income shown = contributions towards conference
 £6331 grant will be received in 08/09 from SEEDA to be offset against Leader bid costs

Marketing

West Kent Business Excellence Awards

This awards programme is in its inaugural year in West Kent and was launched at the end of March.

The West Kent Partnership is sponsoring the Best Growing Business Award, one of nine category sponsors. This involvement is intended to increase the Partnership's profile with West Kent Businesses. Sponsors benefit from 4 editorial pieces in Courier newspapers. Peter Fleming will present the Award at the Awards Ceremony to be held on October 23rd.

Kent 2020 Exhibition – 3 April 2008

The WKP took a stand in the regeneration zone to engage more effectively with West Kent Businesses. 26 West Kent Businesses completed a questionnaire to identify their biggest issues. The top 3 issues were transport infrastructure; cost of premises and affordability of housing. Businesses were also invited to register to be kept in the loop on the action the partnership is taking to tackle these and other important issues for local businesses.

Conference

Initial planning is underway for the 2008 conference. It is proposed that this will take place on the morning of Monday 22 September at Chiddingstone Castle and will be themed around support of the tourism economy in West Kent.