

Unlocking Kent's Potential

Kent County Council's framework for regeneration



There are major economic opportunities in the county

Thames Gateway - Kent



Whilst there is no doubt that international and global forces will shape the future of the Kent economy, we believe that this reinforces the need to act locally to support businesses and to help set the right conditions for economic growth. This Framework sets out some of the contributions that we intend to make to achieve this goal.

Increasing productivity is based on marshalling a range of key factors and resources. In Kent, there are a number of transformational investments that will contribute. Amongst many, these include:

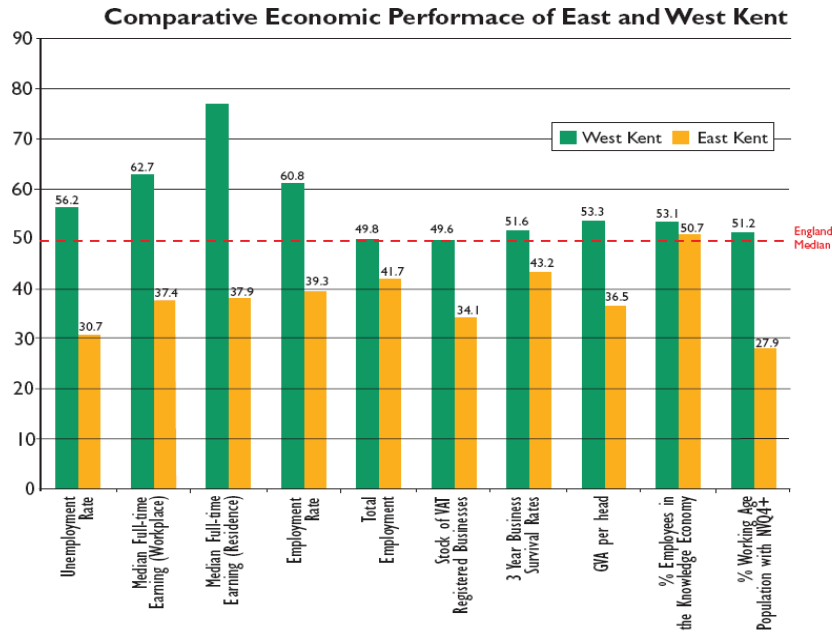
- The development and build out of employment space at Ebbsfleet Valley and Kent Thameside, Ashford, Manston, Dover and Sittingbourne

Manston Airport



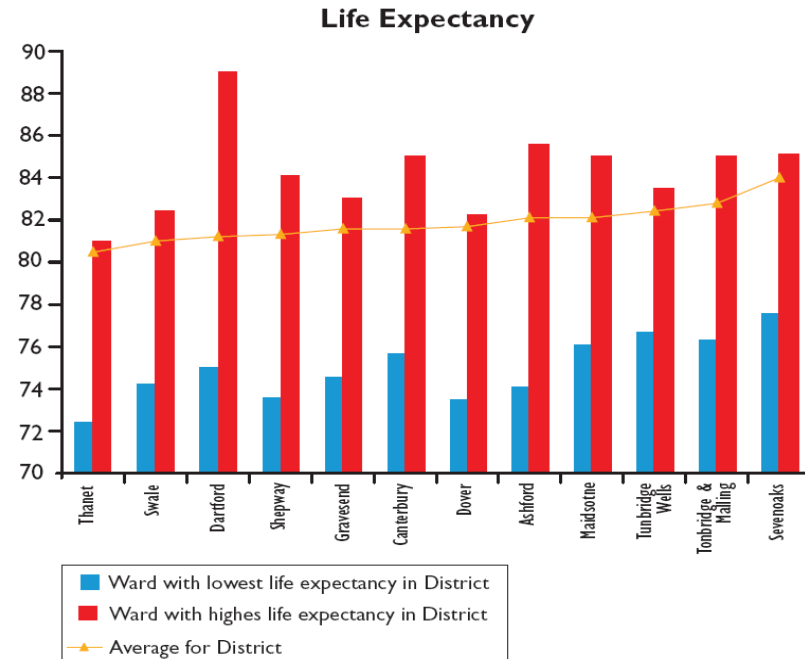
- Combining employment growth with housing growth in the Thames Gateway and Ashford growth areas and Dover and Maidstone growth points in Kent
- Maximising the role of High Speed One services and the opportunities of Manston and Lydd airports together with the expansion of the Port of Dover and the development of a third Lower Thames Crossing
- A sequence of transport investments to road and rail and public transport
- Cultural regeneration investments, especially in Margate, Folkestone and Canterbury

We must tackle socio-economic differences within the county to deliver a high quality of life for all our residents



Tackling divergences in economic performance

The graph highlights the wide variance of economic performance, employment patterns and skills levels across Kent. While there is considerable divergence within and between districts across the county, there are differences in educational attainment, skills, access to services and quality of housing between East and West Kent. We need to focus our efforts to ensure that no young person leaves school without going into further education, employment or training; the commercial advantage of Kent, and particularly east Kent, in property and labour costs; and tackling sub-standard housing



and reducing health inequalities so that all residents in Kent enjoy a high quality of life.

Promoting better quality of life

Overall people in Kent enjoy better health and live longer than the average in England. Life expectancy at birth in Kent is 79.7 years (81.7 for women and 77.6 for men). But between the best and the worst wards in Kent there is a 16.6 year difference. Even in the district with the least difference (Tunbridge Wells) there is a 6.8 year gap between the best and the worst wards.