



# Thames Gateway Kent Newsletter

Aug 2012

Contact the TGKP Executive: [info@thamesgateway-kent.org.uk](mailto:info@thamesgateway-kent.org.uk)

Tel: 01634 338148 [Website: www.tgkp.org.uk](http://www.tgkp.org.uk)

## Thames Gateway Kent Partnership News

TGKP's **Regional Growth Fund** bid – TIGER Thames Gateway Innovation and Growth – has been shortlisted for round three funding, together with 277 others of the original 409 applicants. The shortlisted bids have a combined value of £2.1bill so the process remains very competitive. Final decisions will be announced in the Autumn.

To coincide with the commencement of the London 2012 Games, TGKP has worked with Thames Gateway partners to produce a brochure on **Inward Investment Opportunities in Thames Gateway**. This has been made available at various promotional events organised during the Games and is available on the TGKP website.

TGKP's latest **Economic Indicators Dashboard** for August reveals mixed economic trends for North Kent. JSA claimant rates have continued to fall from last month, but at the same time the wider unemployment rate measure is still rising and the number of vacancies are falling. This is available on the TGKP website.

TGKP is preparing responses to the DfT's consultations on the rail franchises for the **Combined Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern** and the **Southeastern** services, both of which operate in North Kent. The former consultation ends 23<sup>rd</sup> August and the latter 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## North Kent News

Medway Council's SUCCESS programme, which provides training and specialist support services to people looking for work or with low skills and little experience, has been shortlisted for an award celebrating Europe's innovative projects. [KAYE](#) 4<sup>th</sup> July

OFGEM is consulting on £22billion investment plans to upgrade and renew Britain's high voltage electricity and gas networks, including those in the Thames Estuary [OFGM](#) 16<sup>th</sup> July

Confirmation of a £500mill rail link giving more direct services to Heathrow fuels speculation of a possible Government U turn for a third Heathrow runway. [Travel Weekly](#) 17<sup>th</sup> July

The £26 mill new Strood Academy building is completed and due to open in September. [Kent News](#) 24<sup>th</sup> July

Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway gets the go-ahead for a Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership. [GGKM](#) 24<sup>th</sup> July

Riverside Community Centre in Gravesend is to receive £40k to improve facilities [News Shopper](#) 26<sup>th</sup> July

Former Tory transport ministers urge the Government to expand Heathrow. [The Telegraph](#) 4<sup>th</sup> Aug

Lend Lease applies for a 375,00 sq ft extension to the Bluewater Shopping Centre which will make it the UK's biggest. [The Independent](#) 7<sup>th</sup> Aug

The funding plan for Lord Foster's Thames Estuary hub airport is criticized. [Kent News](#) 10<sup>th</sup> Aug

Arts Council England has awarded a Swale and Medway consortium £1,476,000 over the next three years to increase participation in the Arts in North Kent. [Medway Messenger](#) 9<sup>th</sup> Aug

Slough Borough Council is to support the expansion of Heathrow in the future of aviation debate. [S&SB Observer](#) 10<sup>th</sup> Aug

Medway celebrates the launch of Prospect Place that is to house older people. This is part of the £8.7 mill Victory Pier development. [Dash.com](#) 13<sup>th</sup> Aug

The first phase of the redevelopment of the Stone House Hospital Site, Dartford is completed with 16 new and 10 refurbished homes. [Build.co.uk](#) 13<sup>th</sup> Aug

## Thames Gateway-wide News

IKEA gains outline planning consent for its mixed-use Strand East development to the south the Olympic Park in Newham, East London [Outland](#) 17<sup>th</sup> July

Plans for over 740 homes and offices in the ley-by-Bow conservation area are given the go ahead by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC). [London24](#) 16<sup>th</sup> July

UK-based joint venture company English Cities Fund (ECf) has been granted planning approval for its 180 mill mixed use regeneration of Rathbone Market Phase II in Newham. [WIDN](#) 19<sup>th</sup> July

London Gateway: Will the UK's new deep sea port sink or swim? [BBC News](#) 31<sup>st</sup> July

The £250mill regeneration of Aberfeldy Estate in Blackwall approved by LTGDC. [B&K Times](#) 31<sup>st</sup> July