



Thames Gateway Kent Newsletter

Sept 2012

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Thames Gateway Kent Partnership News

Partners were interviewed as part of the appraisal process for TGKP's **Regional Growth Fund** bid – TIGER Thames Gateway Innovation and Growth – in October being one of the shortlisted projects. A decision is expected in late October.

TGKP's latest **Economic Indicators Dashboard** for Sept shows a mixed picture again for North Kent. Although JSA claimant rates have fallen overall in North Kent in line with broader trends, job vacancies from Job Centre Plus have also fallen, which contrasts to elsewhere. However, analysis at local authority level shows that the fall in vacancies is limited only to Dartford and Gravesham.

It was agreed at the September TGK Officers Group meeting to establish a **North Kent Employment & Skills Task Group** which will consider the latest evidence and identify initiatives for the Partnership to undertake collectively to address the issues. The final report on the latest employment and skills evidence for North Kent will be available on the TGKP website during October.

TGKP is one of the sponsors of the **Construction Expo 2012** event at Chatham Historic Dockyard on 11th October. TGKP will be hosting a keynote debate on delivering sites for economic growth in Thames Gateway Kent. Speakers will start the debate by talking about their experiences in North Kent and includes a property agent, a developer, an investor and an occupier.

Gravesham Borough Council is holding a **business networking event** on 25th September at Woodville Halls, Gravesham starting at 6pm. Attendance is free and all businesses are welcome.

The **Swale Jobs Fair** is on 26th September at Wyvern Hall, Sittingbourne 10-5pm. For further details and enquiries tel: 01795 437377 or email: info@swalejobsfair.co.uk

North Kent News

A Thames Estuary Hub Airport is more likely to suffer from fog than Heathrow. [Kent Online](#) 17th Aug

Suggestions to rebrand Gravesend 'Gravesend-on-Thames' [The Reporter](#) 20th Aug

Developer LXB Retail Properties is due to start building at Neats Court in mid September. [Build.co.uk](#) 22nd Aug

The Rushenden Retrofit programme is now complete and will hopefully lead to a new national code for retrofit. [Glass on web](#) 24th Aug

Dartford Crossing has 5 million fewer users than 5 years ago. [London24](#) 23rd Aug.

Fall in use at Dartford Crossing doesn't remove need for third Thames Crossing [ICE](#) 22nd Aug

Swale launches High Street Innovation Fund for town centres in Swale following the Portas Review grant. [Swale BC](#) 20th Aug

The Highways Agency is delivering a £75m road improvement programme at the Dartford River Crossing. [Highways](#) 28th Aug

North Kent's Eastern Quarry project at Ebbsfleet is successfully renegotiated with the development of 22,600 new homes now to go ahead. [Financial Times](#) 29th Aug

English Heritage back Gravesend Heritage Quarter plans [The Reporter](#) 29th Aug

Should a hub airport be built in Oxford instead of the Thames Estuary? [Kent News](#) 3rd Sept

A Thames Estuary airport could be built in 14 years [KentOnline](#) 3rd Sept

Dartford crossing tolls to rise next month [Thurrock Gazette](#) 5th Sept

The final decision on UK airport expansion will be taken by the next government after a new commission, headed by Sir Howard Davies, reports in 2015. Interim findings are to be published next year [BBC](#) 7th Sept

Gensler develops a floating design for a Thames Estuary airport [Londonist](#) 10th Sept

Sittingbourne's landmark water tower is demolished to make way for the new Morrison's on the Mill Site [BBC](#) 9th Sept

Boris Johnson is to hold his own inquiry into the future of aviation capacity in England's south east which will report in 12-15 months [MICEBTN](#) 11th Sept

A successful Big Lottery fund bid of £946,000 over 3 years is to help to make a Sustainable Sheppey [Swale BC](#) 3rd Sept

The public are being consulted over plans to extend the West Village at Bluewater that could create up to 2,300 jobs [KentOnline](#) 14rd Sept

Thames Gateway-wide News

How the Olympics legacy will shape the regeneration of East London [The Observer](#) 19th Aug

Planning permission granted for £40mill Southend-on-Sea museum. [Echo](#) 18th July

Vopak, Greenergy and Shell plan to start operations at the Coryton terminal in Q1 2013 [Argus Media](#) 24th Aug

Thurrock MP says it is time for 'leadership not nimbyism' in debate on airport capacity. [Huffington Post](#) 30th Aug

Environment Agency issues market soundings for £250 mill Thames Estuary work [Water Briefing.org](#) 29th Aug