



Thames Gateway Kent Newsletter

April 2013

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Thames Gateway Partnership News

The **Thames Gateway Strategic Group** (TGSG) met on 19 March, chaired by Paul Carter. The agenda included a presentation by London Resort Holdings Company Ltd on the proposed development at Swanscombe Peninsula. The Group commissioned an exercise on unimplemented planning permissions on major sites, to identify barriers to progress where Ministerial intervention might assist. TGKP is coordinating this exercise with assistance from HCA and will present outcomes to TGSG's next meeting on 11 June (with update for TGKP Board on 30 May).

The **TIGER Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise Programme** was formally launched at Princes Park, Dartford on 21 March, complemented by separate launch events in Gravesham, Medway and Swale. The programme went 'live' for pre-applications on 8 April. Details of the scheme are set out on the [website](#).

The TGKP team and local authority Economic Development Officers met with Katherine Harvey in her new role at South East LEP on 26 March to discuss the North Kent bid for four **local Enterprise Zones**. The South East LEP Board will be considering proposals at their 24 May meeting.

The **Thames Gateway Kent Officers' Group** met on 4 April and items on the agenda included feedback on TGSG (including the exercise on key development sites), discussion on delivering growth in North Kent (following the TGKP Board's discussion on 1 March), an update on the local Enterprise Zone proposals, and an outline of work priorities for 2013/14.

Richard Longman joined the TGKP team on 25 March, replacing Katharine Harvey as Senior Policy Officer.

North Kent News

14 March – Natural England notified land at [Lodge Hill](#) (Medway) as a proposed extension to the Chattenden Woods SSSI, with serious implications for the proposed Lodge Hill development. Discussions are ongoing between Natural England, Medway Council, MoD and Land Securities to find an agreed way forward.

28 March – The Government announced successful bids for **University Technical Colleges**, including [Medway](#), sponsored by University of Greenwich and specialising in engineering and construction. On 5 April local media carried news that the [Leigh UTC](#) already approved in Dartford will be built on site of Joyce Green Hospital next to The Bridge.

Many media reports suggest that the presence of rare jumping spiders on the **Swanscombe Peninsula** will halt the Paramount development there: the Leader of Gravesham Council [responded](#) on 8 April to clarify the situation.

6 April - [Easier Property](#) reports on the popularity of the "New Buy" house-buying scheme operating at **The Bridge, Dartford**.

8 April – the Highways Agency announces a two-year [programme](#) of closures and restrictions on the Dartford Bridge for planned maintenance.

8 April – Locate in Kent [announce](#) an upsurge of business interest in East Kent, especially at Discovery Park, with 147 enquiries to December 2012 nearly matching the 149 in TGK in the same period.

9 April - Network Rail releases plans for the replacement [Rochester Station](#), due to be completed by Winter 2015.

9 April - Kent and Medway launch [campaign](#) on motorcycle safety as data show sharp increase in fatalities. In a separate development, Medway succeeds in attracting [Safer Cycling](#) investment from [Department for Transport](#).

9 April - Kent Youth Crime Commissioner [Paris Brown](#) steps down only days after her appointment following controversy about past remarks posted on social networking sites.

10 April - The [London Array](#) enters into full generating operation as the largest wind farm in the world.

10 April - Kent County Council's [graduate scheme](#) is referenced and commended in a Guardian webinar about careers in local government.

Thames Gateway-wide – National News

5 April – The Airports Commission invites evidence on [Aviation and Climate Change](#) by 17 May.

15 April – various announcements pertinent to growth, particularly from BIS:

- [Academic Health Science Centres](#) Competition 2013: "AHSCs will be able to realise their potential as drivers of economic growth through research partnerships with commercial life science organizations".
- BIS publishes research on [Third sector engagement and participation in learning and skills](#), underpinning new strategic framework and proposals on 'traineeships'.
- DCLG [consults](#) on further changes to Community Infrastructure Levy (including relief for self-build schemes) – deadline 28 May.
- BIS invites local authorities and national regulators to bid for a [new fund](#) to pioneer more business-friendly enforcement of regulation – deadline 29 May.
- The Business Secretary announces a [new Minimum Wage](#) of £6.31.
- BIS publishes an [online toolkit](#) to help companies take on their first employees.
- BIS publishes guidance to LEPs on [EU Structural Funds](#).