

In recent years  
Shepway has begun  
to reinvent itself.  
Central to Shepway's  
redevelopment is  
the regeneration  
of Folkestone

Holiday Extras at Newingreen. An example of high quality premises in a semi-rural location

The success of Shepway's SME community is underwritten by the development of Shearway Business Park, home to the local Chamber of Commerce, and purpose-built small business centres such as the Glenmore Centre and Basepoint, site of monthly business clinics run by Business Link Kent.

The first phase of Link Park, a new high-quality business park, is currently under construction and will provide around 20 hectares of office and industrial space for new and expanding businesses. With an attractive setting, nearby motorway and highly competitive cost advantages, the development is expected to be popular with exporters and overseas firms.

An emerging location for European investment, Shepway is already home to companies such as SAGA Group, Holiday Extras, Eurotunnel, Church and Dwight, Silver Spring Mineral Water, Jacksons Fencing and Smiths Medical. Shepway also has a flourishing break-bulk distribution and logistics sector, represented by companies like Laser Transport International Ltd.

## Powering the future

Dungeness Power Station has provided employment for hundreds of skilled workers in Shepway since the 1960s. In March 2009 British Energy proposed a site for a potential new reactor at Dungeness. Although now entering a decommissioning programme, Dungeness was nominated to the government's Strategic Siting Assessment Process as part of national plans for a new generation of nuclear stations to help meet the UK's future power needs. The construction and ongoing operation of the station would be a key feature of local economic development.

## Support in Shepway

Economic development in Shepway also includes government grants. The two main grants are the Grant for Research & Development and the Grant for Business Investment, tailored towards SMEs considering capital investment projects and looking for sources of funding. New and existing Shepway businesses are eligible and the grants are available for up to £2m.

In rural Shepway, business funding and advice schemes include the new Kent Downs and Marshes Leader programme, the Rural Development Programme for England and the South Kent Enterprise Gateway at New