

Thames Gateway Kent Partnership

Kent is leading by example when it comes to translating the government's plans for Thames Gateway into success, according to David Liston-Jones, Chief Executive of the organisation championing Kent and Medway within the region.



David Liston-Jones, Chief Executive of Thames Gateway Kent Partnership

A commitment to stimulating development, innovation and employment, as well as enhancing education and skills opportunities

The regeneration of the Thames Gateway is a project which will transform the lives of thousands of people but it is not going to be achieved overnight. David Liston-Jones said: "A great deal has already been delivered, but government operates at various levels – regional, county, unitary as well as district – and if this degree of change and transformation is to be undertaken with due democratic care and attention we need to not only give a voice to all levels, but just as importantly listen to all our communities."

As a result Thames Gateway Kent Partnership (TGKP) provides strategic leadership and a forum for discussing and agreeing priorities across Dartford, Gravesend, Medway and Swale, as part of the drive to secure the area's regeneration.

TGKP is a partnership between the three local regeneration partnerships (Kent Thameside, Medway Renaissance and Swale Forward), the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Kent County Council (KCC), Medway Council as well as other important partners from the private sector.

Since it was formed in 2001 TGKP has set about taking a regional perspective and developed the North Kent Area Investment Framework

(AIF), which helped to secure £210m to support 47 key projects to transform the opportunities and fabric of North Kent.

At the heart of Thames Gateway Kent is a commitment to stimulating development, innovation and employment, as well as enhancing education and skills opportunities. A key priority for the development is to make sure that local people are able to benefit from the many opportunities which growth and regeneration will bring to the area over the coming years. Also on TGKP's theme-based agenda is developing the area's transport infrastructure and social and community regeneration.

TGKP has also added its support to the critical need to make Ebbsfleet succeed as a major new business district for North Kent. Ebbsfleet and Eastern Quarry alone will deliver 28,000 jobs and 10,000 homes. Moreover Ebbsfleet, with its unique location, is well placed to attract the high value-added jobs the area seeks and play a significant part in regenerating the communities of Dartford and Gravesham.

Seat of learning

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