



Cycling in Chilham

squares and cultural facilities to make Kent's seaside towns places where people want to live, work and visit.

Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs fall within a Regeneration Priority Area which means extra government funds are bringing new vitality and prosperity to these once elegant and popular seaside towns. This aims to encourage development of vibrant mixed-use areas that will create well-paid year-round employment, high quality seaside housing and a unique cultural character for residents, businesses and visitors.

Dover and Folkestone also fall within an area of major regeneration priority, and already benefit from superb road, rail and sea connections. They enjoy a unique, richly varied topography and historic environment. The vision for both these towns is to become distinctive and memorable waterfront destinations with revitalised town centres, new high quality housing and a diverse economic base that encourages enterprise, culture, higher education and waterside leisure activity.

High-speed domestic rail links to the Kent coast will be introduced in 2009 and will make the coastal zone highly attractive to new

investment. New road schemes near Ramsgate and in Dover and Folkestone and airport improvements at Manston and Lydd will also improve opportunities for business investment.

The coastal areas benefit from two Enterprise Gateways offering focused support to key businesses and encouraging the development of creative and cultural industries. Wi-fi zones will be introduced to Margate, Dover and Folkestone to encourage entrepreneurship and business start-ups.

Rural Regeneration

Rural areas are an economic asset and contribute significantly to Kent's economy. More than a third of Kent's businesses are based in rural areas and the performance of Kent's economy is directly influenced by the prospects of its rurally located businesses.

Whilst agriculture and the land-based industries only account for 8% of Kent's rural businesses, they still contribute significantly to Kent's economy – with many of Kent's iconic, valued landscapes being the result of farming practices. Through the Produced in Kent initiative, KCC actively promotes the use of local produce, supports events and training for producers. This work ►

