

Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce

Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce is based in the heart of the UK's largest regeneration area from which it took its name. The redevelopment zone is undergoing rapid brownfield site clearance in areas where old industries have died or moved on and runs from East London, to South Essex and North Kent.



With its headquarters on Medway City Estate, the membership stretches from Dartford to Faversham. The Chamber has seen many changes in its 115-year history, with huge North Kent unemployment problems in the mid '80s.

However over the next 20 years, more than 80,000 new jobs will be created with 50,000 homes being built. Additionally with Ebbsfleet Station offering regular daily Eurostar trains to Paris, Lille and Brussels, it is anticipated the adjacent business parks will bring in a lot of interest from the continent.

Chamber members and executives sit on most of the strategic development committees so members' interests are heard. This is important to ensure the transport infrastructure goes into the new developments correctly. By working closely with three local authorities who in turn have a member on each

of the chamber's regional councils, there is the opportunity for the area's future sustainability plans to be examined in detail.

Members' have also been involved in clearing the Olympic site at Stratford. These contract opportunities are helped along by the participation in the Jigsaw Club helping members receive templates for ISO9001, Equal Opportunities and Ladder regulations to name a few. Members can then receive daily emails from Supply.Gov which lists all the main procurement contracts for the area.

The diverse large and small companies on the chamber's books are keen to display at the annual business exhibitions. Networking is strong and events are frequently sold out. Extensive in-house training is also offered in the form of small business forums, employment workshops and seminars which prepare companies for new business opportunities.

The Safer Business Parks scheme which is being piloted by the chamber has been set up to make the parks safer from intruders and create a better community spirit.

This year sees the Young Chamber Initiative getting off the ground giving youngsters a taste of business life giving them a voice on economic and global issues especially transport on the environment.

The chamber recognises that the fast pace in the South East means it must react swiftly to change, but already is being recognised as one of the most effective business organisations in the South East.

Contact Tel: 01634 311411
Chief Executive: Tracey Manley
Stirling House,
Sunderland Quay,
Culpepper Close,
Rochester,
Kent
ME2 4HN
www.thamesgatewaychamber.org

The planned villages for Ebbsfleet Valley