

**To: Dover Locality Board
East Kent Partners
Thanet Business Forum
Kent Economic Development Officers Group**

**From: Jacqui Ward
KCC Regional Growth Fund Manager**

Date: 22nd January 2013

**Subject : Update on Regional Growth Fund Programmes:
*Expansion East Kent
*TIGER (Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise)**

1. Introduction

KCC are now the accountable body for two grant programmes awarded under the Government's Regional Growth Funding (RGF):

- A grant of **£35 million** was awarded under the second round of RGF in November 2011. The Expansion East Kent programme supports businesses in the East Kent area and aims to create 5,000 jobs to achieve economic growth.
- A further grant of **£20 million** was awarded under the third round of RGF in November 2012. The TIGER (Thames Gateway Innovation Growth and Enterprise) will provide support to businesses engaged in high-value activities in North Kent and Thurrock to achieve job creation (829 direct jobs) and unlock additional private finance.

2. Update on Expansion East Kent.

Expansion East Kent is an ambitious programme to create 5,000 of new jobs across the East Kent area by developing the private sector business base. The programme also aims to unlock private sector finance, stimulating more than £300 million in associated investment over the course of the next four years and creating a massive driver for the East Kent economy.

The programme provides direct funding to business in the form of repayable finance and in

Exceptional, cases grants can be awarded. Since the launch of the programme in April 2012 up until 18th January 2013 215 proposals have been approved to go forward to full application stage. As of 18th January 2013 the programme has committed funding and signed agreements with nine companies with a further seven companies approved for funding but are awaiting contracts to be signed by one or both parties. These sixteen proposals represent an investment of more than £4.6 million from the Expansion East Kent investment fund. These sixteen companies will create a total of 480 jobs. See appendix 1 for details of successful companies who have signed the agreement and therefore agreed for their details to be published.

There are currently 10 companies in the pipeline that could result in a further 700 jobs and allocation of £6.5m.

The programme has awarded funding to companies across the whole range of SMEs. Funding for start ups of small and medium size companies and existing companies with plans to expand have been approved.

3. Development of TIGER

A partnership programme covering North Kent – Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale - and in Thurrock.

The programme will offer finance assistance to businesses seeking to invest in new products, process or markets or potentially seeking to expand existing activities where it would lead to increase sustainable employment.

The due diligence process has been successfully completed using the Expansion East Kent established frameworks and processes. KCC have received an offer letter from BIS for this contract.

The final details of the scheme are currently being developed but the programme will operate similarly to the Expansion East Kent programme. It is anticipated a launch event will be held in March with the application process being opened in April.

Jacqui Ward
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Kent County Council

**PEN PORTRAITS OF THE SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES
FROM EXPANSION EAST KENT PROGRAMME**

THANET

Bumble Beez (Ian & Sarah Cannon)

**Expansion East Kent funding approved: £30,000
Total Number of Jobs: 8 full time 12 part time (20 FTE)**

Bumble Beez is an iconic Family Entertainment Centre. The aim is to attract families from around Kent including those with disabilities who would not usually be able to access such facilities. They also intend to provide a high quality food and beverage facility.

South East Retail (Conrad Bigham)

**Expansion East Kent funding approved: £500,000
Total Number of Jobs: 20 full time and 15 part time (28.87 FTE)**

South East Retail Limited is the property owning company and parent company of the Sands Hotel in Margate. The proposal is to develop a 20-bedroom upscale boutique hotel, together with bar, restaurant and ice cream parlour. The hotel is expected to employ between 25 and 35 staff.

Baines Bigg and Hyman (Julian Bigg)

**Expansion East Kent funding approved: £40,000
Total Number of Jobs 3 full time 14 part time**

Aim to open Ramsgate Music Hall a vibrant and enjoyable music venue. The venue will include a 120 capacity live music venue, a three floor rehearsal space and an attractive bar featuring regular club nights.

SHEPWAY

Chalkhill (Thomas Gamgee)

**Expansion East Kent funding approved: £30,000
Total Number of Jobs: 7 full time (7 FTE)**

Chalkhill is a small start up accountancy practice supporting start up leisure and tourism and R&D businesses in the East Kent Area.

H V Wooding (Karl Dodd)

Expansion East Kent funding approved: £1.1m
Total Number of Jobs: 51 full time (51 FTE)

H V Wooding is a medium sized manufacturing business based in Hythe. It is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of precision engineered components and assemblies. HV Wooding's client list includes top international companies such as Rolls Royce, Schneider Electric, Honeywell and ABB.

CANTERBURY

UK Mobile Bars (Paul Bishop)

Expansion East Kent funding approved: £32,500
Total Number of Jobs: 14 full time 3 part time (15.6 FTE)

Formed in 2009, UK Mobile Bars is a mobile bar hire services for weddings, parties and events. Job creation is required to fulfil the growth opportunity in the current new business pipeline and kick start a 5 year growth plan.

DOVER

The Research Network (Andy McElroy)

Expansion East Kent funding approved: £72,000
Total Number of Jobs: 11 full time 2 part time (12.33 FTE)

TRN is a small pharmaceutical research company based in Sandwich. It is proposed to invest in additional business development in China, India, USA and Europe. It is proposing to invest innovative web-based scientific software to support the TRN collaborative drug research model.

Creative Minds (Esme Chilton)

Expansion East Kent funding approved: £100,000
Total Number of Jobs: 12 full time 2 part time (13 FTE)

This nursery will provide high quality care and education, catering for up to 95 children from 3 months to 5 years old. It will offer holistic creative learning in response to the Early Years Foundation stage and equip children with the skills to support all aspects of development.

Algaecytes (Naz Bashir)

Expansion East Kent funding approved: £500,000

Total Number of Jobs: 20 full time 2 part time (21 FTE)

Algaecytes is a private company founded in 2010, commercialising 25 years of algae research by world leading bio-scientists. It is seeking to raise finance to build 2 demonstration units in Sandwich to produce high purity Omega 3 oils from freshwater algae.