

ANNUAL STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

1. POPULATION PROFILE

- In 2016, the population of the Dover district was 114,200, up +0.9% (or +1,000 people) over the year.
- People are living longer in the district and the population profile is ageing.
- Revised KCC population forecasts show that, by 2036, the overall population in the Dover district is expected to increase to 135,000 (+18.2% from the 2016 figure). The 65+ age group is predicted to rise by +60.6%, which is a significantly faster rate of growth than the 0-15 years and 16-64 years old age groups, which are predicted to rise by +11% and +3.7% respectively.

2. HOUSING

	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Dwelling stock (No)	52,110	52,470	53,210	-	↑
Annual Average price (£)	214,433	228,803	240,203	-	↑
Property Sales (No)	2,126	2,208	1,619	-	↓
DDC homes (No)	4,422	4,404	4,375	4,337	↓
Empty homes (No)	1,400	1,476	1,564	-	↑
Affordability measure ¹ (Ratio)	8.26	7.86	9.23	-	↑
Dwellings completed (Net) (No)	228	344	726	412	↓
Planning Permission granted - not started (No)	1,022	1,201	4,203	4,202	↓
Homeless and in priority need	56	78	124	162	↑

- House prices are historically lower in the Dover district than county and regional averages.
- In 2016, the Dover district was the third most affordable in Kent (using the ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings) with a ratio of 9.23.
- Dwelling stock in the district is rising in line with national and Kent figures. The majority of the dwelling stock in the district (86.9%) is in the Private Sector (either owner-occupied or privately rented).
- In 2016, we commissioned the BRE group to undertake stock modelling of the private sector housing stock. This found that an estimated 14% (6,217 homes) have Category 1 Housing, Health and Safety Rating System² (HHSRS) hazards³.

¹ Ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile earnings

² Housing Health and Safety Rating System: A risk assessment tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety related deficiencies in dwellings, covering 29 categories of hazards.

³ A dwelling with a Category 1 hazard is considered to fail the minimum statutory standard for housing.

- The number of homes owned by us (Housing Revenue Account or HRA stock) is decreasing.
- The Dover district saw the highest number of Right to Buy sales in Kent in both 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- Housing Initiatives Reserve funding has assisted in providing 28 additional units to the HRA stock (plus an additional 3 units on a 23-year lease from an empty homes project).
- In July 2017, we approved a revised Housing Assistance Policy, including changes to help more householders. Help includes additional funding for adaptations to homes to help disabled people, and additional financial assistance to bring empty homes back into use, as well as a range of loans and grants to help people in their homes.
- During the year ending March 2016, there were 726 dwellings completed (net) in the Dover District. This is an increase of +111% on the previous year, compared to an increase of +46% across Kent. It is also the highest completion figure in the Dover district since 1989. During the year ending March 2017, an additional 412 dwellings were completed.
- In 2015/16, the Dover district provided the second highest number of affordable homes (120 homes – joint with Dartford). In 2016/17, an additional 90 affordable homes were provided in the district, the fifth highest in Kent.
- The majority of empty homes in the district are privately owned.
- In 2016/17, we accepted 162 households as being homeless and in priority need. This is an increase of +30.6% over the year, following on from a +59% increase the previous year. There has also been an increase in the number of people in temporary accommodation.
- We are working hard to prevent homelessness wherever possible and in 2016/17 took positive action to prevent successfully 151 cases of homelessness, down -12.2% from 2015/16.

3. ECONOMY, BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

Dover	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
% 16-64 claiming out of work benefits	12.5	12.2	11.5	10.5	9.7	↓
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.9	3.4	2.7	1.9	2.0	↑
Median Gross Weekly Workplace Earnings (£)	498.6	480.8	508.9	504.9	519.1	↑
Median Gross Weekly Resident Earnings (£)	507.9	503.8	532.9	497.7	502.6	↑
Employment Rate (%)	67.5	71.2	64.8	69.4	76.7	↑
Stock of businesses	3,115	3,180	3,305	3,345	3,390	↑
3-year Business Survival Rate (%)	59.1	63.8	53.8	55.1	55.9	↑
GVA per Head (£)	14,989	14,764	15,271	15,330	15,715	↑
% Employees in the Knowledge Economy	11.7	10.6	10.1	11.1	10.8	↓
% NVQ4+	18.4	32.4	28.6	27.8	32.8	↑
↓ Down from 2016 (good); ↓ Down from 2016 (bad); ↑ Up from 2016 (good); ↑ Up from 2016 (bad)						

Please note:

Employment and unemployment rates can rise at the same time as it depends on the number of people entering the working population and their circumstances. For example, if 10 million people are working, and 1 million are not (for whatever reason) and a further 2 million enter the working population, employment could rise to 11 million and unemployment to 2 million, which is a rise in both employment and unemployment.

2017	Dover	Kent	South East	England
% 16-64 claiming out of work benefits	9.7	7.7	6.4	8.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.8
Median Gross Weekly Workplace Earnings (£)	519.1	517.5	566.0	544.2
Median Gross Weekly Resident Earnings (£)	502.6	553.3	582.0	544.7
Employment Rate (%)	76.7	74.7	77.6	74.3
Stock of businesses (number) ⁴	3,390	n/a	n/a	n/a
Net change in stock of businesses (%) ⁵	n/a	3.4	33.7	33.7
3-year Business Survival Rate (%)	55.9	59.6	61.1	59.2
GVA per Head (£)	15,715	21,636	27,847	26,159
% Employees in the Knowledge Economy	10.8	16.6	22.0	20.5
% NVQ4+	32.8	36.9	41.4	37.9

- Six districts in Kent have youth unemployment rates above the county and national average of 2.9%. The Dover district has the third highest rate of youth unemployment in Kent, with 4.5%.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Direction of travel
Economic Inactivity (%)	26.5	23.0	18.4	↓
Youth Unemployment (March)(%)	4.6	3.6	4.5	↑

4. FINANCE

- The Government's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to Dover District Council has been reduced by -30.5% in 2016/17, and is forecast to be (virtually) nil by 2019/20. The reduction in RSG accounts for the majority of the on-going budget pressures for the council.
- Following the 2017 business rates revaluation, we have put together a scheme to help local businesses with their business rates bills, taking into account money given to us by the Government. Those business ratepayers that receive help under this scheme could have the increase in their business rates bills reduced by up to 70%⁶.
- In 2016/17, the average council tax for a Band 'D' property, including parish precepts, across Kent ranged from £1,654 in Shepway to £1,540 in Ashford. This compares to £1,592 in the Dover district. Dover District Council has the fifth lowest council tax charge in Kent (£172) and the lowest council tax charge in East Kent.
- For every £1 of council tax collected: Kent County Council receives 71.2p, Dover District Council 10.8p, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner 9.6p, Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue 4.5p and Town and Parish Councils 3.9p.
- Over the past five years, we have successfully collected £2,693,240 of development contributions (s.106 monies) to contribute towards the cost of providing additional community and social infrastructure.
- In 2016, DDC submitted a successful £3.1m bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund/Big Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' programme for a major scheme of restoration and improvement works at Russell Gardens and Kearsney Abbey.
- In 2016, 30 lottery grants were awarded for the Dover district totalling £2,031,396.

⁴ At district level, this gives a snapshot of the number of vat registered businesses in an area

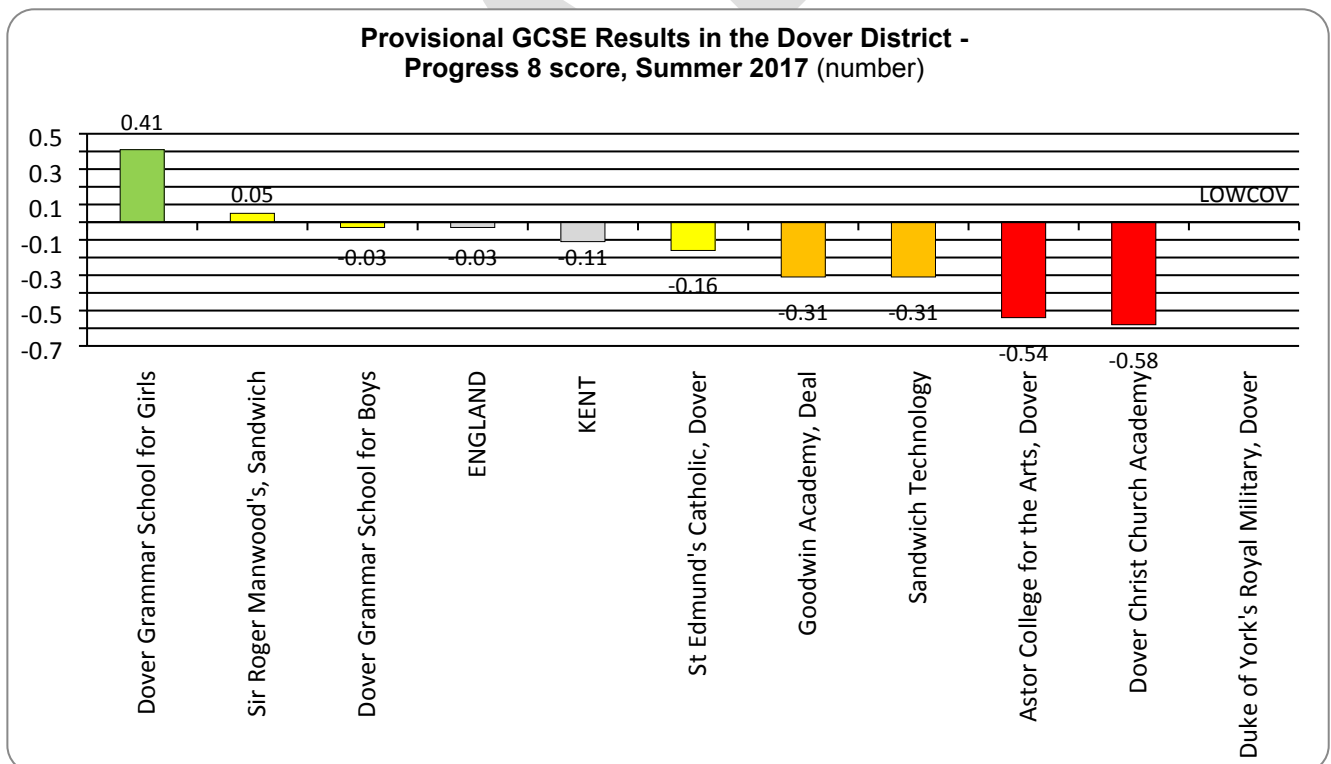
⁵ At county level and above, this is the net change in stock of businesses as a proportion of all businesses.

⁶ Source: dover.gov.uk/Business/Business-Rates/Relief/Local-discretionary-discount.aspx

5. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Direction of travel
No Qualifications	7.7	6.1	5.2	-	↓
NVQ4 & above	28.5	27.8	32.9	-	↕
NEETs (April) ⁷	7.94	5.85	4.76	3.38	↕

- The percentage of people in the Dover district with no qualifications has fallen from 11.1% in 2011 to 5.2% in 2016. The percentage of people qualified to NVQ4 and above has risen from 26.9% in 2011 to 32.9% in 2016.
- Primary School, Key Stage 2: In summer 2017, headline data shows 66.7% of schools in the Dover district achieved the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths. This is an improvement from 59.9% in summer 2016 and is above the county and national averages.
- Secondary School, Key Stage 4: Progress 8 is now the benchmark for all secondary schools (replacing the old measure of five or more good GCSEs, including maths and English). It assesses the progress pupils make between Key Stage 2 tests taken at the end of primary school and their performance in a specified mixture of eight subjects at the end of secondary school. Schools are given a score based on how their pupils have progressed compared with the national average. A school will be deemed to be below the floor standard if their Progress 8 score is below -0.5.



The 2017 Progress 8 scores are divided into five groups:	
Well below average	About 12% of schools
Below average	About 18% of schools
Average	About 40% of schools
Above average	About 18% of schools
Well above average	About 12% of schools

⁷ Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

- The number of young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) in the Dover district has been falling since 2014, when it stood at 7.94%. As at April 2017, 3.38% of young people were classed as NEET, which is slightly higher than the county average of 3.24%. The number of long-term NEETs in the district has also been reducing.

6. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Public Health England (PHE) publishes Health Profiles each year. These health profiles compare the health of people in an area with the rest of England and give them a Red Amber Green (RAG) rating. Red means an area is significantly worse than England for that indicator, with Green significantly better (although it may still be an important public health problem).
- Between the 2016 and 2017 health profiles, RAG ratings in the Dover district have improved for three indicators and deteriorated for two indicators.

	Health Profile			RAG Direction of travel
	2015	2016	2017	
Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions (under 18s)(rate per 100,000)	36.2	27.6	21.9	↓
Under 18 conceptions (rate per 1,000)	30.3	32.7	26.3	↓
Smoking Prevalence in adults (%)	24.3	29.7	17.7	↓
Long term unemployment (rate per 1,000)	7.7	5.1	4.2	↑
Excess weight in adults (%)	63.2	64.0	67.6	↑

- The PHE priorities for the Dover district include improving life expectancy by preventing suicide; heart disease and reducing smoking prevalence; improving teenage pregnancy rates; and improving physical activity in children and adults.

Health Profile	2015	2016	2017	Direction of travel
Life expectancy – average all persons (years) Pooled	80.4	80.95	80.92	↓
Life expectancy gap (years) Pooled	8.05	8.05	7.99	↓
Participation in sport (%)	35.2	32.7	31.9	↓
Excess weight in children – Reception (%)	21.0	24.5	25.4	↑
Excess weight in children – Year 6 (%)	32.1	33.5	36.8	↑
Smoking status at time of delivery %)	15.6	15.0	16.3	↑

- The infant mortality rate for 2013/15 in the Dover district is the highest across the Kent local authorities, compared to the previous health profile when the rate was the third highest in Kent (although it should be noted that the trend does fluctuate from year-to-year).

7. DEPRIVATION AND POVERTY

- Please note: The English Indices of Deprivation information has not changed from the previous State of the District report as it is only updated every 3-4 years.
- The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)⁸ published the English Indices of Deprivation 2015 (EID) on 30 September 2015. When compared with other Local Authorities in Kent and England as a whole, the district is in England's most deprived half of local authorities.
- The highest levels of multiple deprivation in the district are found in the urban areas of Dover.

⁸ Now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

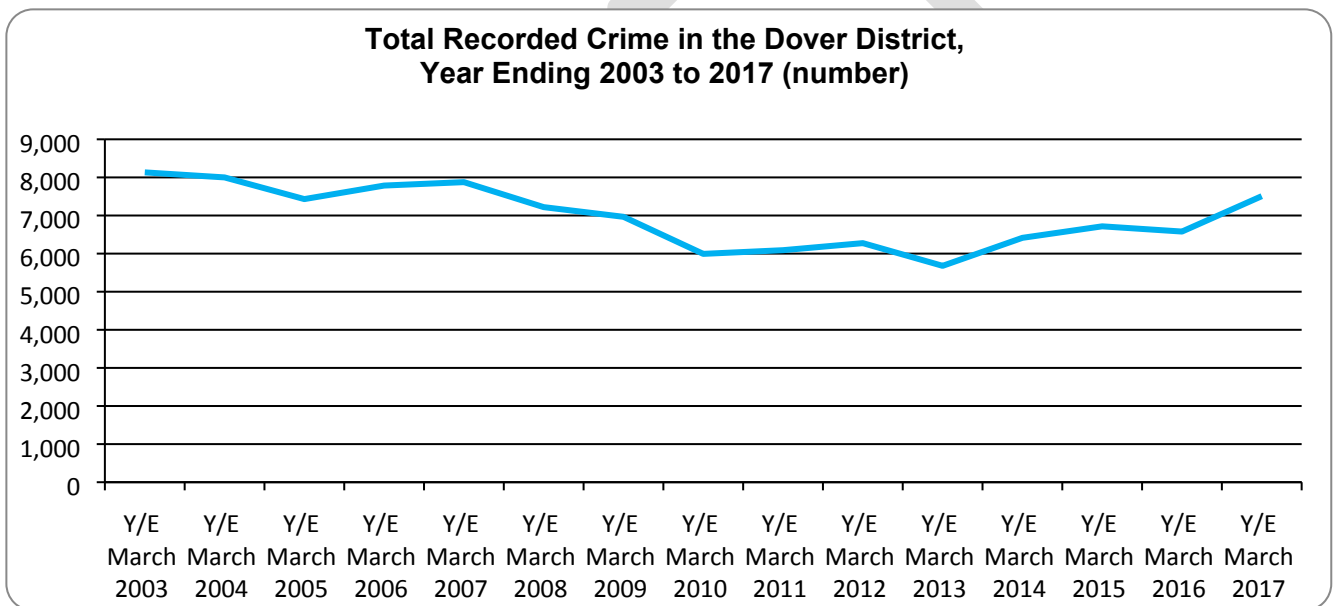
- There are four Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs)⁹ in the district in the top 10% most deprived in England. These fall within the wards of St. Radigund's; Castle; Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory; and Buckland.
- Child poverty has risen across all local authority districts in Kent.

Children in Poverty as a % of all children living in the district								
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	0-4 years		5-10 years		11-15 years		16-19 years	
Dover	26.3	26.9 ↑	20.7	22.0 ↑	17.5	19.8 ↑	15.4	18.6 ↑
Kent	21.9	21.7 ↓	18.1	17.5 ↓	15.8	16.2 ↑	13.2	14.9 ↑
South East	17.5	10.8 ↓	14.7	8.8 ↓	13.0	8.4 ↓	10.9	8.3 ↓
England	22.1	22.3 ↑	19.3	19.3 ↔	17.4	18.8 ↑	15.3	18.6 ↑

↓ Down from 2013 (good); ↑ Up from 2013 (bad)

Source: HMRC - Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure 2013 & 2014

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY



Please direct any queries regarding recorded crime figures to Kent Police.

- In the year ending March 2017, there were a total of 7,508 recorded crimes in the Dover district. Although this number is up from 6,581 as at March 2016 (+927 / +14%), this is the 4th lowest total of the Kent and Medway Community Safety Partnerships.
- Recorded incidents of hate crime across all local authorities in Kent have risen between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Incidents of hate crime in the Dover district rose from 482 to 565 (+17.2%) over the time period, which is the third lowest in Kent.
- The total number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded in the Dover district has fallen from 3,662 in 2015/16 to 3,346 in 2016/17 (-8.6%). This is the fifth highest level in Kent.

⁹ Lower-layer Super Output Areas (or LSOAs) are small geographical areas. LSOAs are designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households and, generally, cover a smaller geographical area than ward boundaries. There are 67 LSOAs in the Dover district.

9. QUALITY OF LIFE

- In the Dover district, 41.7% of household waste was sent for reuse, recycling or composting in 2015/16, which is below the averages for the South East and England. Although this is down from a high of 45.4% in 2012/13, the provisional figures for 2016/17 show an improvement, rising to 43.7%.
- Between March 2016 and 2017, there have been improvements in the average ratings of life satisfaction and happiness in the Dover district. Anxiety levels have also fallen, reaching a new low in the year ending March 2017. However, feelings that the things we do in life are worthwhile have also been dropping.

10. REGENERATION

- In March 2017, Cabinet agreed to commence a Local Plan Review, to update the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and to undertake the first stages of public engagement based on findings contained in the Authority Monitoring Report, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Economic Development Needs Assessment. We have undertaken a call for sites and are currently mapping the c.200 responses received.
- We are fully engaged in the Enterprise Zone (EZ) Programme at both a national and local level. Discovery Park is now one of the top-performing EZ in the country, home to around 160 international and local companies and employing over 3,300 people.
- The [St James](#)¹⁰ development provides a new retail and leisure space in the heart of Dover town centre. It features a six-screen multiplex Cineworld cinema; Travelodge hotel; retail anchors M&S and Next plc; restaurants; and a range of retail units.
- Aylesham Garden Village has now established itself as key development site with one-third of the 1,200 new homes built out and sold by developers Barratt Homes and Persimmon Homes.
- A new Dover District Leisure Centre is being built for the community in a central location at Whitfield. It will include an eight-lane, 25-metre swimming pool (the only eight-lane county standard competition pool in Kent) and spectator seating for up to 250 people. There will also be a learner pool, pool-side sauna and steam room. The sports hall will have a timber-sprung floor and cater for a wide variety of sports. Two squash courts will feature glass-back walls with spectator seating. The fitness facilities will include a 120-station gym, a spinning studio, and two further studios to accommodate a wide range of classes and activities. Externally there will be two outdoor 3G five-a-side football pitches and a minimum of 250 parking spaces.
- Housebuilders are showing renewed confidence, with developments under construction across the district. In 2015/16, 726 dwellings were completed, which is the highest housing completion figure since 1989. In 2016/17, a further 412 completions were recorded.
- The visitor economy is one of this country's fastest growing economic sectors and there is significant growth potential for the Dover district. According to the most recent [tourism research](#)¹¹, commissioned by Visit Kent, the total economic impact of tourism in the Dover District in 2015 was £264,821,200. This is an increase of +6.6% compared to the last survey in 2013.
- The number of tourism day trips rose by +6.5% to 3,889,000 and the number of staying trips increased by +10.1% to 424,000. However, the average length of stay fell by -1.8% to 3.43 nights. The total number of actual tourism related employment rose by +8.2% to 5,562.
- Following engagement with partners throughout 2015 and 2016, the R&A¹² has confirmed that The Open Golf Championship (The Open) is to return to Royal St. George's in 2020 (12-19 July). The Open is one of the most prestigious annual sporting events to be held in the

¹⁰ stjamesdover.co.uk/

¹¹ visitkentbusiness.co.uk/library/Economic_Impact_of_Tourism_-_Dover_2015_FINAL_REPORT.PDF

¹² The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

UK, attracting a global audience and bringing substantial economic benefits and profile to the area in which it is held. It has been estimated that The Open in 2016 was worth an estimated £110 million to Troon and Scotland.

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