

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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NEW DOCUMENT SETS OUT DIRECTION OF BEXLEY'S PLANS FOR GROWTH

Bexley's aspirations to grow its local economy are highlighted today in a new document published jointly by the London Borough of Bexley and the Mayor of London's Office.

As work continues to plan for a step change in the delivery of new, quality homes and jobs, the 'Direction of Travel' document is aimed primarily at landowners and developers interested in helping meet the borough's ambitions and encouraging them to come in and talk.

Bexley is working hard with the Mayor of London's Office, Transport for London and other partners to produce a Growth Strategy later this year that will set out what growth might happen and where, supported by the right investment, particularly in transport and other infrastructure. The Direction of Travel document explains work underway and the timetable in place.

"We know that proposals for new development will come forward while we are working on the Growth Strategy," explained Cllr Linda Bailey, the Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth. "We want developers and landowners to engage with us and the Mayor of London's Office as early as possible so that we can work with them to explore new opportunities. The word 'quality' is key to our thinking, as is a diverse offer in terms of homes, particularly for first time buyers, jobs and investment in our town centres. Bexley is uniquely situated within an hour of central London, major airports and the coast, including Eurotunnel and the Port of Dover. It is already a great place to live and do business."

Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor for Planning said: "Bexley is set for significant growth and by working closely with the council we look forward to putting the building blocks in place to deliver the improved transport, housing and economic prosperity that will benefit local residents, businesses and London as a whole."

When complete, Bexley's Growth Strategy will set out an ambitious and achievable plan for the borough's future development. It will seek to ensure that growth brings benefits to transport connectivity, economic prosperity and the skills agenda.

As well as encouraging the construction of well designed, good quality homes, the strategy will look at the potential for improving and consolidating existing industrial and commercial areas to help create new opportunities and jobs, in addition to supporting established and successful businesses.

Publication of the Direction of Travel document is the second phase of a continuing dialogue with residents, businesses and others that has already shown broad support for well managed growth.

Evidence is currently being gathered to support the Growth Strategy. There will be an opportunity to comment on the draft in the autumn, after which it will be reviewed, and adopted in the spring of 2016. The Strategy will then inform a review of Bexley's planning policy.

The Direction of Travel document is available on the Council's website at www.bexley.gov.uk/growth

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