

# You and your future in Hastings and Bexhill



The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) has joined forces with Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council to form the Hastings and Bexhill Task Force. This Task Force has been working to develop suitable ideas that could help to meet the needs of the local area now and in the future.

We have the best opportunity ever to change the fortunes of people who live and work in Hastings and Bexhill. We are finally getting recognition regionally and nationally of the extra needs and problems of our area. Over the last few months the Task Force has been developing a package of proposals to regenerate the area and have presented it to Government Ministers. We have been given the 'green light' to work up the details and costings and then to go back to the Government. We would like everyone in Hastings and Bexhill to feel part of this project because it affects us all. It is about the future of our communities and in particular the future we can offer to the generation growing up here.

**Please consider some of the ideas shown here and let us know what you think:**

- are these the correct ideas to change the area?
- has anything been missed out?
- do you have thoughts about what could make a difference?

Contact the Task Force with your opinions and help us to make the right choices as we take the difficult and important decisions that lie ahead.



## TRANSFORMING THE BUILDINGS AND HOMES OF THE TOWNS

*To get the best out of people, the built up areas where they live and work must inspire confidence and a sense of value. Local people and visitors must be inspired and excited by Hastings and Bexhill, whether they are in one of the town centres or in the surrounding areas.*

**This could be achieved by:**

- Renewing and re-using derelict land and buildings
- Renovating and rebuilding the housing stock
- Creating new spaces for business expansion, education facilities, cultural sites, housing and leisure areas
- Creating new community areas within neighbourhoods, linked by public transport
- Making seafronts and open spaces more pleasant and enjoyable



## INCREASING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

*The speed of changes at work can often leave people high and dry without the skills they need. Hastings and Bexhill must provide the latest training and education facilities to make sure no one is left behind.*

**This could be achieved by:**

- Ensuring that links exist from primary schools right through to higher levels of education
- Making sure education establishments have strong links with local businesses and provide vocational training
- Creating a top quality higher education institute, in the heart of Hastings town centre, and (potentially) expanding onto a new University-style campus on the edge of the town

## PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

*With the right support and encouragement, most businesses can thrive and prosper. It is vital all businesses in this area, both new and established, are given every opportunity to reach their full potential.*

### This could be achieved by:

- Providing specialist premises and support to encourage the development of 'high tech' small businesses
- Creating a local business support network including links between new and existing initiatives
- Offering 'starter' business premises with support facilities on-site for new firms
- Offering 'next step' accommodation to existing small businesses to allow them to grow and stay in the local area



## IMPROVING TRANSPORT LINKS

*Serious improvements in public transport and road links are vital to the area's regeneration. These must help people to travel between home, school, work, shops and leisure facilities more easily, while decreasing congestion. They must also help to open up the area to new businesses and customers as well as having a positive impact on the local quality of life and environment.*

### This could be achieved by:

- Introducing faster peak-time train services to and from London.
- Building an Ore to Bexhill metro shuttle service, and building new stations at Glyne Gap and West Marina
- Re-instating the direct rail link between Pevensey and Polegate to reduce journey times to Brighton and Gatwick
- Electrifying the Hastings to Ashford line
- Relieving pressure on the A259 (Bexhill Road) through a combination of better train services, new stations, enhanced bus links between Hastings and Bexhill, and improvements to the road network including a possible link road
- Improving the A21 to reduce congestion
- Building a new station at Upper Wilting Farm to serve homes, places of employment and educational facilities (both existing and new developments)

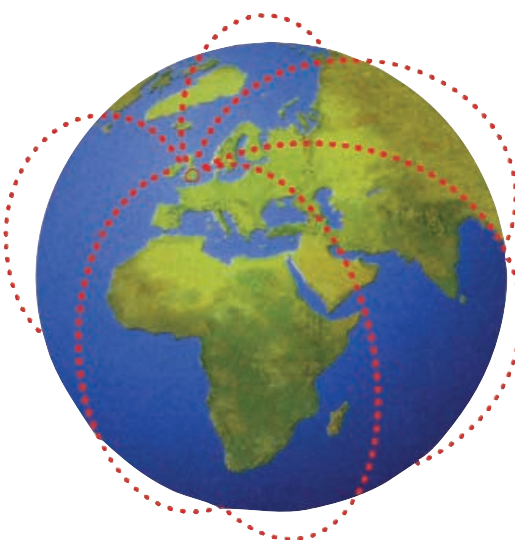


## ENABLING MASS MARKET HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

*The Internet is quickly moving to the centre of everyone's life, helping business, education, home-working and lifelong learning. Its effectiveness depends on the speed of the connections and the skills of the people who use it. To be at the forefront of modern living and working, everyone must be given the opportunity to keep up to date with current technology.*

### This could be achieved by:

- Supporting long term lifelong learning to help local people to learn and maintain relevant IT skills
- Installing cabling and/or satellite technology to create a high speed 'broadband' network (for faster internet access), available to businesses, education, households and public services
- Encouraging new media and digital industries to set up in the area



## THE WAY FORWARD

This is only the beginning. What we do and which ideas are used to try and make your life better, is very much down to you. Forthcoming consultation events, which you are welcome to attend, will be advertised in this paper. Two studies are about to start which will explore the ideas suggested here in greater depth and detail. As soon as the studies are completed, their findings will be made available for you to comment on, **but you needn't wait until then to get involved!**

## PLEASE CONTACT US BEFORE MARCH 1st 2002:

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