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LOCATE IN KENT PUTS COUNTY ON THE HOTEL MAP

Locate in Kent, Kent and Medway's investment promotion agency, has launched a new interactive website aimed at helping hotel developers find suitable sites and properties.

The website will support Kent's growing tourism industry, which was worth £2.5bn in 2006 and is rapidly expanding. The fact that the county's population is predicted to grow by nearly 10% between 2006 and 2021, alongside the planned construction of a large number of new homes and commercial properties, will provide increasing demand for hotels in Kent and Medway.

The website allows developers to search by district to find details of potential hotel sites and access a bank of information and statistics including planning status, area demographics and tourism impact and demand studies.

Over the last two years Kent and Medway has seen more than £50m invested in hotels, including two new Premier Inns, a Ramada Encore in Chatham and a new 113 bed Travelodge which opened in the centre of Maidstone in January. In addition, four of Kent's established hotels, including the Marriott Tudor Park in Maidstone, have undergone refurbishment.

Plans are currently in the pipeline for several new quality hotels in the county, including at Kent County Cricket Club in Canterbury and at London Golf Club, near Brands Hatch, as well as a 120 bedroom hotel for the Accor Group which will shortly be under construction by Geminex at Gillingham Waterfront, as well as extensive refurbishment at the Hythe Imperial Hotel.

Paul Wookey, Chief Executive of Locate in Kent, said: "The new high speed domestic rail service launched in late 2009 has meant that Kent has become increasingly accessible both for business and tourism. Alongside this, the Open Golf tournament in Kent in 2011 and the London 2012 Olympic Games will also offer a fantastic opportunity for new hotels in Kent.

More...

“We first produced a hotel sites portfolio some years ago, and as a result of sharing it with developers, we helped two of them find suitable sites in Kent. The online format makes it easy for developers to use, widely accessible and quick to update. Locate in Kent is here to help put developers and operators in touch with hotel site owners to maximise investment and create jobs in the county.”

The new website can be found at www.locateinkent.com/hotel_sites.

- Ends -

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Notes to Editors:

Locate in Kent

- Locate in Kent’s expertise makes it the one stop shop for businesses looking to succeed in Kent. It offers companies a number of free corporate relocation services, which includes access to its comprehensive Commercial Property Search, giving businesses the opportunity to search for premises in every part of Kent and Medway.
- Established in 1997, Locate in Kent is funded and supported by Kent County Council, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Medway Council, local councils, the Kent Developers Group - a partnership of the area’s leading commercial property developers and partners from the private sector.
- For more information about Locate in Kent, call 01732 520700, email enquiries@locateinkent.com or visit www.locateinkent.com