



# STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2017

## DISTRICT OVERVIEW

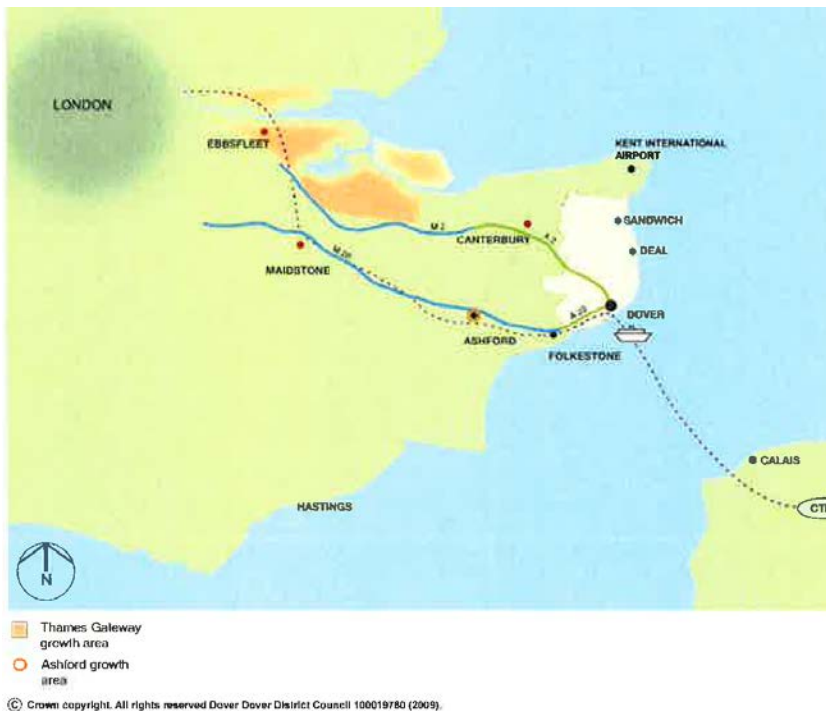
### DISTRICT OVERVIEW

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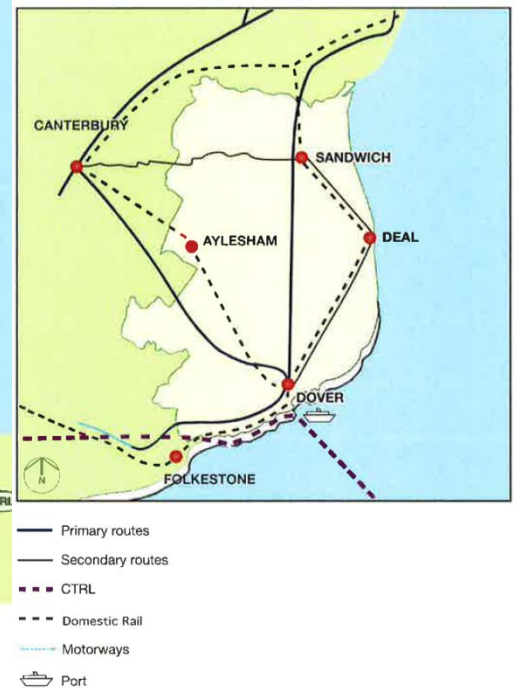
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## 1. LOCATION

### Regional Location



### Dover District



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Source: Dover District Local Development Framework Core Strategy Adopted February 2010

- The Dover District is situated in the East Kent peninsula at the extreme east of the south-east region and at the narrowest point of the English Channel.
- The Dover District is one of twelve districts that make up the county of Kent and is bordered by Thanet to the north, Shepway to the south-west and Canterbury to the north-west.
- Its location means that the district is at the centre of travel to and from continental Europe but on the edge of domestic economic activity.

## 2. DISTRICT PROFILE

- The Dover District covers an area of 31,484 hectares (123 square miles), with a coastline of around 20 miles. The district contains two urban areas, a market town and a large rural area made up of dozens of villages and smaller settlements.
- About 6,900 hectares (22%) of the district is designated as part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AoNB) and, of this, 876 hectares (3%) is designated as Heritage Coast, centred on the famous white cliffs either side of Dover.
- The Dover District is connected to the main highways network by the M20/A20 and M2/A2 corridors, which provide a direct link to London. High-speed rail links also connect Dover, Martin Mill, Walmer, Deal and Sandwich to London and the wider rail network.
- The Dover District is steeped in history and has a tradition of strategic, commercial and symbolic importance, attracting visitors from across the world. Sandwich and Dover are both Cinque Ports and Deal is a member of the Confederation. The district contains the spectacular Norman Castle at Dover, the Tudor castles of Deal and Walmer and the Roman castle at Richborough. Sandwich is the most complete medieval town in Britain and Deal is noted for its Georgian seafront.
- The Dover district is a great place to live with a wide range of sports and leisure facilities on offer including leisure centres, swimming pools, country parks and gardens, play areas, cinemas, theatres and museums. The Dover District is also famous for its golf courses including the Royal St. George's in Sandwich, which has hosted the Open Championship.

Please see the [White Cliffs Country](http://whitecliffscountry.org.uk)<sup>1</sup> tourism website to discover all that you can see and do in the Dover District.

- Regeneration is progressing across the district, with new housing, retail and leisure developments adding to the district's relocation appeal for both businesses and families. For example, the new [St. James](http://stjamesdover.co.uk/)<sup>2</sup> development in the heart of Dover, with a new cinema, hotel, restaurants and shops. [Aylesham Garden Village](http://ayleshamgardenvillage.co.uk/)<sup>3</sup> has established itself as a key development site, with one-third of the 1,200 new homes built out and sold. We are also building a new [Dover District Leisure Centre](http://dover.gov.uk/Leisure-Culture-Tourism/Leisure-Facilities/New-Leisure-Centre/home.aspx)<sup>4</sup>, in Whitfield.
- The economy of the Dover District is closely linked with the Port of Dover, which is Europe's busiest ferry port and a vital international gateway for the movement of passengers and trade. Other important sources of employment in the district include construction and accommodation & food services.
- Government designation of the former Pfizer pharmaceutical site in Sandwich as an Enterprise Zone, renamed 'Discovery Park', has proved to be extremely successful in terms of the number of jobs that have been created at the site – with life sciences a core activity. With over 160 companies from world-renowned pharmaceutical companies to bio-tech entrepreneurs, Discovery Park is the most successful Enterprise Zone in the UK. A wide range of business and professional support services are also based at Discovery Park to serve this global hub for science and technology.
- The diversity of the Dover District presents many opportunities and challenges. Throughout the district sensitive issues such as low skills, deprivation and health inequalities need tackling.
- The Potential Impact of Britain leaving the European Union (EU), commonly referred to as 'Brexit', on the Dover District is still unclear. Brexit involves a complex set of negotiations and although the Government hopes to deliver a smooth and orderly withdrawal, the outcome of the Article 50 process is difficult to predict.
- A key area for concern is for our transport and infrastructure and Government preparedness in the event of a 'no deal'. Maintaining the 'frictionless' transport of goods is a key issue for the district. With up to 10,000 freight vehicles passing through the Port of Dover each day, the implications of changes to border and customs arrangements are substantial. In addition, Dover District Council is the Port Health Authority for both the Port of Dover and the Channel Tunnel, with associated statutory responsibilities.
- There is a considerable amount of information and analysis available on the Parliament website, including a series of the Government's own position papers published as an aide to the negotiations. However, despite these (and a significant body of speculative research on Brexit), there is unlikely to be sufficient detail available for councils to take a more informed view until the following is known:
  - The nature of the deal to leave the EU,
  - Our future trading relationship both with the EU and the rest of the world, and
  - The criteria for the Shared Prosperity Fund, intended in part to re-purpose the UK's former EU contributions.
- Dover's gateway location means that Brexit will have a significant impact on us, our district and our communities, creating opportunities to do things differently as well as challenges that need to be addressed. It is crucial that we grasp any opportunities offered by Brexit to ensure that it is a success for the area and mitigate the negative impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> [whitecliffscountry.org.uk](http://whitecliffscountry.org.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [stjamesdover.co.uk/](http://stjamesdover.co.uk/)

<sup>3</sup> [ayleshamgardenvillage.co.uk/](http://ayleshamgardenvillage.co.uk/)

<sup>4</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Leisure-Culture-Tourism/Leisure-Facilities/New-Leisure-Centre/home.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Leisure-Culture-Tourism/Leisure-Facilities/New-Leisure-Centre/home.aspx)

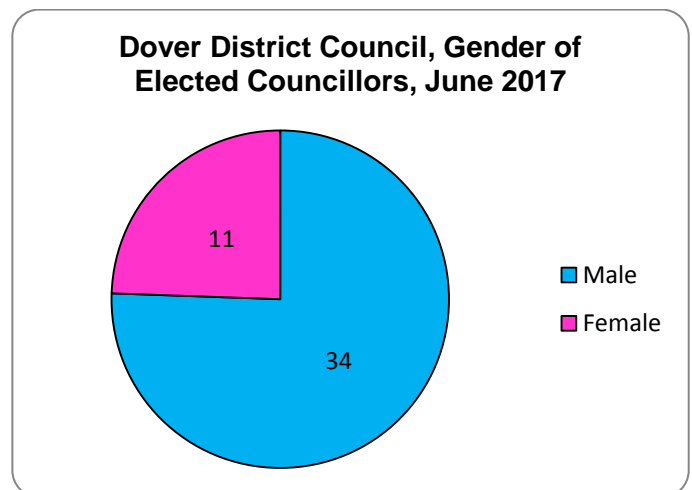
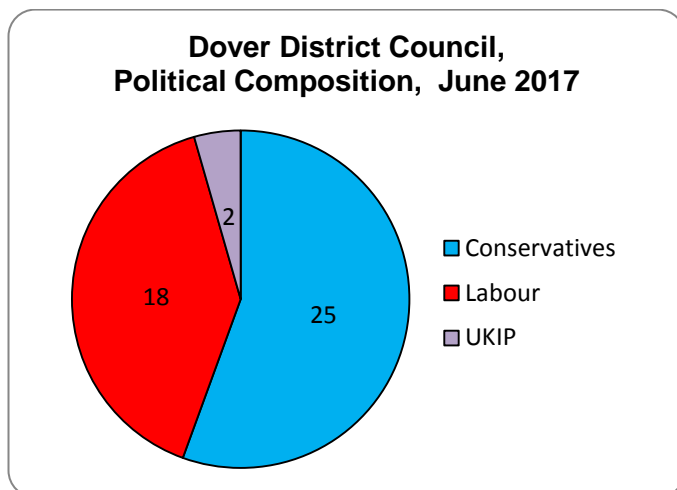
## 2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE DOVER DISTRICT

- The Dover District is part of a “two-tier” system of local government with responsibility for services divided between the district and county council. However, this term is misleading, as the district also has a “third-tier” – the [Town and Parish Councils](#)<sup>5</sup>. These also have elected representatives and cover smaller areas of the district – there are 32 parish councils and three town councils in the Dover District.
- Seven [Kent County Council](#)<sup>6</sup> (KCC) councillors serve the Dover District over five county divisions. KCC is elected every four years and the most recent elections took place in May 2017, when the council remained under Conservative control.

## 3. DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

### a) Political Composition

- Local councils are run by democratically-elected councillors. They are responsible for making decisions on behalf of the local community about local services, such as planning, housing, refuse collection and leisure facilities.
- An electoral ward is a subdivision of a local authority, used to elect local councillors. There are currently 21 electoral wards in the Dover District. District council elections are held every four years and will be held next on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. If a Councillor resigns or dies whilst in office, a by-election will be held to elect another person to represent that Ward.
- There are currently [45 serving councillors](#)<sup>7</sup> representing the 21 wards in the district, with each ward electing one, two or three councillors depending on the size of its electorate.
- The Conservative party currently controls Dover District Council, as it has the largest number of seats, with 25 councillors. The Labour party has 18 councillors and UK Independence Party (UKIP) two councillors. There are 34 male and 11 female councillors.



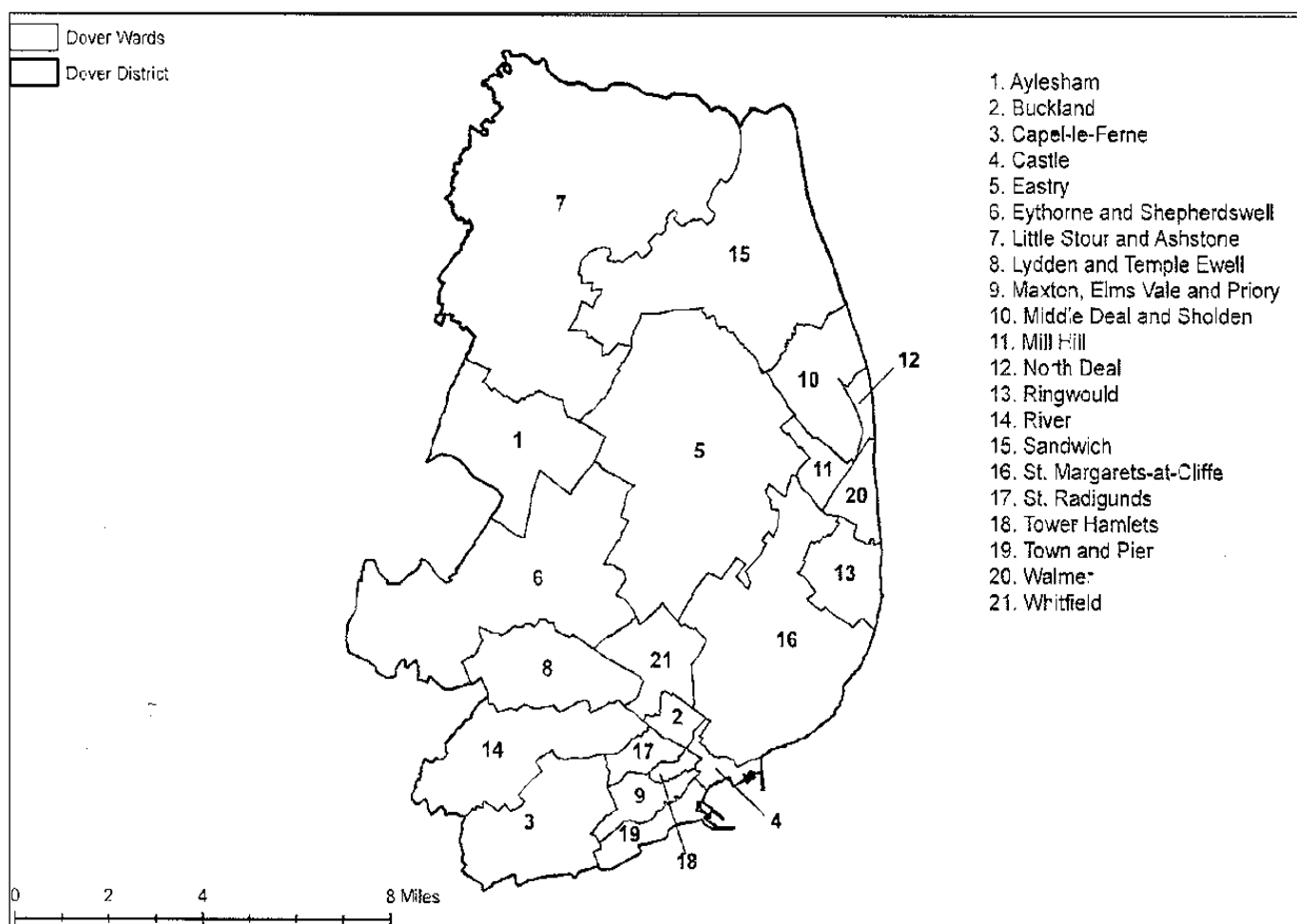
<sup>5</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Town--Parish-Councils/Home.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Town--Parish-Councils/Home.aspx)

<sup>6</sup> [kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/county-councillors](http://kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/county-councillors)

<sup>7</sup> [DDC Website – Your Councillors \(moderngov.dover.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1\)](http://DDC Website – Your Councillors (moderngov.dover.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1))

## b) Electoral Ward Map

### Dover District Electoral Wards



Map produced by Business Intelligence, Kent County Council; © Crown Copyright and database right 2013, Ordnance Survey 100019238

## c) Electoral Review

- The last review of the Council's electoral arrangements was undertaken in 2002, with the new arrangements coming into effect at the May 2003 elections. After the 2015 district council elections, officers were considering whether to request Council's approval for a Periodic Electoral Review, due to the length of time since the previous review. However, the proposed four way district merger discussions meant that this was put on hold, as if the single Council for East Kent had progressed an Electoral Review for that new Council would have been required, negating the need for this Council to request a review of its own arrangements. Following the decisions across East Kent not to proceed with a merger in March 2017, the need to consider an electoral review became relevant once again.
- At the meeting of Council held in May 2017, the full Council agreed to submit a request asking for a review of the number of elected members by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). As part of our submission, it was agreed to submit a request for an indicative council size of 'around 35'. The LGBCE accepted this request and included the Council within its programme of electoral reviews, with a view to the new electoral arrangements being in force by May 2019.
- The electoral review will be held in stages and there will be public consultation on the new ward boundaries (deadline January to April 2018) and draft recommendations (deadline June to August 2018). The LGBCE is expected to publish its final recommendations in October 2018, with the new ward boundaries and council size coming into force for the May 2019 full council election.

- In December 2017, Council resolved that a submission on Council Size for 32 councillors be made to the LGBCE.

#### d) How we work

- Our [Constitution](#)<sup>8</sup> is a set of rules for how we work, how we make decisions and the procedures that we follow to ensure these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.
- The [Leader](#)<sup>9</sup>, together with the Cabinet, takes all of the significant decisions within the Council (excluding planning and licensing issues) through their Cabinet meetings or individual decision-making processes. Key Decisions to be taken by the Cabinet are set out in our [Forward Plan](#)<sup>10</sup>. Where Cabinet decisions fall outside the agreed policy and budget strategy, these must be referred to the Council for consideration as a whole. All meetings of our Cabinet are open to the [public](#)<sup>11</sup>.
- The Council also has two [Overview and Scrutiny Committees](#)<sup>12</sup> to hold the Cabinet to account, contribute an alternative view in the development of policy, and monitor the corporate health of the organisation.
- The Chief Executive is the senior officer who leads and takes responsibility for the work of the paid staff of the Council. The role of Chief Executive is a full time appointment and is appointed by the whole Council.
- The [Management Team](#)<sup>13</sup> is responsible for managing the activities of our staff and for advising councillors on the potential implications of political decisions. By law, senior council staff are not allowed to participate in any party political activity and are expected to advise and assist all councillors irrespective of their political affiliation.
- Please see our [Democratic Services](#)<sup>14</sup> webpages for further information.

#### 4. MEMBERS' OF PARLIAMENT

- The UK is currently divided into 650 parliamentary constituencies, each of which is represented by one MP in the House of Commons. Two Parliamentary Constituencies cross the boundary of the Dover District Council area: Dover and South Thanet.
- The last General Election was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Under the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, the next general election is scheduled to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT <sup>15</sup>						
Constituency	MP	Party	No. of votes	Majority	Turnout	Electorate
Dover:	Charlie Elphicke	Conservative <sup>16</sup> (Held)	27,211	6,437	51,966	74,564
South Thanet:	Craig Mackinlay	Conservative (Held)	25,262	6,387	49,753	72,334

<sup>8</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Constitution.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Constitution.aspx)

<sup>9</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Leader--Cabinet.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Leader--Cabinet.aspx)

<sup>10</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Decisions.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Decisions.aspx)

<sup>11</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Freedom-of-Information/Public-Access-to-Information--Petitions.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Freedom-of-Information/Public-Access-to-Information--Petitions.aspx)

<sup>12</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Scrutiny/About-Scrutiny.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Scrutiny/About-Scrutiny.aspx)

<sup>13</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Management-Team/Management-Team.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Corporate-Information/Management-Team/Management-Team.aspx)

<sup>14</sup> [dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/CouncillorsElections.aspx](http://dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/CouncillorsElections.aspx)

<sup>15</sup> [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

<sup>16</sup> At the time of the election

## a) New Constituency Boundaries for Britain 2018

- Following the passage of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act, which reduces the total number of seats to 600, the four national Boundary Commissions were asked to undertake the "2018 Review" of constituency boundaries to equalise the size of seat both within and between the four nations of the UK. The Boundary Commission of England published its [initial set of proposals](#)<sup>17</sup> on 13 September 2016, with final proposals being ready by September 2018.

## 5. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- The European Parliament is the directly elected parliament of the European Union. It is composed of 736 members representing 500 million people across the 27 member states of the European Union.
- The United Kingdom elects 72 representatives known as Members of the European Parliament (or MEP) and elections are held every 5 years.
- The Dover District's interests in Europe are represented by the 10 MEPs for the South East European Parliamentary Constituency. Should you wish to raise a matter with an MEP concerning matters relating to the European Union, you can find their contact details on the website of the [European Parliament Information Office in the United Kingdom](#)<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> [boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/](http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/)

<sup>18</sup> [europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/your-meps/uk\\_meps/south\\_east\\_region.html](http://europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/your-meps/uk_meps/south_east_region.html)