

Dover Maritime

There have been numerous attempts to establish a centre of excellence in Dover to highlight the importance of and raise the awareness of the Maritime sector to the Kent economy. There have also been a number of attempts to introduce and deliver high quality Maritime training programmes in Dover to meet the sectors needs. These included:

- Walmer Science College vocational provision in Engineering (KCC invested 150k 3years ago)
- The development of a University Technology College with K College and Warsash Maritime Academy as the lead sponsors.

The lack of any prospect of government capital funding for the Maritime project required a change in approach as a number of key organisations K College, Astor College, Walmer College, Duke of Yorks and employers have all shown an interest and a willingness to progress and collaborate on the development of a Maritime centre of Excellence in Dover. There are also other private sector partners developing plans in isolation

Current proposition:

Dover Maritime needs a one stop a' spoke and hub model' with employers and training providers working together to develop high quality training programmes which meet employers needs. There is no **one** training provider who can deliver the full range of courses required to meet the sectors training requirements which are rapidly changing. The hub needs to be employer led, particularly important as many of the Maritime training programmes the sectors requires do not draw down any SFA or YPLA funding.

The one stop shop approach will be a grouping of organisations that can pool resources and provide the necessary infrastructure to allow networking opportunities for Marine professionals, develop effective employer engagement activities and high quality training opportunities

To support this development KCC (through the Skills and Employability) team has discussed with K College and Viking recruitment the option of funding a project manger to develop the one stop model in Dover.

Progress:

Sue Dunn/Nigel Holmes are currently writing up a JD for the project manager. There is a number of staff from NW College staff which has closed its provision, who have the appropriate skills and back ground in the sector to undertake this work.

There are significant opportunities to develop the Maritime hub with this current level of interest but the project must have a focused direction and clear strategic

intent which the project manager and a steering group of employers and lead training providers should be able to develop in partnership.

The funding for capital works on specialist Maritime facilities at Dover has always clouded the focus for previous developments. If the private sector wishes to develop new facilities that are complimentary to school and FE provision there should be the opportunity to discuss these proposals and bring them together which is a key role for KCC project manager.

Current activity:

K College

Cadet programmes links with Warsash and Duke of Yorks. This includes a new level 3 programme to start in September 2012
Engineering on the Dover campus.

Walmer Science College

Engineering. The college have expressed an interest in developing links with the Maritime sector which would provide employment opportunities for young people

Astor College

Currently running and developing the Military cadet programme with Duke of Yorks schools and Skill force programme which will have a focus on the Maritime sector

Viking Recruitment

Have shown a significant interest to develop a Maritime Business Hub and Innovation centre which would develop a business interest network and provide highly specialised Maritime training courses.

Peter Green

Local business man who wishes to develop Maritime training programmes in Dover and is currently working with KCC regeneration team on an Interregg for the Maritime sector.

Recommendation:

Small task group to be established which would coordinate and develop the business plan for Dover Maritime with a view to launch in April of next year

I would suggest that once appointed the project manager undertakes a comprehensive review of the facilities which are available in the Dover and wider Kent area. They would make recommendations to the steering group for the (membership to be determined) development of a coordinated and holistic approach to the use of specialist accommodation in the locality.

Roger Gabriel for Sue Dunn.