



# MAIDSTONE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

KENT'S COUNTY TOWN



TOWERGATE HOUSE, ECLIPSE PARK

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# WELCOME

## DAVID PETFORD

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL



DAVID PETFORD  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### WELCOME TO THE MAIDSTONE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

An essential guide to Kent's County Town, produced by Maidstone Borough Council.

This directory provides information and contact details on over 2,500 businesses in Maidstone, Kent's commercial capital. It's a great way to source many of the support organisations that help existing and new businesses in and around Maidstone.

A CD-ROM with detailed information on business sectors within the area is also included. It's designed to engage directly with Maidstone's commercial sector and encourage business to business activity and the local sourcing of products and services.

Maidstone Borough Council is committed to actively supporting existing businesses, encouraging new businesses to start up, attracting new companies to the area and promoting Maidstone as a vibrant and dynamic place to live and work with a robust, self-sustaining economy.

As a Growth Point, nearly £10 million of government funding will support a planned £320 million investment programme funding infrastructure to service new commercial and residential development. Maidstone welcomes business investment and has several key advantages over many of its competitor locations, including its proximity to London and the Continent

with excellent transport links and nearby access to Ebbsfleet International from where London St Pancras is now only 17 minutes away.

Whilst we're very proud of our 7,000 existing businesses, Maidstone is a highly attractive proposition for investors - with low housing costs, a ready supply of skilled labour and availability of quality commercial properties all set within a regionally significant retail centre, rich in culture and heritage - we have an impressive offer.

Maidstone Borough Council's vision for the Borough is to develop a vibrant economy and create prosperity and opportunities for all. We are creating an ambitious programme of regeneration focusing on the physical redevelopment of key town centre sites including a multi million pound transformation of the town centre's public realm. If you would like to know how the Council or its partners can help your business, or if you would like your business included in our free online directory, please contact our economic development team on 01622 602394.

We hope you find this directory useful and informative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Petford". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

David Petford,  
Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council

# KENT'S COUNTY TOWN

## MAIDSTONE

### A CENTRAL COMMERCIAL SOLUTION

Maidstone is the administrative and commercial centre of Kent. Recognised as a Growth Point, with a planned £320m investment programme supporting 11,000 new homes and up to 10,000 new jobs by 2026, Maidstone has the largest economy in the county. It is already home to 145,400 people.



LEEDS CASTLE

### CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT

Maidstone is driving business growth in Kent. It has proved to be a magnet for media companies; a growing sector attracted to the stylish blend of contemporary living, culture and heritage. Businesses in the Borough - there are 7,000 of all sizes with access to a 790,000 strong workforce - are thriving in a challenging climate and creating new opportunities.

### GREAT DESIGN IS THE KEY

Maidstone is an ambitious and entrepreneurial town on the move. In partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects, Maidstone Borough Council launched a £4m international design competition to re-model the High Street. The outcome will further enhance Maidstone's attractiveness to investors, visitors and shoppers, increase footfall and improve the vitality and viability of retailing.

### MODERN DAY REALITY

With more than 1.5 million sq ft of floor space, Maidstone has a shopping centre comparable in size to Bluewater, beautiful riverside scenery with plenty of open space and is close to Leeds Castle. Architecturally, Maidstone has successfully managed to integrate buildings from the 13th century with modern spatial designs fit for 21st century trade.

### DRIVING GROWTH FORWARD

Maidstone is a town with a clear sense of purpose, aware of its heritage and confident about the future. Its location, communications and transport links, skilled workforce and entrepreneurial culture are already proving that even when economic times are hard, there are opportunities to grow and succeed.

Maidstone is setting the standard for being the best place to live, work and relax in a modern day urban environment.



FREMLIN WALK  
MAIDSTONE

CONTEMPORARY RIVERSIDE APARTMENTS

# WELL CONNECTED

## CENTRAL FOR BUSINESS

### WELL CONNECTED AND CENTRALISED

Maidstone is a high quality and cost effective location to do business. Its great location and excellent communications links are highly significant in helping to shape a business's decision to locate in the area.

Maidstone is a transport hub with road and rail links which make it one of the best places in the UK to develop any kind of business. By road, the nearby M20 provides direct access to the M25. Maidstone is 35 miles from the Channel Tunnel and 37 miles from the City of London.

### TIME SAVING

Maidstone is the perfect location for doing business in London, the rest of the UK, and Europe. Connections are even quicker and more convenient with new fast domestic rail services, London St Pancras International is only 17 minutes from Ebbsfleet International (25 minute road journey from Maidstone) and new rail services from Maidstone West to St. Pancras in under one hour.

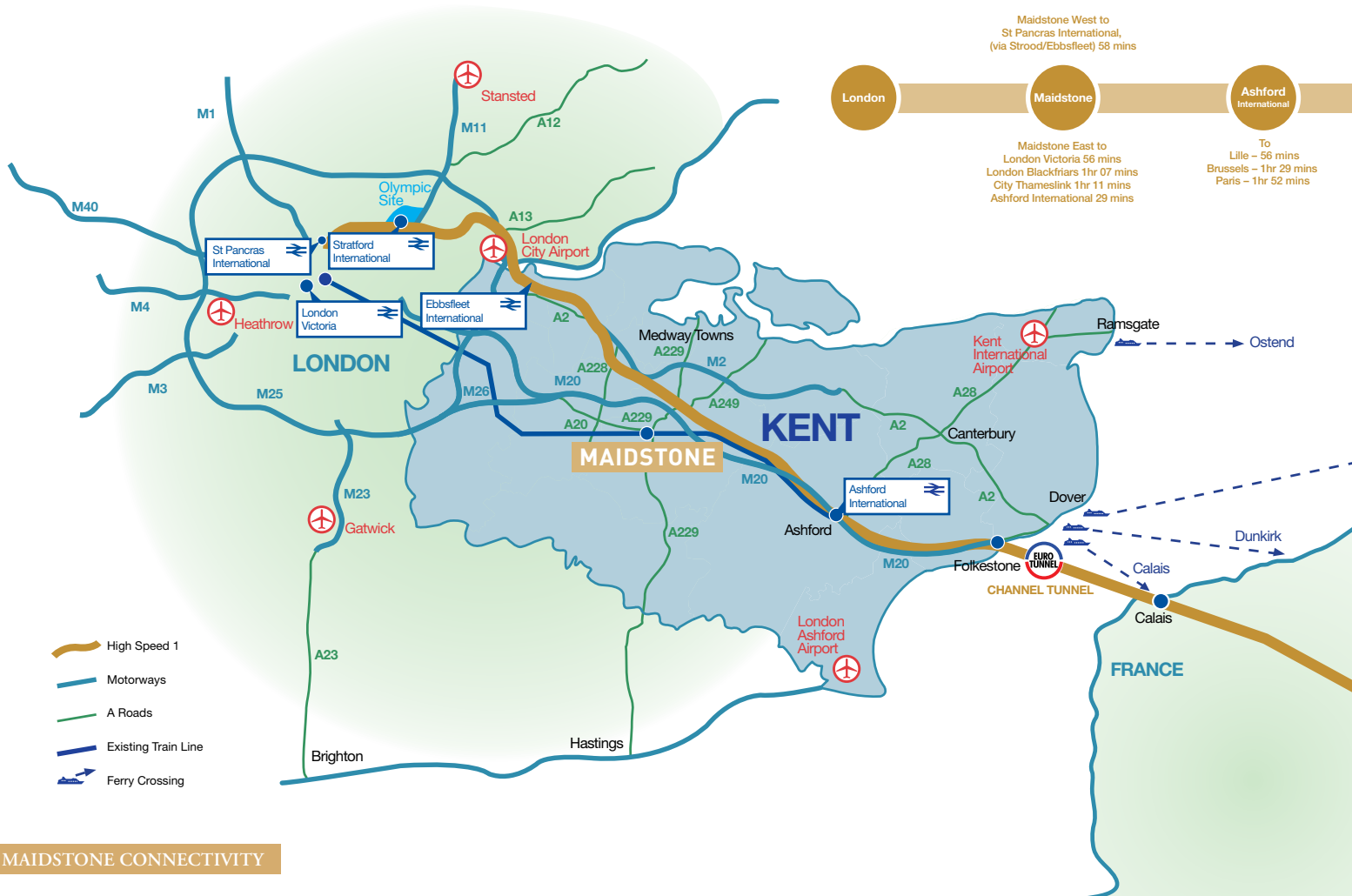
### ECONOMIC STRENGTH

Maidstone has the largest economy in Kent - 7,000 businesses have access to a 790,000 strong workforce. Maidstone Borough Council has launched an Economic Development Strategy that will build upon the town's high quality of life and unique location advantages and create a vibrant and dynamic town delivering high quality development and that attracts new businesses.

### 24/7 ECONOMY

Maidstone Borough Council's focus on increasing prosperity and raising the profile of the County Town is shared by local businesses - a new business partnership has been set up to help deliver this objective.

Maidstone enjoys a night time economy worth £75m, the largest late night retail and leisure hub in Kent, providing 4,000 jobs for local people.





ROAD CONNECTIVITY



HIGH-SPEED DOMESTIC TRAIN\*

## FACTS & FIGURES

- County Town of Kent
- £320 million investment programme
- Population of 145,400
- Accessible by a 790,000 strong workforce
- 11,000 new homes by 2026
- 10,000 new jobs by 2026

\* Courtesy of Southeastern

# MAIDSTONE

## PROPERTY

Maidstone offers both high-quality and cost-effective business premises where office rents are up to 60% lower than in London and other major commercial centres in the UK and overseas.

Maidstone town is a regionally important retail centre with many chain and independent stores. It is also the commercial hub of the Borough with the largest office space in Kent. Over 30% of all the Maidstone's businesses are in the rural area, many located on large business parks in the larger rural settlements, such as Staplehurst, Marden, Headcorn and Lenham.

### KEY BUSINESS PARKS

**20/20 Business Park** - Mixed-use of offices, industrial and distribution centres, strategically placed on the edge of Maidstone's urban area next to junction 5 of the M20.

**Eclipse Business Park** - A high quality location with available commercial office space. It is master-planned to provide 5 stand-alone office buildings from 10,000 sq ft up to a total of 400,000 sq ft. At junction 7 of the M20.

**Parkwood Industrial Estate** - An established business park with a variety of sizes and uses on a 61.35 acre site, 4 miles south of Maidstone town centre.

**Forstal Road** - A well established business park with a range of industrial and warehouse units of all sizes. Approximately 1 mile from junction 6 of the M20.  
**Pattenden Lane** - Industrial business park providing

opportunities for small, medium and large industrial units, close to distribution centres at nearby Paddock Wood. Approximately 9 miles south of Maidstone off the A229.

**Lodge Road Industrial Estate** - An expanding business park with speculative build, small and medium sized units with approximately 4 acres of land to be developed. Located near Staplehurst, 10 miles south of Maidstone.

**Detling Industrial Estate** - A business park favoured by manufacturing and distribution companies with opportunities for redevelopment. Easy access to both the M2 and M20, off the A249 close to Detling.

**Turkey Mill** - This prestigious 13,844 sq ft office development is now fully let. It is beautifully landscaped, located 1.5 miles from junction 7 of the M20 and a 10 minute walk from Maidstone town centre.

### PROPERTY AVAILABLE FOR NEW BUSINESS START-UPS

Flexible, easy in, easy out units are essential to support the early growth of new businesses. Maidstone can offer a variety of such property including:

**Maidstone Studios** - designed for SME start-ups, and a new 3,000 sq ft data centre designed to minimise its carbon footprint.

**Hermitage Court** - 12,250 sq ft of high quality office accommodation designed in the Kentish Oast House style.

**Springfield House** - offering small office units in the 14,000sq ft fully restored historic building.

**Kent Business Centre** - quality serviced offices in Maidstone town centre.

**The Powerhub** - cost effective studio space overlooking the river Medway in the town centre.

**Equilibrium, Parkwood Industrial Estate** - brand new workshop units will be available ranging from 980-1500 sq ft.

**Barham Court** - a fully equipped business centre with individually furnished offices and suites, set in the countryside overlooking the Medway Valley.

For more information about business start-up units, please visit [www.locateinmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.locateinmaidstone.co.uk)

COUNTY GATE

## DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Maidstone East Railway Station** - A 2.8 hectare site located in the town centre. This multi-million pound redevelopment of the station site will transform this gateway into Maidstone, with a mixed use development, planned to be completed by 2014.

**Springfield Business Park** - Planning permission has been granted for 200,000 sq ft of headquarters offices, located close to junction 6 of the M20 and 400 residential units overlooking the river Medway & Millennium Park, within walking distance of the town centre.

**27 Mote Road** - A 90,000 sq ft office in Maidstone town centre. The premises will offer 9 storeys of open-plan flexible workspace, with good car parking allocations.

**Private Hospital** - A £100 million state of the art private hospital with training facilities will soon be built near junction 7 of the M20.

**Cultural Investment** - Planning permission has been granted for a new Kent library and history centre near the town centre which will complement a new east wing extension to Maidstone Museum, lifting the cultural and educational offer to Maidstone businesses and residents.



ECLIPSE BUSINESS PARK



TURKEY MILL\*

\*Picture courtesy [www.turkeymill.co.uk](http://www.turkeymill.co.uk)



# BUSINESS SUCCESS IN MAIDSTONE

Maidstone's diverse range of property sites is attracting interest from business services, engineering and the creative industries; all contributing to an emerging modern economy.

## KNOWLEDGE BASED BUSINESSES

Maidstone Borough Council aims to attract more knowledge intensive companies from the service sector. Maidstone's great location and excellent communication links are highly significant in helping to shape a company's decision to locate in the area, evidenced by the Towergate Partnership's commitment to Maidstone.

Their £12m eco friendly, purpose built headquarters at Eclipse Park houses over 100 staff. The building totals 38,000 sq ft of high quality, modern office space over four floors and occupies a prime position at the gateway to Kent.

## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Maidstone is also proving to be highly attractive to media companies. Helping to drive this growth is MediaTree, a networking organisation for the creative industries.

MediaTree is working with leading media businesses in Maidstone to support talent and make the most of opportunities that exist in the area, with a strong emphasis on benefiting the industry locally. And with more than 600 students at the University for the Creative Arts in Maidstone, the town is set to continue to attract new media businesses.

“ Our new headquarters has excellent transport links with London via the M25 and M2. The new building is spacious and will meet our growth demands perfectly. ”

Paul Dyer, co-founder of Towergate



“ Maidstone benefits from an attractive blend of hi tech facilities, heritage and experienced professionals. MediaTree is doing a great job in putting together a network based around the 790 media and creative businesses already here. ”

Geoff Miles, Maidstone Studios



MAIDSTONE STUDIOS



GML CONSTRUCTION

“ It's a testament to the county that a company managing construction projects all over the country has committed to Maidstone. Not only is GML Construction expanding its own operations in Kent, it is also bringing another quality commercial building to the market. ”

Paul Wookey, Chief Executive, Locate in Kent

### FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Building contractor and developer, GML Construction, relocated to new self-built headquarters near Maidstone. Having searched for suitable premises around the county, the company selected land in Coxheath to build an impressive timber, glass and steel framed 8,000 sq ft office overlooking the Weald.

GML Construction now occupies three of the six suites spread over two storeys. The company continues to recruit locally and has grown by 45% over the last year.

TOWERGATE

# MAIDSTONE

## A STRONG TRACK RECORD

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Maidstone is perfectly placed to take advantage of Kent's 790,000 strong workforce, which in turn supports a local employment base of 250,000 people.

### WORKFORCE

As the County Town and commercial centre, Maidstone is a commercial hub with more people commuting into the Borough for work than commuting out. Salary levels are highly competitive in comparison with the London and south east average.

Kent boasts some 8,600 skilled graduates and Maidstone is home to Mid-Kent College, one of the largest further education colleges in the south east region and the prestigious University for the Creative Arts, which produced fashion icons Karen Millen and Zandra Rhodes. The University of Greenwich is also situated nearby.

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Maidstone is recognised for its high quality primary and secondary schools, including grammar, independent private and schools with special status.

Academic institutions are committed to putting in place curricula that are relevant for students looking for work in emerging business sectors such the media and creative industries.



■ ■ We are fortunate in having a committed and imaginative workforce at our head office in Maidstone. Our employees fully support and develop our ecofriendly initiatives. ■ ■

Jon Katzauer, Managing Director, Dempson Crooke Limited



SKILLED WORKFORCE



UCA CAMPUS MAIDSTONE

■ ■ When considering where to base our branch in Kent, Maidstone was the obvious choice with its central location, excellent communications and large base of professionals. Being a traditional bank that values relationships, it was very important to choose a location that allows us to reach our customers quickly. Our experience has been that this was entirely the right decision. ■ ■

Jonathan Watson, Corporate Manager, Handelsbanken

## KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN INNOVATION

Maidstone is committed to developing a highly skilled and motivated workforce. Connections between businesses and the universities are well-established with projects such as Employability Skills for Graduates and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

Dempson Crooke Limited is an innovative market-leader in producing “green” paper carriers and packaging consumables for over 50 years. With design and production facilities at their Maidstone base, backed up by engineering in Bosnia, Dempson Crooke has developed design credentials to match their environmental products.

MAIDSTONE STUDIOS

# QUALITY OF LIFE

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Maidstone is setting the standard for being the best place to live, work and relax in a modern, urban environment - the perfect work-life balance.

## HOUSING

Maidstone offers the ability to live close to work and enjoy shorter travel times. There is high quality housing in rural and urban settings including historic cottages in the countryside to modern contemporary riverside apartments. Prices are more than 40% cheaper than London and more than 30% less than in some other parts of the south east.

There are successful new developments in the town centre offering everything from first time buyers' accommodation, to luxury executive apartments with

river frontage. These have been built with a stylish contemporary look. Country and village living are all within a short distance of the town. To the north, the Park and Ride services have made commuting into town very simple and convenient.

Maidstone Borough Council pledges that 40% of new residential properties will be affordable. Within close access to Maidstone there are also exclusive residential properties from Oast House and barn conversions, to period homes and even castles.

## URBAN LIVING 24/7

Maidstone is a thriving, cosmopolitan and welcoming town with enviable lifestyle, shopping and entertainment attractions. It's a great place to enjoy and relax in as well as do business from.

The town is on the River Medway, close to some beautiful Weald countryside and charming Kentish villages. Brenchley Gardens, Mote Park and the Maidstone Millennium River Park (featuring landscaped open space and public art, plus luxury riverside apartments) are all close to the town centre.

Maidstone Borough Council and its partners have set out a vision for the Borough which aims to create "a model 21st century county town, a distinctive place, known for its blend of sustainable rural and urban living, excellence in public services, dynamic service sector-based economy, and above all, quality of life." Economic Development Stakeholder Forum

ST PETERS BRIDGE

COSMOPOLITAN LIFESTYLE



TOWN CENTRE RIVERSIDE APARTMENTS



# DRIVING GROWTH FORWARD

Maidstone Borough Council is driving growth forward. A high quality environment is important to investors, residents and those considering relocating to Maidstone. An Economic Development Strategy is set to take the town forward to 2020. To achieve its vision it aims to...

**Develop sector specialisms** - to include professional and business services, creative and media, sustainable construction, the public sector, retail, leisure and tourism.

**Create a more innovative and entrepreneurial economy** - to include proposals for an Enterprise Centre, strengthening knowledge transfer in the Higher Education sector, and ensuring that more Maidstone companies benefit from business support services provided by the South East England Development Agency 'SEEDA' and its sister organisations.

**Attract and retain investment** - to work more closely with Locate in Kent to ensure the Maidstone offer is responsive to market requirements, and build a closer relationship with key local businesses.

**Develop a culture of lifelong learning** - to support the expansion and consolidation of Mid Kent College and the University for the Creative Arts, and maximise take up of national training programmes such as 'Train to Gain'.



FREMLIN WALK

## CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT

Maidstone is taking steps to ensure that it remains competitive by investing in the built economy and redeveloping the High Street. It is eager to help businesses develop the sites that they need for future growth.

The investment opportunities in Maidstone are considerable. St Peter's Wharf is a highly visual new addition in terms of regeneration with a new hotel and ASDA living store in the heart of town.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Maidstone Borough Council Services to Business

Building regulations/surveyors	01622 602703
Business rates helpline	01622 602230
Council commercial properties for lease	01622 602720
Economic development	01622 602394
Environmental health (enquiries)	01622 602202
Licensing - entertainment, taxis, street traders	01622 602727
Planning applications helpline	01622 602736
Refuse (trade)	01795 418450
Street traders licensing	01622 602506
Planning Policy	01622 602234
Tourism	01622 602748

## LOCATE IN MAIDSTONE

For further information on starting up a business, relocating or expanding a business, business support services and initiatives or grants and loans schemes.

### Economic Development Manager

Economic Development Unit  
Maidstone Borough Council  
Maidstone House  
King Street  
Maidstone  
Kent ME15 6JQ

**Tel:** 01622 602394

**Fax:** 01622 602226

**Email:** [economicdevelopment@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@maidstone.gov.uk)

**www.locateinmaidstone.co.uk**

## PROPERTY AGENTS

### Bishop Whitehead

**Tel:** 01622 766387

**Email:** [mail@bishopwhitehead.co.uk](mailto:mail@bishopwhitehead.co.uk)  
**www.bishopwhitehead.co.uk**

### Cluttons

**Tel:** 01622 756000

**Email:** [info@cluttons.com](mailto:info@cluttons.com)  
**www.cluttons.com**

### Martine Waghorn

**Tel:** 01622 672233

**Email:** [Rmm@martinewaghorn.co.uk](mailto:Rmm@martinewaghorn.co.uk)  
**www.martinewaghorn.co.uk**

### Harrisons Chartered Surveyors

**Tel:** 01622 692144

**Email:** [info@harrisons-surveyors.com](mailto:info@harrisons-surveyors.com)  
**www.harrisons-surveyors.co.uk**

### Sibley Pares

**Tel:** 01622 673086

**Email:** [commercial@sibleypares.co.uk](mailto:commercial@sibleypares.co.uk)  
**www.sibleypares.co.uk**

### MKH Surveyors

**Tel:** 01622 761605

**Email:** [mkh@mkhclokes.co.uk](mailto:mkh@mkhclokes.co.uk)  
**www.mkhclokes.co.uk**

## OTHER CONTACTS

### Business Link Kent

**Tel:** 0845 600 9006

**Email:** [info@businesslinkkent.com](mailto:info@businesslinkkent.com)  
**www.businesslinkkent.com**

### Federation of Small Businesses Kent and Medway Regional Branch

**Tel:** 01622 688134

**Email:** [kent@fsbdial.co.uk](mailto:kent@fsbdial.co.uk)  
**www.fsb.org.uk/151**

### Kent & Medway Learning and Skills Council

**Tel:** 0845 019 4152

**Email:** [informationline@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:informationline@lsc.gov.uk)  
**www.lsc.gov.uk**

### Kent Conference Bureau

**Tel:** 01622 602485

**Email:** [info@conferencekent.co.uk](mailto:info@conferencekent.co.uk)  
**www.conferencekent.co.uk**

### Kent County Council Economic Development Unit

**Tel:** 01622 696137

**Email:** [reinff@kent.gov.uk](mailto:reinff@kent.gov.uk)  
**www.kent.gov.uk**

### Locate in Kent Ltd

**Tel:** 01732 520700

**Email:** [enquiries@locateinkent.com](mailto:enquiries@locateinkent.com)  
**www.locateinkent.com**

### Maidstone Borough Council

**Tel:** 01622 602000

**Email:** [customerservices@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@maidstone.gov.uk)  
**www.digitalmaidstone.com**

### Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

**Tel:** 01622 695544

**Email:** [info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk](mailto:info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk)  
**www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk**

### Maidstone Town Centre Management

**Tel:** 01622 678777

**Email:** [info@mtcmti.co.uk](mailto:info@mtcmti.co.uk)  
**www.maidstonetowncentre.com**

### Media Tree

**Tel:** 01622 684606

**Email:** [info@mediatree.org.uk](mailto:info@mediatree.org.uk)  
**www.mediatree.org.uk**

**Please note:** Maidstone Borough Council takes no responsibility for any inaccuracy in the description of any goods, products or services listed in this directory, and gives no warranty as to the truth or accuracy of the descriptions of such goods, products or services.