

INWARD INVESTMENT

Locate in Kent is the official investment promotion agency for Kent and Medway, offering a free, impartial and confidential service. Our networks, knowledge and expertise make us the first point of call for businesses looking to succeed in Kent.

Whether a company is starting up, looking to expand or relocate, Locate in Kent can help them make the most of Kent's ideal business environment with specialist advice tailored to their individual needs. The team of skilled advisers can offer support in a number of ways:

- **Property search** – The Locate in Kent commercial property database, which is free to use and list on, provides up-to-date information on the availability of commercial property and land across Kent and Medway. With listings from over 160 property agents, large and small, we offer a fully comprehensive search tool to help businesses find the perfect location in the county.
- **Market and industry insights** – Our property database allows companies to search for commercial space alongside in-depth socioeconomic and business data such as labour force and skills information, demographics, population, wage levels, housing, infrastructure and educational facilities. Locate in Kent is the first investment promotion agency in the UK to offer this insight to prospective commercial buyers and occupiers, helping them to understand the full benefits of a location for their business.
- **Site selection** – With comprehensive knowledge of commercial availability in the county we can offer bespoke advice on the best premises to suit growing business needs, as well as supporting clients throughout the planning process and providing advice on industrial or office design and build options.



Sicame office at London Medway Commercial Park.

“We worked closely with the Locate in Kent Skills Adviser to progress our training and development frameworks and to select the right sort of partners in the Kent geography to support programmes, and partly to support some of our recruitment work.”

Colin Dixon, Manufacturing Manager, Berkeley Modular

- **Relocation support** – Our strong links to local and national government in addition to the Department of International Trade, mean we can help make a relocation and/or overseas transition, as seamless as possible. The team can assist, or connect clients into the right networks for support, with visas, immigration, logistics, local recruitment, grants and incentives.

- **Long term growth** – We work with developers to bring forward commercial schemes, using our knowledge and insight to connect developers with opportunities in the county. Alongside our partner, Kent Developers Group, we work to remove barriers to growth and enable the delivery of future economic prosperity to Kent and Medway.
- **Commercial expertise** – With highly skilled sector specialists as part of our team, we understand the challenges organisations face and can support business development in high growth sectors. We can advise on a number of local and national funding initiatives that are available to ambitious businesses. Plus, our specialist skills adviser connects businesses with educational and talent organisations to help them find the right people and skills for success.
- **Partner network** – We partner with a wide range of first class, business services providers, connecting our clients with organisations that can support their growth: whether it is legal, accountancy, recruitment, marketing or public relations support that is required, our partner network can assist.

"I gravitate to Kent as I think it's a fantastic place to live and work. There's a massive amount of opportunity here, not only because of its close proximity to London but also infrastructure improvements that have come about such as High Speed 1. This has led to an increase in price per square foot, making schemes more viable and deliverable for builders both commercial and residential."

Mark Quinn, CEO, Quinn Estates

Major investments

Locate in Kent successfully helped 81 companies last year (September 2017 – August 2018) to set up, move or expand in Kent and Medway, projecting to create 1,775 jobs over the next 3 years and retain 1,652 jobs. At the end of August 2018, Locate in Kent had a pipeline of 250 investment projects for companies looking to start up, expand or relocate in Kent and Medway, with 21% of them being overseas companies.

Notable investments included:

Berkeley Modular has received planning permission for a modular homes facility in Northfleet, which will create up to 250 jobs. Construction will begin in 2018 and consist of a 150,000ft² manufacturing facility and a 15,500ft² office building. The first homes are expected to leave the factory towards the end of 2019.



Proposal for Instro Precision Limited, Discovery Park Sandwich.

Sicame UK Ltd, which designs and manufactures a wide range of electrical equipment for use across electricity distribution and supply networks, relocated from Erith to a purpose built 64,000ft² facility at London Medway Commercial Park.

Precision engineering company **Instro Precision** will relocate from Broadstairs to a new purpose built manufacturing facility at Discovery Park, Sandwich.

Amazon will open a new, circa 366,000ft², sortation centre at London Medway Commercial Park later this year, creating more than 200 jobs.

Grooming products manufacturer, **Wahl UK**, has relocated from Herne Bay to a 97,000ft² facility at Manston Business Park, Ramsgate.

Berry Gardens, the UK's leading berry and stone fruit production and marketing group, commenced construction of an £18 million, circa 150,000ft², pack house facility at Linton near Maidstone.

Get in touch today to find out more about our free business support services and network of contacts:

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locateinkent.com/property-search

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