

Groundwork in the Channel Corridor

Ashford Borough Council / Maidstone Borough Council / Shepway District Council / Kent County Council / Groundwork South East

Brief

BE Group was commissioned to study the potential for creating a Groundwork Trust to operate across the Boroughs of Ashford, Maidstone and Shepway, collectively known as the Channel Corridor.

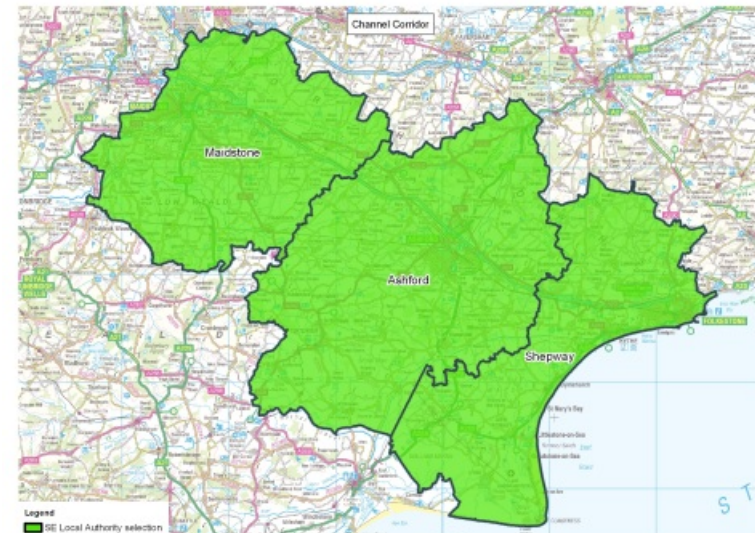
The main objectives were to establish whether there was a need and a niche for a Groundwork Trust in the study area and whether there was sufficient support amongst potential partners for its development.

Activities

BE Group conducted a wide ranging consultation amongst the public sector and voluntary agencies in the three local authority areas. The programme included identifying existing organisations and the role they play in the Channel Corridor and ensuring that any Groundwork activity, would add value to, and not replace, existing activity.



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Outcome

The Stage 1 work concluded that there was both need and opportunity for a Groundwork Trust in the Channel Corridor area. However, further work would be needed in a Phase 2 study to identify the most appropriate organisational structure and remit for Groundwork in the Channel Corridor and how exactly it would sit at the sub-regional level.

A further recommendation was that any further Phase 2 work should include the local authorities of Tonbridge & Malling and Sevenoaks, who have already had a Phase 1 study completed.

