

Liberty Square View from top of Tonbridge Castle

East Peckham industrial estate

The development will also add a new dimension of retail activity and improve the economic vitality of the attractive town centre.

## Borough-wide business

Tonbridge and Malling has a strong base in manufacturing, distribution and service-based industries. A number of large employers are located in the borough, including Aylesford Newsprint in Larkfield and Kimberly-Clark, whose UK headquarters are in Kings Hill Business Park. Other companies at Kings Hill include Barclays Bank, Cabot Financial, Man Group and Yell.

Located on the former West Malling airfield, Kings Hill is one of the largest and most successful mixeduse developments in Europe. The park currently employs 5,000 people in over 100 companies. Subject of over £500m of investment, Kings Hill caters for international brands through to SMEs in 800,000 sq ft of office and business space. The high-tech facility provides both a good business base and a focus for the community.

Other major business facilities in this largely rural borough include East Malling Research. Their work has a worldwide reputation in the agricultural sector, particularly in plant and fruit growing. West Malling meanwhile is home to Business Link Kent's (see page 40) head offices. With such support on the doorstep it is no surprise that the borough is a good place for small businesses; on average three-quarters of Tonbridge companies have less than 10 employees.



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