

Enterprise Zone – Discovery Park

FAQs

What are the main benefits to businesses who locate at the Enterprise Zone?

Business rate discounts of up to 100%, a guarantee of good access to superfast broadband, and a simplified planning process.

How do I know how much the business rate discount would be worth?

It's a maximum of £55,000 per year, for up to five years (i.e. a maximum discount of £275,000 over a five year period). There is no limit on the percentage discount, so a business paying rates of less than £55,000 per year could receive a discount of 100%.

Do I need to be a particular type of business?

No, all businesses are eligible.

When will these incentives start and end?

The benefits of the Enterprise Zone, including the business rate discount will be available to companies moving onto the site between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2015. The discount period would run out completely for the last companies benefiting, in 2020.

Do businesses need to move onto the site after April 2012 to benefit from discounts?

No, businesses already on the site at this point will be eligible.

When will the simplified planning regime take effect?

This will not be known until the Local Development Order is developed by Dover District Council - watch this website for update information.

Are there any benefits to businesses outside the Enterprise Zone boundary?

There are no financial incentives for businesses located outside the Enterprise Zone boundaries, but these companies will hopefully benefit from trade with these companies.

Are there any other incentives available in East Kent?

Only those available across the whole of the UK such as R&D grants. However, an application has been made to the Government's Regional Growth Fund to secure a programme known as Expansion East Kent, which would provide grant assistance to businesses looking to create jobs anywhere in East Kent (i.e. the districts of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet). A decision on the Regional Growth Fund application is expected in October. Watch this website for updated information.

I have seen that some Enterprise Zones offer other financial incentives.

Not all Enterprise Zones benefit from the same package of incentives. Capital allowances and local business rate retention are not currently applicable to Discovery Park.

What effect will the State Aid rules have on the business rate discounts for my company?

Probably none. The discount is made under the *de minimis* rule, which sets a ceiling for the maximum amount of grant aid or equivalent that businesses may receive. So the value of the discount available to an individual business may be reduced if that business is already in receipt of public sector grant from some other source. The *de minimis* rule does not apply to businesses in certain sectors such as primary food production and freight transport.