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Dear Anthony

Planning Permission for Studio Development at Ashford Newtown Works

The University of Kent welcomes the proposed new Film Studio Development at Ashford Newtown works.

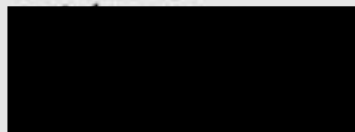
Cultural and Creative Industries are a strategic priority for us and the proposed development supports our ambition to be a regionally and internationally acknowledged leading university in the Cultural and Creative Industries by the time of our 60th Anniversary in 2025.

We have just established our new Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries. Our aim is to connect creative arts and digital production to research **analysis and business training, embedding the 'fusion' of creative, digital and entrepreneurial skills in everything we do.** This will uniquely equip our students not only with essential skills, but also with a knowledge of and respect for the working practices of others within their sector for the porous, shifting career trajectories that they will face on graduation.

The University of Kent already has a track record in equipping our graduates with the skills to make a significant contribution to the screen industries. Examples include five of our graduates involved in the animation and production of the latest Lion King film and a further two, Neil Purvis and Robert Wade, who co-write the last seven James Bond films including "No Time to Die".

We look forward to exploring the opportunities offered by the state of the art facilities and particularly welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the other HE and FE institutions in Kent, recognising each other's strengths and distinctiveness. We believe this provides a radical new approach to skills, entrepreneurship and Research & Development, working in close partnership with international industry players.

Yours sincerely



Professor Karen Cox