**Innovation Warehouse**

We, DBL [link], have always wanted to provide a space where start-up businesses could operate from, where we could reduce the risk of failure and provide mentoring and support.  Thanks to an exciting partnership with Dover District Council [link]we have been able to realise this ambition by taking over the old Co-op supermarket on Stembrook and utilise it as a business incubator space and more.

The joint press release [link] announcing this can be found here - <https://www.dover.gov.uk/News/Press-Releases/2018/Former-Co-op-Building-to-be-Launch-Pad-for-New-Dover-Businesses.aspx>

The business area will incorporate partitioned office/studio/maker spaces, a co-working area, private meeting rooms, a training space, a fully equipped kitchen area, free fibre broadband and free printing (both subject to reasonable use restrictions).

If you are interested in locating your business with us then keep an eye out for our application form which will be available shortly.

Currently we are in the process of undertaking the conversion, which not only involves a number of local building trades businesses who will undertake the necessary works, but also involves local Dover based artists and interior designers who will be responsible for the look of both the outside and inside.

The space is enormous, so to make the best use of it and offer the best options to you, the residents, we are looking at utilising about 40% of the space for community activites.  These will include an exhibition space, an adult games area, a self-service refreshments area, a comfortable seating area for parents and a children’s soft play facility.  There is potential for additional activities, which we can develop over time; so please do share your ideas with us.

Ross Miller

Chair Dover Big Local Partnership