

FROM THE DEPUTY LEADER OF SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Robert Richardson,
General Manager,
The Grand,
The Leas, Folkestone

19th February 2014

Dear Mr. Richardson,

I am most grateful to you for kindly inviting me to the event attended by the DWP Minister, Esther McVey, last Friday. I was deeply impressed by the organisation of the meeting, as well as by the number of participants and by the contributions made by so many speakers, not least among them yourself.

Under your stewardship and following an impressive series of initiatives, The Grand has now emerged as one of Folkestone's foremost employers. I know of no other local employer who has developed such a fruitful relationship with Jobcentre personnel and who has provided such a range of admirable training and employment opportunities for our young people locally.

I know that you have recruited nearly thirty young people over the last three years. Of still greater significance, however, is that the majority of these recruits have been retained in employment at The Grand. I have had the opportunity to speak with a number of individual staff members, and I have been deeply impressed with their appearance, their courtesy, their dynamism and, above all else, their commitment to their jobs and to you.

I am also very aware of the fact that it is your practice to focus upon the skills set of each one of your employees. To that end, you invest, and at your own expense, in courses and in training designed to equip them with additional qualifications and, of course, enhanced job marketability.

Your young employees do you great credit. You in your turn are a flagship employer, and your dedicated work is a source of great pride to me and to my council colleagues. May I offer you my sincere congratulations and thanks for all you do on behalf of the town and its young people.

Cllr. Russell Tillson

