



Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board

Approved Minutes of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting held in Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, 2.00pm on Tuesday 16 May 2017.

Present:

Board members and observers

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)
Cllr Rodney Chambers, Medway Council
Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Swale Borough Council
Cllr Mark Dance, Kent County Council
Robert Goodman, Bluewater
Paul Jackson, Dovetail Games
Ann Komzolik, North Kent College
Professor Alan Reed, University of Greenwich
Paul Spooner, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
Cllr David Turner, Gravesham Borough Council

Also present:

Adam Bryan, South East Local Enterprise Partnership
Jan Challis, Highways England
Neil Davies, Medway Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
David Hughes, Gravesham Borough Council
Richard Longman, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Iain McNab, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Matthew Norwell, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Sarah Nurden, Kent County Council
Linda Searle, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Alex Vinci, LTC Cascade
Jacqui Ward, Kent County Council
Emma Wiggins, Swale Borough Council

Apologies:

Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Swale Borough Council
Rehman Chishti, Member of Parliament
Cllr John Cubitt, Gravesham Borough Council
Mark Heeley, Workman LLP
Julie Foley/Richard Penn, Environment Agency
Paul Kitson/Chris Moore, Homes and Communities Agency
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Dartford Borough Council
David Smith, Kent County Council

Item 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. The Chairman welcomed: Adam Bryan, SELEP; Jan Challis, Highways England; Paul Jackson, Dovetail Games; Jacqui Ward, KCC; and Cllr David Turner (who has taken over as Leader of Gravesham Borough Council - the Board asked that their best wishes be conveyed to Cllr Cubitt, who remained unwell).
- 1.2. The Chairman informed the Board of apologies received (see list above).

Item 2. Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2017

- 2.1. The Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 21 February **were agreed as a true record. On matters arising:**
 - Item 2.1 Paragraph 2.1 (Paragraph 7.5): Matthew Norwell confirmed he had arranged to see HCA next week as part of his introductory meetings and would explore further joint working on the Partnership's priorities.
 - Item 3 Paragraph 9: Actioned: Matthew Norwell and Richard Longman had visited Enevate Limited's off-site construction at Peacock Rise, Chatham.
 - Item 3 Paragraph 10: Actioned. TGKP had sent a signed-off Industrial Strategy response, ahead of the deadline - next steps are on the Agenda.
 - Item 4 Paragraph 17: Actioned. TGSG members had agreed to rotate chairing arrangements between Kent, Essex and London – Essex to chair next meeting.
 - Item 10 Paragraph 26: Actioned: Kent and Medway Business Fund had been discussed at the March TGK Officers' Group meeting - next steps are on the Agenda.

Item 3. Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) – verbal update – Jan Challis (Highways England) and Alex Vinci (LTC Cascade)

- 3.1. Jan Challis and Alex Vinci were invited to present to the Board, following the Government's announcement of its preferred route for the LTC. The focus was on understanding what happens next, milestones, and potential role for TGKP as work develops. Highways England (HE) would attend any meeting if requested and Board members should contact HE with any questions.
- 3.2. HE explained that the route announcement took account of 47,000 consultation responses - a bored tunnel offered less environmental impact, would add 70% extra capacity/additional road network resilience. LTC would be a modern crossing, providing new homes, jobs, business opportunities, not just a national/regional traffic solution. It is likely that the LTC would include a 3-width lane capacity in each direction.
- 3.3. HE explained that they had not yet decided whether the LTC would include a junction for the A226.
- 3.4. Next steps/going out to consultation – HE will be working on traffic modelling, an Essex/Kent survey is already being carried out for traffic flows and new junctions. Detailed design work and surveys are to be carried out over the next two years, to inform and take account of concerns.
- 3.5. A Red-line boundary plan has been published but is not definitive: discussions with land owners being pursued. HE are also talking to major land owners/LAs regarding utilities infrastructure (gas/pipelines etc).
- 3.6. Planning statement to be released. Decision expected 2019-20.
- 3.7. HE increasing their on-line presence - aiming to talk to everyone, including general public.

3.8. **ACTION: HE to email to TGKP a copy of slides from today's presentation.**

3.9. The following comments were made by Board members:

- The A2 (Kent) and M25 (Essex) connections are non-negotiables. Other variables are still up for discussion: A13 Junction, A226 junction, link to Tilbury Docks, also the location of portals and length of tunnel.
- Need to look at impact on Dover port, increased traffic during construction period, and the effect on junctions, especially Brenley Corner, A249 and A229, and other routes such as A227 to avoid exceeding capacity – this cannot be left until the tunnel is built. HE asked to look at the whole corridor.
- Jan Challis offered to write setting out the next steps regarding M2/M20 connections. A working group comprising HE, KCC and Medway might usefully be convened to lead the conversation.

3.10. **ACTION: Jan Challis to write explaining next steps on M2/M20 links. TGKP Board to forward any comments to HE, for feed-back in due course.**

Item 4. Green Paper on Government's Industrial Strategy – final response and next steps –paper TGKP(17)6 – Richard Longman

4.1. Richard Longman recapped the main issues from the consultation response and explained that there was an opportunity to use the key messages from the work in wider lobbying and marketing work on behalf of North Kent. Board members agreed and asked TGKP to work-up a more detailed lobbying plan based on the strategy work. **ACTION: Richard Longman.**

Item 5. Rail Consultations – TGKP Draft Response – paper TGKP(17)7

5.1. There were two plans concerning the rail network in Kent out for consultation:

- **South Eastern Rail Franchise Public Consultation** (deadline for responses 23 May)
- **South East Route – Kent Area Route Study** (deadline for responses 30 June)

5.2. Rail and road strategy planning work appears to be disconnected, modal shift/cost benefit etc., particularly in terms of how to use rail capacity to reduce pressure on the strategic road network. TGKP response would encompass the key messages in paragraph 6 of the paper. Both consultations deal with capacity, but not at the pace and scope needed to take account of exceptional nature of speed of growth in NK.

5.3. **It was agreed TKGP responds to both consultations - iterations of the drafts to be circulated electronically for more detailed comment, with subsequent sign-off by TGK Officers' Group/TGKP Board Chairs, for submission to DfT.**

Item 6. Thames Gateway Strategic Group (TGSG) – Paper TGKP(17)8 – Matthew Norwell

6.1. Paul Carter had chaired the last meeting on 7 March and had asked that the next meeting consider a paper from each Gateway area (Kent, Essex and London) outlining:

- A reflection on achievements and developments in the past 10 years;
- The present situation;
- Potential opportunities to 2030 and 2050; and
- Potential impacts if key priorities were not delivered.

6.2. Matthew Norwell outlined a set of draft suggested strategic responses to each question which could be worked-up into a more detailed document. Members endorsed these

points. **ACTION: Matthew Norwell to circulate completed document ahead of next TGSG meeting (probably July).**

Item 7. TGKP Private Sector Board Members' Meeting – paper TGKP(17)9 – Matthew Norwell

- 7.1. TGKP's Chairman had convened a Private Sector Board members' meeting on 25 April, as part of the work to develop a TGKP workplan for 2017-18, to look at the overall private sector contribution to TGKP, maximise their input, and take greater advantage of sector networks and external links, particularly with the wider community.
- 7.2. Members agreed to meet every two months - next one scheduled for 26 June. Future meetings would discuss: positioning of NK; future of town centres, high streets and retail; challenges/opportunities of increased automation/digital economy; increasing awareness of transport infrastructure issues and decision-making. The Board endorsed this approach. **Update to be provided for the next TGKP Board meeting.**

Item 8. Kent and Medway Business Fund (KMBF) – paper TGKP(17)10 – Jacqui Ward, KCC

- 8.1. Jacqui explained the current state of play with the ring-fenced allocation of funds for NK. She further explained that there would be another funding round in June/July. Board members asked for the detail of the timescales, promotion and marketing of the next phase of the scheme.
- 8.2. **ACTIONS:**
 - **TGKP Board Members should routinely receive outcome reports from the K&MIAB.**
 - **Partners should use local networks to promote the scheme.**
 - **Jacqui would arrange for NAREC to give a presentation to a future TGKP Board meeting.**

Item 9. Growth Commission – verbal update – Iain McNab, BEIS

- 9.1. A new chair of the growth commission is being considered, but will not be agreed until after the General Elections. The commission would like to continue detailed engagement work with areas and may try to use an existing event on 29 June to update on progress.

Item 10. Work Programme – verbal update – Matthew Norwell

- 10.1. As discussed at the last TGK Officers' Group meeting, TGKP would continue to work to the 2016-17 workplan broad headlines, taking into account implications of the Growth Commission interim report and a wider view of the partnership's work to-date and opportunities in the future. **ACTION: Provide 2017-18 (and beyond) draft workplan for September TGKP Board.**

Item 11. Budget Report – paper TGKP(17)11 – Matthew Norwell

- 11.1. Matthew Norwell advised the Board of the proposed 2017-18 TGKP budget and the requirement to draw on the accumulated reserve for this year. The workplan will include proposals for a long-term sustainable financial position. As previously agreed, the budget shows the contributions that partners have committed to provide: the mechanisms by which partners would fund their contributions were for them to determine.

Item 12. Updates on current issues, including verbal updates from members

- 12.1. There were no updates from members.

Item 13. Date of Next Meeting

- 13.1. The next TGKP Board meeting would be held on Thursday 21 September at 4.30-6.30pm.

Item 14. Any Other Business

- 14.1. Richard Longman stated TGKP had been approached by Canterbury Christchurch and University of Kent, asking for a 'letter of support' to include in their application for GMC approval (deadline 2 June) for a Kent and Medway Medical School and was seeking the Board's approval. Board members were content in principle to support, but asked that Richard Longman contact Ebbsfleet DC to check that the proposals complemented their medical projects and plans. **ACTION: Richard Longman.**
- 14.2. No other business, the meeting closed at 4.30pm.