

Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board

APPROVED Minutes of the **18th Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Annual General Meeting** held in Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, on 13th December 2018.

Present:

Board members and observers

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Swale Borough Council
Cllr Rodney Chambers, Medway Council
Cllr Martin Cox, Maidstone Borough Council
Cllr Mark Dance, Kent County Council
Cllr David Turner, Gravesham Borough Council
Mark Heeley, Tarmac
Ian Piper, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
Ann Komzolik, North Kent College
Carole Barron, University of Kent

Also present:

Alison Broom, Maidstone Borough Council
Kevin Burbidge, Gravesham Borough Council
(deputizing for David Hughes)
David Godfrey, Kent County Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
Richard Longman, TGKP
Matthew Norwell, TGKP
Sarah Nurden, Kent County Council (deputizing for David Smith)
Emma Wiggins, Swale Borough Council

Apologies:

Cllr Jeremy Kite, Dartford Borough Council
Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore
Robert Goodman, Land Securities/Bluewater
Paul Jackson, Dovetail Games
Neil Davies, Medway Council
David Hughes, Gravesham Borough Council
Rehman Chishti, Member of Parliament
Julie Foley, Environment Agency
Paul Kitson, Homes and Communities Agency
Iain McNab, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
David Smith, Kent County Council
Adam Bryan, South East Local Enterprise Partnership

Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Matters arising from the Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting held on 14th December 2017

- 1.1. The Chairman welcome those present and noted apologies as shown above. He made a point of welcoming Maidstone Borough Council to their first AGM as a member of TGKP, and Carole Barron as the HE sector representative.
- 1.2. The Minutes of the last AGM were approved by the Board at its meeting on 20 February 2018.

Item 2. Chairman's Report 2017 – paper AGM 181213(1)

- 2.1. The Chairman highlighted some of the key events and activities of TGKP during 2018. The Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission's report had been less impactful than it might have been, but agreement had been reached across the Thames Estuary on proposed new governance arrangements on issues of Estuary-wide significance. The Thames Estuary Production Corridor was gathering momentum, and making the case for improved rail services in North Kent had reached a milestone in submission of the C2E strategic outline business case. The North Kent Enterprise Zone had welcomed its first occupants, though the pace of delivery was still slower than ideal. Opportunities that

- had seemed quite tangential, such as involvement with Canterbury Christ Church University's work on the impact of Brexit on Kent & Medway, had proven useful both in the substance of the outputs and raising TGKP's profile.
- 2.2. The Chairman expressed appreciation for the input from Private Sector Board Members through their regular separate meetings. Some leads were being followed up for additional Private Sector Board Members to fill the two vacant places. On budget, the Chairman thanked the local authority partners and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation for their financial contributions towards the Partnership's work. Spending had been kept tight and on current trajectory would result in a modest underspend. This was partly due to not yet having filled the vacant third post in the team, following the end of Shannon Ryan's Graduate Placement with TGKP. The forward work programme would be very much about continuing work in hand – on new Estuary-wide architecture, Production Corridor, C2E and NKEZ as well as pressing Government on infrastructure investment needed to support growth.
 - 2.3. Medway Council and Swale Borough Council were thanked for their continued support as lead bodies for financial, legal and HR matters. The Chairman also took the opportunity to thank the TGKP team – Matthew and Richard – for their hard work and support during the past year.

Item 3. TGKP Budget – paper AGM 181213(2)

- 3.1. Matthew Norwell introduced the paper. The outturn for 2018/19 was heading for a modest surplus of just over £19,000 to carry forward. The initial budget for 2019/20 would require a call on reserves of just over £30,000, assuming both successful recruitment of a third team member and reinstating the activities budget to around £25,000. On this basis it was proposed that partners' 2019/20 subscriptions should remain level in cash terms with the current year.
- 3.2. Mark Dance advised the Board that, as things stood, KCC was not in a position to meet its agreed subscription of £90,000 for 2018/19 or commit to this level in 2019/20. After discussion of the implications, it was agreed that the precise situation should be clarified outside of the AGM. For this reason, the AGM was not formally able to confirm the level of 2019/20 contributions: the issue would be brought back for resolution at the February 2019 Board meeting. For the record, Dartford, Gravesham and Swale confirmed that their subscriptions were already budgeted for. Postponement of agreement on the level of contributions would likely mean a further pause in any recruitment to the vacant post.

Item 4. Board Elections – paper AGM 181213(3)

- 4.1. Chairman. Cllr Chambers thanked Rob Bennett for his continued contribution as TGKP Chairman and proposed his re-election to that role. This was approved by the Board.
- 4.2. Vice-Chairman. Following nomination by Cllr Dance, the Board approved Cllr Bowles to continue as Vice-Chairman.
- 4.3. Lead Bodies. Following confirmation that they were content to continue in these roles,
 - 4.3.1. Medway Council was re-appointed as Accountable Body for the Partnership and Lead Body for Financial Services and Legal Services;
 - 4.3.2. Swale Borough Council was re-appointed as Lead body for Human Resources (Employment of staff).

Item 5. Dates of Board Meetings in 2019

- 5.1. These were confirmed as **18 February** (2.30-4.30pm), **3 June** (4.30-6.30pm), **9 September** (2.30-4.30pm), and **10 December** (4.30-6.30pm), all to be held in the Innovation Centre

Medway. However, it was noted that the June meeting was relatively soon after local elections and might be too close to Annual Council Meetings to confirm Councils' representation. It was agreed to explore by the February 2019 meeting whether an alternative date might work better. A request was also made to investigate an alternative venue for the December meeting.

Item 6. AOB

- 6.1. There being no other business, the AGM concluded at 5.00pm.

TGKP
17 December 2018