

APPROVED Minutes of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting held in the Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, on 24 May 2018.

Present:

Board members and observers

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Swale Borough Council
Cllr Martin Cox, Maidstone Borough Council
Cllr Mark Dance, Kent County Council
Cllr Alan Jarrett, Medway Council
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Dartford Borough Council

Also present:

Alison Broom, Maidstone Borough Council
Neil Davies, Medway Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
Richard Longman, TGKP
Matthew Norwell, TGKP
Sarah Nurden, Kent County Council
Shannon Ryan, TGKP
Emma Wiggins, Swale Borough Council
Jacqui Ward, Kent County Council

Apologies:

Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore
Carol Barron, University of Kent
Adam Bryan, South East Local Enterprise Partnership
Cllr Rodney Chambers, Medway Council
Rehman Chishti, Member of Parliament
Julie Foley, Environment Agency
Robert Goodman, Land Securities/Bluewater
Mark Heeley, Workman LLP
David Hughes, Gravesham Borough Council
Paul Jackson, Dovetail Games
Paul Kitson, Homes and Communities Agency
Ann Komzolik, North Kent College
Ian Piper, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
David Smith, Kent County Council
Cllr David Turner, Gravesham Borough Council

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. The Chairman welcomed those present, with special welcome to Cllr Martin Cox, the new leader of Maidstone Borough Council.

Item 2. Minutes of the Board meeting held on 21st September 2017

- 2.1. The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 20th February were approved.
- 2.2. The Minutes of the Board meeting held in December were also formally approved, as this was not done in February due to the exceptional nature of the meeting.

Item 3. Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission

- 3.1. Matthew provided feedback from the TGSG meeting held on 19th April. The key action from this meeting was for TGSG to draft a governance model for delivery that is sensible for the estuary. Board members supported the suggestion made by TGSG officers to use current governance structures that are in place to deliver specific programmes but establish a strategic programme co-operation board as a single point of contact. The

- board members agreed that similarly, TGSG should ask for a single point of communication with central government. **Action: MN to take to TGSG Officers' Group**
- 3.2. The board members agreed that the report does provide an opportunity to get attention across Whitehall for the delivery of some key transformational projects that have been included.
 - 3.3. The Commission report launch has been postponed from 21st May due to the unavailability of the new secretary of state. The launch will now take place on 25th June at High House Production Park.
 - 3.4. Matthew is going to draft a TGSG wide formal response in the form of an open letter to Chancellor of Exchequer welcoming the positive aspects of the report. The board agreed to this, so long as TGKP's specific view about North Kent do not become lost in a 'joint' letter. **Action: MN to circulate draft to TGKP members**
 - 3.5. Board members agreed that key projects to focus on could be: Crossrail to Ebbsfleet; Thames Estuary Production Corridor and; the Lower Thames Crossing and improvements to the wider road network.
 - 3.6. Neil highlighted the Medway HIF bid as a transformational project that would be good to be included as an example of how housing delivery can be accelerated with government support.

Item 4. Kent & Medway business rate retention pilot

- 4.1. Matthew explained that this was included as an agenda item to ensure that all TGKP partners were aware of developing thinking about how to make best use of the 'housing and commercial growth' element of the income generated from the business rate retention pilot. North Kent leaders are due to agree on the approach in early June.
- 4.2. Neil Davies explained that North Kent is developing a prospectus demonstrating how individual authorities propose to spend their share of the money. This will feed into a Kent wide prospectus that presents a case for how each 'cluster' intends to spend their money. North Kent is expecting approximately £3.3 million of additional revenue for the housing and commercial growth stream, but the exact figure will not be known for definite until later this financial year. Current themes for North Kent are growth and high streets.
- 4.3. Board members discussed various approaches being taken by other authorities in east and west Kent, such as the potential to borrow against the income. The board members agreed that borrowing against uncertain income could present risk.
- 4.4. Alison explained that as Maidstone is administering the scheme they have an opportunity to input into discussions regarding business rate retention arrangements post 2019. North Kent should make the most of this opportunity to influence future approaches.
- 4.5. **Action:** AB to share prospectus with the TGKP team when agreed by North Kent leaders to allow for alignment with TGKP work programme.

Item 5. Kent & Medway Business Fund

- 5.1. Rob introduced this item saying that it was intended to be a general reflection on the scheme to date, and to allow board members to give their views on the future direction of KMBF in North Kent.
- 5.2. There is currently around £5million available to North Kent from the KMBF. As loans are paid back, this is likely to increase to about £7 million in late 2018.

- 5.3. Board members agreed that KMBF had drifted away from the original objectives and 'spirit' of TIGER. Members felt that local impact is no longer as obvious, especially concerning small businesses in need of support.
- 5.4. Governance arrangements of KMBF were discussed; all members would like a greater North Kent voice in decision making. All board members concluded that the current arrangements could be improved, and would like to work collectively to develop an approach that rekindles the "spirit of TIGER" ahead of Round 3.
- 5.5. The next allocation round in July, is expected to be North Kent dominated in terms of applications. The group agreed it would be good to hold the meeting in North Kent and involve some TGKP members in the decision making. **Action: JW to take this feedback and assess feasibility.**

Item 6. TGKP Budget 2018-19

- 6.1. The board agreed the budget.

Item 7. TGKP work programme review 2017/18

- 7.1. Matthew asked board members for agreement of section 11 of the work programme annual review- 'forward look- the next 12 months for TGKP'. The board decided it would be best to revisit and consider this at next meeting as Dartford and Gravesham were not at the meeting for this item. **Action: MN to include at next Board.**
- 7.2. Rob mentioned the arrival of Gavin Cleary as the new Chief Executive of Locate in Kent and suggested that it would be useful to invite him to a future TGKP board meeting. All agreed. **Action: MN to invite Gavin Cleary to September board meeting.**

Item 8. Date of the Next Meeting

- 8.1. This was set at 4.30pm on 13 September.

Item 9. AOB

- 9.1. Mark informed members that Visit Kent has a new Chief Executive, Deirdre Wells.
- 9.2. Richard proposed a joint response to the Housing, Communities and Local Government (HCLG) Committee inquiry looking at the future of England's high streets and town centres in 2030. The board members agreed to this, on the basis the response focused on the common issue of how permitted development rights and the growth of sometimes poor quality conversion to residential accommodation are having a negative effect on town centres across North Kent.
- 9.3. The meeting ended at 6.15pm.

TGKP

14 June 2018