



Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board

APPROVED Minutes of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting held in Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, 4.30pm on Thursday 21 September 2017.

Present:

Board members and observers

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Swale Borough Council
Mark Heeley, Tarmac
Paul Jackson, Dovetail Games
Cllr Alan Jarrett, Medway Council
Ann Komzolik, North Kent College
Cllr David Turner, Gravesham Borough Council

Also present:

Neil Davies, Medway 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
Emma Wiggins, Swale Borough Council

Apologies:

Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore
Adam Bryan, South East Local Enterprise Partnership
Cllr Rodney Chambers, Medway Council
Rehman Chishti, Member of Parliament
Cllr Mark Dance, Kent County Council
Julie Foley/Richard Penn, Environment Agency
Robert Goodman, Bluewater
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
David Hughes/Kevin Burbidge, Gravesham Borough Council
Paul Kitson/Chris Moore, Homes and Communities Agency
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Dartford Borough Council
Professor Alan Reed, University of Greenwich
David Smith, Kent County Council
Paul Spooner, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Item 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. The Chairman welcomed Mark Heeley, Tarmac, to his first meeting. The Board asked for condolences to be conveyed to Gravesham BC for the sad loss of Cllr John Cubitt.
- 1.2. The Chairman informed the Board of apologies received (see list above).

Item 2. Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2017

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 16 May **were agreed as a true record.**
On matters arising:

- **Item 3 (Paragraph 3.8). Complete:** LTC slides had been circulated to Board members. **(Paragraph 3.10). Ongoing: M2/M20 links - Jan Challis to inform Board of next steps:** TGKP and other partners are part of HE's stakeholder advisory group.
- **Item 4 (Paragraph 4.1). Complete:** A more detailed lobbying plan on behalf of North Kent will form part of the TGKP work programme.
- **Item 5 (Paragraph 5.3). Complete:** The two rail consultation drafts had been circulated for detailed comment, signed-off by TGK Officers' Group/TGKP Board Chairs and submitted to DfT. Sarah N and SELEP were liaising on meetings with bidders for the SE Rail Franchise; the TGKP team would be invited to those meetings.
- **Item 6 (Paragraph 6.2). Ongoing.** TGSG meeting still to be confirmed.
- **Item 7 (Paragraph 7.2). Complete.** Private sector Board members have been meeting.
- **Item 8 (Paragraph 8.2). Ongoing (Sarah N to follow-up):**
 - TGKP Board Members to routinely receive outcome reports from K&MIAB.
 - Jacqui Ward to arrange for NAREC to present to a future TGKP Board meeting.
- **Item 10 (Paragraph 10.1). Complete.** Work programme discussions at item 3.
- **Item 14 (Paragraph 14.1). Complete:** TGKP had sent a letter of support to Canterbury Christchurch and University of Kent, to include in their application for GMC approval for a Kent and Medway Medical School – to-date no progress update.

Item 3. Draft TGKP Work Programme discussion document – Matthew Norwell

- 3.1 **Matthew Norwell introduced a revised TGKP Draft Work Programme; his accompanying presentation drew out the document's key messages.**
- 3.2 TGKP is valued as a partnership and should become more assertive, confident and outward facing, and add value with tangible outcomes so as not to duplicate work.
- 3.3 There was a need for a detailed outline of priorities with achievements, and commitment from individual partners to be involved in action planning for each key workstream, to be clear what we want for investment and growth. It was important to agree common ground to strengthen our engagement with Government.
- 3.4 Suggested new work streams for North Kent were:
 - **Positioning**
 - Maximise opportunities for networking messages through an 'elevator pitch', wider network of contacts to use as advocates. Maybe involve Tourism/Visit Kent.
 - **Supporting town centre regeneration with new technology**
 - Need to understand consumer/shopping habits and town centre plans, and what makes an area distinctive. **Action: Paul Jackson and TGKP team to produce a picture of what automation might look like in 5-10 years' time and use the model to define technology/describe town centre characteristics.**
 - **Ensuring cultural and creative sectors contribute fully to regeneration**
 - Culture and creative should be a specific sector engaging more with private sector Board members.
 - **Making the case for improved transport**
 - Identify where employment land is. As air quality targets and patterns alter, our 5-10-year ask may need to change. Connectivity/transport will be a key area in the context of new technology/transport and for town centres. **Action: Richard Longman or Matthew Norwell to attend next week's SE Rail Franchise meeting.**
- 3.5 **The following comments were made:**

- Link creativity/transport/technology in the context of town centres, maybe building on the production corridor concept, and 'blue sky' think over the next few months.
Action: Set up working group to take forward new technology/town centre/connectivity – for December Board meeting, Matthew Norwell to prepare a think paper, but produce feedback update note in a few weeks.
- **Action: Take a more structured programme management approach and strengthened role for the group of LA economic development leads (or equivalent).**
- Matthew asked that the board confirm their intention to invite Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to become part of. **Action: MN/ND to formally invite MBC to become a TGKP Board member – Matthew to update MBC on today's work plan discussions. TGKP Constitution to be worked up and delegated to Officers' Group – bring back to December Board meeting. The Board was asked to note if MBC were to become a Board member, it could allow for another private sector member.**

Item 4. Growth Commission verbal update – Iain McNab

- 4.1. Iain advised an announcement of the new Chair was still awaited and been progressed to No.10 level. Sajid Javid is said to be committed to the report. The Commission had met the last couple of months and will look at the draft report; a final report was expected for the Budget. **TGSG will discuss, and Iain to share emerging findings before being published.**
- 4.2. There is no formal TG Minister yet, by default it is Jake Berry who is now publicly known as Minister for the Northern Powerhouse. A launch event will take place once the report has been published. **Action: As TGKP would have a chance to comment on the report, the Board felt an interim report should be published. Iain to feed back and bring back to next Board meeting.**

Item 5. Verbal updates from Members

- 5.1. J5/M2 had gone out to consultation, Sittingbourne Town Centre is pushing ahead, and a NPPF compliant Local Plan was now in place and being reviewed. **Action: TGKP to respond to the J5/M2 consultation.**
- 5.2. The apprenticeship reform that had taken place 4 months ago is causing confusion with providers and is also a more time consuming process. Good news - Bluewater Learning Shop jobs fairs last week attracted 2,500 people, for 1,500 jobs. On the day, many applicants were taken on.
- 5.3. Re-building around Gravesend railway station (the Rathbone Road improvements) was encountering delay whilst paving works were re-done, causing a 3-week delay.
- 5.4. A new Housing Company has been agreed by Medway's Cabinet.

Item 6. Date of Next Meeting

- 6.1. The next TGKP Board meeting would be held on Thursday 14 December at 4.30-6.30pm.

Item 7. Any Other Business

- 7.1. The Chair advised this would have been Paul Spooner's last meeting – his replacement at EDC is Ian Piper, who is an HCA secondment as Interim Chief Executive. **Action: Ian would formally be invited to be EDC's representative on the TGKP Board.**
- 7.2. An update on London Resort/LTC would be provided to the Board when definite information becomes available.
- 7.3. Suggested agenda items for December Board:

- KCC to attend for the Growth Infrastructure Framework.
- Presentation from NAREC and Jacqui Ward to provide information on the Kent and Medway Business fund and outcome reports from the Kent and Medway Investment Advisory Board.
- Once there was some definitive progress (perhaps for the February Board meeting), LRCH should be invited to present on the London Resort proposals.
- Again subject to progress, Highways England might be invited for discussion on the Lower Thames Crossing.
- If Maidstone BC joins TGKP it would be opportune to invite them to present on key issues for their borough.

7.4. No other business, the meeting closed at 6.50pm.
