
Approved Minutes of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting held in Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, at 4.30pm-6.30pm, on **12 September 2016**.

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
Alan Everard, Tarmac
Robert Goodman, Bluewater, Land Securities
David Hughes, Gravesham Borough Council
Cllr Alan Jarrett, Medway Council
Ann Komzolik, North Kent College
Chris Moore, Homes and Communities Agency
Paul Spooner, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Also present:

Neil Carron, Land Securities
Neil Davies, Medway Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
David Liston-Jones, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Richard Longman, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Iain McNab, Cities and Local Growth unit, BIS/DCLG
Sarah Nurden, Kent and Medway Economic Partnership
Richard Penn, Environment Agency
Linda Searle, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
David Smith, Kent County Council
Ed Uden, Environment Agency
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
Martin Davies, University of Greenwich
Terry Fuller, Homes and Communities Agency
Ross Gill, Kent County Council
Abdool Kara, Swale Borough Council
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Dartford Borough Council
Andrew Pearce, Environment Agency

1. **Item 1: Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1. **The Chairman welcomed** attendees to the Board meeting, in particular: Neil Carron, Development Director, Retail, Land Securities, who would be presenting with Robert Goodman at Item 3 on 'Bluewater's evolution'; Ed Uden, Deputy Service Manager TEAM2100, Environment Agency, who would be making a presentation at Item 5 updating on Thames Estuary 2100; and Jacqui Ward, Kent County Council, who would be providing a verbal update on the RGF and TIGER programme. The Chairman also welcomed Iain McNab, Cities and Growth Unit, BEIS/DCLG.
- 1.2. The Chairman informed the Board that Ross Gill would shortly be leaving Kent County Council to move to a new role in consultancy. He said that Ross had made a huge contribution to the partnership's work and **proposed that he should write to Ross to thank him formally on behalf of the whole Board** for his work in support of the TGKP over the years. **This was agreed unanimously. Action: Chairman to write to Ross Gill.**
- 1.3. The Chairman advised that agenda items would be taken in a different order to accommodate the TIGER Strategic Board discussion and that some attendees needed to leave part way through proceedings.

2. **Item 2: Minutes of TGKP Board Meeting on 16 May 2016 and Matters Arising**

- 2.1. The draft minutes of the 16 May 2016 Board meeting **were agreed as a true record.**
On matters arising:
 - Paragraph 5.3: LGF Round 3 – actioned. The LGF 3 bid had now been submitted by SELEP to Government.
 - Paragraph 6.2: Actioned – the Tiger Strategic Board meeting had been convened to take place during this meeting.
 - Paragraph 6.5: Actioned – Jacqui Ward would be updating the Tiger Strategic Board at this evening's meeting.
 - Paragraph 7.5: Not yet actioned. **Action: TGKP team to liaise with HCA on level of take-up of HCA programmes in North Kent and report back to the next Board meeting.**
 - Paragraph 7.7: Actioned: Paul Spooner had been sent the Thames Gateway graphic.
 - Paragraph 7.8: David Liston-Jones said there would be an opportunity for Local Authorities to update the Board on the devolution discussions later in the meeting during the Updates item.

3. **ITEM 3: Bluewater's Evolution – presentation by Neil Carron and Robert Goodman – Land Securities**

- 3.1. The Chairman invited Robert Goodman and Neil Carron to give their presentation. Robert said that Bluewater's success had always been based on evolution to meet the demands of the changing retail landscape. There had been record sales this year; Bluewater now wanted to reinforce its position and meet the demand from retailers, particularly from homeware, garden, sports and leisure operators, and for larger stores from existing retailers.
- 3.2. Neil Carron said Bluewater had opened in 1999 on the cusp of the internet age.

Planning permission had been granted in 2013 for the demolition of the Village to create a new two-level mall, but Bluewater needed to evolve and adapt to reflect the shifting pattern of consumer behaviour and retailer requirements. The new planning application would still provide up to 30,000 square metres of space but without any large-scale demolition. Instead, the revised plans created additional space by extending over underused parts of the centre such as service yards, and by creating a new development adjoining the West Village. Neil explained that the revised plans would meet the demand for larger stores, where retailers would have the space to showcase their whole range and the best of what they could offer to customers.

3.3. In discussion the following points were made:

- Neil was asked whether the plans would result in an increase in the number of car parking spaces and in the volume of traffic in and around the vicinity. Neil responded by saying although additional retail space would be created, there would be no increase in car parking spaces as the nature of visits would change – it was expected that, rather than there being extra trips, there would be longer visits to Bluewater.
- Members asked about job creation and in response Neil said it was anticipated that over 2,000 new jobs would be created. The works would take place over a number of years.
- A question was asked about the effect of these plans on the Ebbsfleet Garden City. In response, Paul Spooner said the Corporation was liaising closely with Bluewater and they thoroughly welcomed these new plans. The EDC was also working on proposals for a more direct Fastrack service from Ebbsfleet into Bluewater.
- In response to a question about The Glow, Robert Goodman said that, subject to planning, there were proposals to create a four-screen cinema extension, three restaurants and a likely trampoline facility in space occupied by Glow. Work was expected to be completed in the new year.

3.4. **The Chairman thanked Neil Carron and Robert Goodman for their helpful and informative presentation.**

[Note: At this point the Chairman paused the TGKP Board meeting while a short meeting of the Tiger Strategic Board was held. The TGKP Board meeting then resumed with a an update from HCA]

4. **HCA Update – Verbal Update from Chris Moore – Homes and Communities Agency**

- 4.1. As Chris Moore needed to leave the meeting by 5.30pm, the Chair invited him to update the Board at this point in the proceedings, rather than under Item 7.
- 4.2. Chris briefed members on progress on the key sites including Chatham Maritime, Rochester Riverside, Queenborough and Northfleet.
- 4.3. He referred to the Thames Estuary Growth Commission and emphasised that Lord Heseltine was looking for ideas and proposals of scale and ambition. It was important for TGKP to engage fully with the work of the Commission.

4.4. **The Chairman thanked Chris Moore for his update.**

5. **Item 4 : Thames Estuary Growth Commission – TGKP response to ‘call for ideas’ – David Liston-Jones – paper TGKP(16)14**

- 5.1. David introduced his paper and the draft response which was attached as an Annex to the paper. An initial draft had been discussed at the Officers’ Group and this version reflected their comments. David said he had been in touch with the Commission secretariat and there was some flexibility in the deadline for submission of responses.
- 5.2. Given that we hoped to have an ongoing dialogue with the Commission, the draft response was pitched as the beginning of a conversation rather than as a set of firm proposals. It suggested ideas under each of the six work streams in the Commission’s document. David briefly rehearsed the key suggestions under each heading. Most of these ideas were not new, but some went beyond what had been previously discussed or approved by the Partnership. Some of the suggestions would require a good deal of further work to turn them into well-evidenced, practical proposals. David said he felt the draft still lacked the kind of big, bold ideas that would catch the attention of the Commission.
- 5.3. Iain McNab said the Growth Commission would be meeting on 26 October and would be receiving a report-back on the responses that had been received. 90 responses had been received so far.
- 5.4. The Board’s views were sought on the draft response. The following comments were made:
- there should a clear statement of our Vision for 30 years’ time;
 - there should be more emphasis on employment and skills;
 - the tone of the response should be positive and harder edged about our ambitions. It should reference the global challenge and London’s role as a world city.
 - a concise executive summary should be added at the beginning clearly setting our proposals and asks.
- 5.5. **Summing up, the Chairman said it was agreed** that a revised response should be prepared taking account of the Board’s views. It was also agreed that the revised draft should be submitted to the Chairman for final approval prior to being sent in to the Commission. **Actions. Board members to send in any further comments by 19 September. Copies of any other responses that were being submitted by members should be copied to David Liston-Jones. David to prepare a revised draft taking account of members’ comments and including a short executive summary for approval by the Chairman. Final approved response to be submitted to the Commission as soon as possible.**

6. **Item 5 – Thames Estuary 2100 presentation by the Environment Agency – Ed Uden**

- 6.1. The Chairman invited Ed Uden, Environment Agency, to make his presentation, which was an update on progress on the Thames Estuary 2100 flood defence plans. He explained that Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) Plan was produced to manage tidal flood risk to the end of the century and beyond. The TE2100 Plan was split into three

phases. The first 25 years from 2010 to 2034, the middle 15 years from 2035 to 2049 and the period from 2050 to the end of the century during which time a major investment, such as the provision of a new Thames Barrier, would be likely to be needed.

6.2. Ed explained the difference between TE2100 and TEAM2100. TEAM 2100 would carry out the first part of the TE2100 Plan, and was focused on improving tidal flood defences from 2015 to 2025. The Environment Agency had formed an integrated team with engineering and programme management firm CH2MHill and a number of other construction and specialist contractors. Team 2100 was carrying out detailed investigations into the condition of tidal flood defences in the Thames estuary. The defences included the Thames Barrier and 350 kilometers of flood walls and embankments, smaller barriers, pumping stations and flood gates. Many of the defences were over 30 years old, and in some cases over 100 years old. The investigations would inform the 10 year programme of refurbishment and replacement.

6.3. There followed a brief discussion on the issues raised in the presentation, including on the mechanisms for funding the improvement works that were identified.

6.4. **The Chairman thanked Ed Uden for his helpful and informative presentation.**

7. **ITEM 6 – Chief Executive’s Report – paper TGKP(16)15**

7.1. The Chair invited David Liston-Jones to introduce his report.

7.2. David said the first item in his report was an update on the development of the extension of Crossrail business case, which the Board was invited to note for information.

7.3. The second item related to the TGKP Chief Executive post. David said that he would be retiring in April 2017 and, although that was still some way off, we needed to start planning for the recruitment process soon to be sure of getting a replacement in post before he retired. The purpose of this item was to seek confirmation that the Board wished to appoint a replacement – this was the opportunity for the Board members to flag up if they wished to look at other options for TGKP staffing – and, assuming they did wish to recruit a replacement, to seek the members’ agreement to the recruitment process.

7.4. Swale Borough Council, as the Lead Body for HR services, had confirmed it would be content to handle the recruitment exercise on behalf of the partnership. There would be a cost to the partnership for the exercise, including for the placing of the advertisements etc.

7.5. Following a brief discussion, **the Board agreed the recommendations in paragraph 10 of the report. The Board:**

- **noted** that David would be retiring in April 2017;
- **confirmed** that it wished to appoint a new Chief Executive to be in post by next April;
- **Action: instructed** the Officers’ Group, together with Swale Borough Council as the Lead Body for HR services, to oversee the next steps, including preparing the job specification, and drawing up proposals for salary level, terms and conditions

and placing the job advertisement;

- **agreed** that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should approve the job advertisement and recruitment pack prior to publication in November; and
- **Action: instructed** the Officers' Group to bring an update on the recruitment exercise and associated costs, including proposals for Board members' participation in the final selection process, to the next Board meeting on 6 December.

7.6. David said the third item was to inform members that, following the Ministerial changes in July, Gavin Barwell MP had taken over responsibility for the Thames Gateway from Mark Francois MP. **It was agreed that the Chairman should invite the new Minister to visit North Kent and attend a future TGKP Board meeting.** David advised the Minister would be attending the next TGSG meeting. **Action: David Liston-Jones to look for a suitable opportunity to invite the Minister to visit North Kent/attend a Board meeting.**

7.7. David said the final item in his report was a reminder that he was always keen to hear from members of any topics they would wish to see included on the agendas of future meetings.

7.8. **The Chairman thanked David for his report.**

8. **Item 7 – Updates on Current Issues** including North Kent Innovation Zone and Verbal Updates from Members

North Kent Innovation Zone

8.1. David Liston-Jones advised that Richard Longman's paper, TGKP(16)17, Update on North Kent Innovation Zone, was for information. A good first meeting of the Strategic Board had been held. At that meeting it had been decided to rename the EZ as the North Kent Enterprise Zone. The term 'Enterprise Zone' was a recognised brand within Government. In addition the new title would remove any risk of confusion with the 'Kent Innovation Corridor'.

Other Updates

8.2. Martin Davies advised he was leaving the University of Greenwich and moving to a new post at UCL. Martin proposed that Professor Alan Reed replace him as HE representative on the TGKP Board. **The Board thanked Martin Davies for his support and contribution during his time on the Board, and agreed that Professor Alan Reed should replace him as HE representative. Action: David to contact Alan, via Martin, to brief him on the work of the partnership, future meeting dates etc.**

9. **Item 8 – Budget Report** – paper TGKP(16)16 – **David Liston-Jones**

9.1. David introduced his report, which was for noting. He said that a more substantive discussion on budgets would be scheduled for the next Board meeting on 6 December.

10. **Item 9 – Date of Next Meeting**

10.1. The next AGM/Board meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 December from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

11. Item 10 – AOB

11.1. Sarah Nurden informed the Board that the South East LEP Strategic Economic Plan was to be refreshed and that TGKP's views would be sought on the refresh of the Plan

11.2. No other business the meeting closed at 18:35.

Thames Gateway Kent Partnership

September 2016