
Approved Minutes of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting held in Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, 2.30pm-4.30pm, **23 February 2016**

Present:

Board members and observers:

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader, Swale Borough Council
Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore
Cllr Rodney Chambers, Cabinet Member, Medway Council
Cllr John Cubitt, Leader, Gravesham Borough Council
Cllr Mark Dance, Cabinet Member, Kent County Council
Alan Everard, Tarmac
Robert Goodman, Bluewater, Land Securities
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader, Dartford Borough Council
Ann Komzolik, North Kent College
Kevin McGeough, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
Chris Moore, Homes and Communities Agency
James Speck, Kent Science Park

Also present:

Neil Davies, Medway Council
Ross Gill, Kent County Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
David Hughes, Gravesham Borough Council
Mike Goulding, Homes and Communities Agency
Abdool Kara, Swale 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 County Council
Martin Potts, Highways England
Linda Searle, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
David Smith, Kent County Council
Sylvia To, Halcrow Hyder Joint Venture

Apologies:

Rehman Chishti, Member of Parliament
Martin Davies, University of Greenwich
Terry Fuller, Homes and Communities Agency
Andrew Pearce, Environment Agency
Paul Spooner, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

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

- 1.1. **The Chairman welcomed** attendees to the Board meeting. In particular he welcomed: Alan Everard, Tarmac, who was attending his first Board meeting; Martin Potts, Highways England, who was attending for Item 3; Iain McNab, BIS, who was attending for Item 4; and Sarah Nurden, Kent County Council, who had recently been appointed as Strategic Programme Manager for KMEP.
- 1.2. **The Chairman informed the Board** that this was James Speck's last meeting as a Board member. James was retiring at the end of the month as Director of the Kent Science Park. The Chairman thanked James, on behalf of the whole Board, for his strong support and positive contribution to the Partnership's work during his time as a Board member.

2. **Item 2: Minutes of TGKP AGM and Board Meeting on 3 December 2015 and Matters Arising**

- 2.1. The draft minutes of the AGM on 3 December 2015 **were agreed**, subject to correcting Robert Goodman's entry in the addressee list to show 'Land Securities' and not 'Lend Lease'. On **matters arising**:
 - Paragraph 24: David Liston-Jones said that the team had investigated the scope for rescheduling the timings of the May and September Board meetings. The May meeting could not easily be moved but it would be possible, if the Board wished, to change the timing of the September meeting. **The Board agreed** to move the start of the 12 September Board meeting from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.
- 2.2. The draft minutes of the Board meeting on 3 December **were agreed** (again subject to amending Robert Goodman's entry in the addressee list). On **matters arising**:
 - Paragraph 4.6: Actioned. The strategy statement – now named "A Prospectus for Growth" was prepared and submitted to TGSG. Follow-up on this was on the agenda at Item 4.
 - Paragraph 6.3: The proposal for a North Kent Managing Director's Club was still being considered. Initial discussions had taken place in the North Kent Economic Development Officers' Group.

3. **Item 3: Lower Thames Crossing consultation – paper TGKP(16)1 – Martin Potts, Group Leader, Highways England attending**

- 3.1. David Liston-Jones said that the paper considered the questions posed in Highways England's consultation questionnaire and, in each case, suggested a line for TGKP to take. The paper also identified other points that the Partnership might want to make in its response. The suggested TGKP responses reflected discussion at the last Officers' Group meeting.
- 3.2. David drew members' attention to the recommendations set out in paragraph 36. In summary, the Board was being invited to give its views on the consultation and, specifically, to comment on the outline suggestions for TGKP's response; to indicate whether there was any further research or information it would wish to obtain to inform its response; to decide whether it wished to take further action to

seek views from the North Kent business community and, finally, to agree that the draft response should be circulated electronically to the Board for comment with the Chairman authorised to sign-off the final version for submission.

- 3.3. The Chairman invited Martin Potts to address the Board. In his presentation, Martin outlined the consultation process and explained how the route options had been developed and the proposed solution arrived at. 24 Public Information Events were being held during the consultation period and a high level of public interest was being shown. Already some 8,000 people had attended the events.
 - 3.4. Issues raised in discussion included: the way in which the different types of responses would be analysed and weighted; the extent of the traffic modelling that had been undertaken and the implications of the Crossing for the wider road network in Kent including the M2, M20, and the links between them; the respective merits of the Western Southern Link and Eastern Southern link options; the environmental impacts including the extent to which a bored tunnel could mitigate the impacts on environmentally-sensitive areas; the arguments for a two or three lane tunnel; the potential impact of London Paramount; and the different funding options and charging mechanisms.
 - 3.5. **The suggested TGKP responses outlined in the paper were agreed** as the basis for preparing the full draft response. **It was agreed** that the draft TGKP response would be circulated for comment and approval electronically, and that the Chairman was authorised to sign-off the final version for submission to Highways England by the deadline of 24 March. **Action: TGKP team to prepare draft full response and circulate to the Board.**
 - 3.6. Board members also stressed the importance of ensuring that as many businesses as possible responded to the consultation. A variety of views was expressed on how this could best be done. Details of the consultation had already been forwarded to the businesses on the Partnership's database, but the **Board agreed that a further message be issued to North Kent businesses.** The message should emphasise strongly how important it was for the business voice to be heard, and for them to respond to the consultation. This message would be circulated widely and not limited just to those companies on TGKP's own business contacts. **Action: TGKP team to draft message in consultation with officers and, once agreed by the Chairman, circulate to businesses as soon as possible.**
4. **ITEM 4: Thames Gateway and TGSG – paper TGKP(16)2 plus separate Annex 1 – Iain McNab, Cities and Local growth unit, BIS/DCLG attending**
 - 4.1. David Liston-Jones introduced his paper. David explained that this item was designed to give the Board an opportunity to consider the next steps on the Thames Gateway initiative in the light of the Thames Gateway Strategic Group meeting on 19 January. At that meeting, the draft Prospectus for Growth had been presented. The prospectus had been well received and the ten transport investments contained in the prospectus were endorsed as being the right top priorities. Also at that meeting, Government representatives had explained that there was considerable Ministerial interest in developing new ideas for supporting growth and housing delivery in the Gateway, and local partners had been invited to come forward with suggestions. The Board would wish to consider how best to

respond, from a North Kent perspective. There had also been discussion at TGSG on the role and governance of that Group and a desire to look at stronger governance options.

- 4.2. Iain McNab confirmed that there was renewed Ministerial interest (including from Lord Heseltine) in the Thames Gateway, and there was an opportunity to come forward with ideas. There were no fixed criteria and suggestions could range more widely than just transport and housing. They could include, for example, ideas on skills, or on measures to strengthen TGSG. The aim was to identify measures that went beyond what was already happening
- 4.3. There followed a wide-ranging discussion on the value and future of the Thames Gateway initiative, and on the role of the Thames Gateway Strategic Group. Summing up the discussion, **the Chairman said** it was difficult to reach firm decisions at the present time. We would need to attend the TGSG meeting on 21 March and see how matters developed. It was important though, from a North Kent perspective, to be ready and in a position to package together and put forward North Kent's key priorities at the appropriate time.
5. **ITEM 5: Kent and Medway Economic Assets: Programme Update – paper TGKP(16)3 and presentation by the HCA**
 - 5.1. There was insufficient time remaining for Chris Moore to give HCA's presentation. However Chris said that the paper that had been circulated gave a summary, for information, on the progress that had been made to complete the investment in the sites, and to secure development partners for/disposal of the remaining sites.
6. **ITEM 6: Updates on current issues from members, including HCA Update – paper TGKP(16)4**
 - 6.1. Chris Moore drew attention to the Agency's Update note TGKP(16)4. In particular he pointed to Appendix 2 which showed there had been no take-up in the TGKP area in HCA's 'Other Programmes'. Chris queried why this should be the case and said HCA would be happy to attend meetings with local authority representatives to explore possibilities. He said he would like to see at least one project in each local authority area.
 - 6.2. Kevin McGeough updated the Board on progress with the draft EDC Garden City Masterplan, and drew attention to a masterplanning event on 17 March.
7. **Item 7: Chief Executive's report – paper TGKP(16)5 plus separate Annex**
 - 7.1. The Chief Executive's Report was noted.
8. **Item 8: Budget Report – paper TGKP(16)6 plus separate schedule**
 - 8.1. The Budget Report was noted.
9. **Item 9: AOB**
 - 9.1. None. The meeting closed at 5.15pm.

Thames Gateway Kent Partnership

March 2016