



## **Thames Gateway Kent Partnership AGM**

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Minutes of the **12th Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Annual General Meeting** held in Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, 2.30pm on **Friday 30 November 2012**.

### **Present:**

Board members and observers:

Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore  
Professor Tom Barnes, University of Greenwich  
Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)  
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader, Swale Borough Council  
Cllr John Burden, Leader, Gravesham Borough Council  
Mark Dance, Cabinet Member, Kent County Council  
Robert Goodman, Lend Lease  
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader Dartford Borough Council  
Ann Komzolik, North West Kent College  
Andrew Pearce, Environment Agency  
David Simms, Lafarge Cement

### **Also present:**

Barbara Cooper, Kent County Council  
Neil Davies, Medway Council  
Mike Ellett, Jobcentre Plus  
Terry Fuller, Homes and Communities Agency  
Ross Gill, Kent County Council  
Graham Harris, Dartford Council  
Katharine Harvey, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership  
David Hughes, Gravesham Borough Council  
Abdool Kara, Swale Borough Council  
David Liston-Jones, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership  
Linda Searle, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership  
Tony Sefton, London Resort Company Holdings Limited  
Paul Whittlesea, Department for Communities and Local Government

### **Apologies:**

Cllr Rodney Chambers, Leader, Medway Council  
Rehman Chishti Member of Parliament  
Naisha Polaine, Homes and Communities Agency

**Item 1: Welcome, Apologies and Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2011**

1. The Chairman welcomed the Board to the 12<sup>th</sup> AGM. An ordinary Board meeting would follow on from this AGM
2. The Chair welcomed Robert Goodman, General Manager at Bluewater, to his first Board meeting as a new member.
3. The Chair advised the Board that Tony Sefton from London Resort Company Holdings Limited (LRCHL) would be giving a presentation to today's Board meeting on the leisure proposals for Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet.
4. Paul Whittlesea from DCLG and Mike Ellett from Jobcentre Plus were welcomed to the meeting. Jobcentre Plus, although members of the Officers' Group, had been keen to attend the Board meeting as observers to hear LRCHL's presentation.
5. The Minutes of the AGM held on 18 November 2011 had been previously agreed at the Board meeting held February 2012.

6. Matters arising:

Paragraph 6: Actioned – Robert Goodman in attendance; Nat West had declined to join the Board and it had been decided to leave pursuing a fifth private sector Board member until after the TIGER Board had been established.

David L-J to continue discussions on TGKP Board membership

**Item 2: Report from Chairman - paper TGKP(12)17**

7. The Chairman introduced his Annual Report. He began by thanking all Board members, and their advisers, for their helpful and constructive contributions to the Partnership's work over the year, which also included attendance at TGK Officers' Group, Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership and other ad-hoc meetings. He commented that this year had again been one of considerable change, indeed if anything the pace of change had quickened during 2011.

8. The Chairman mentioned the sad deaths of 2 Board members, Kevin Lynes and Mike Snelling, both of whom had made a huge contribution to the work of TGKP and be greatly missed.

9. The Chairman commented that the past two years focus had been on change; this year's focus had been on making new arrangements working effectively and focused on delivery and maximising economic growth and job creation, in the delivery of key housing and commercial developments in North Kent:

- July saw an agreement reached on development in Eastern Quarry; first homes expected to be constructed in 2013; housing underway by Hyde on the Rochester Riverside site.
- Bob Neill opened the new, award-winning rail link into former Lafarge cement works site in Northfleet and opened the new bus station on Chatham waterfront; planning has been granted for £650million Chatham Waters development.
- A development agreement concluded for the 'Spirit of Sittingbourne' scheme as part of the transformation of Sittingbourne town centre and work commenced on the Neats Court scheme at Queenborough and Rushenden that will create up to 500 jobs.
- Dartford Northern Gateway has seen good progress with the opening of the Base business centre, with further expansion due as a result of monies from the Growing Places Fund.
- Gravesham saw the opening of their Cyclopark multi-sports activity centre and the new pontoon off the Town Pier was opening providing a facility for leisure craft to operate between there and London and Continental Europe.

10. One of the biggest achievements for TGKP had been the successful bid for the £20million TIGER Regional Growth Fund scheme and the Chair gave thanks to all those who had worked hard on the bid's preparation and development and would help support businesses' growth and created high-value jobs in key industry sectors in North Kent and further felt this was a key example of where TGKP provided added value.

11. TGKP had made good progress liaising with the North Kent business community, although still a lot more to do:

- A Big Business Breakfast had been held in May; a stand was taken at the Construction Expo in October and a North Kent Business to Business event held in Gravesham early November; regular newsletters and TIGER progress reports had been sent out to

business contacts; and improvements made to the TGKP website.

12. There were a number of other activities during the year:

- In May the Growth Plan was agreed, the glossy-brochure of which was produced and aimed at local businesses and launched at the Big Business Breakfast; TGKP Board/Team have supported the work of the Thames Gateway Strategic Group (having no dedicated support/resource), with Jeremy Kite leading on marketing in the Thames Gateway and meeting with Lord Green and also oversaw the production of a Thames Gateway marketing brochure, which was made available at a number of London Olympic events (coordinated by TGKP and produced in-house by Medway Council's design team).
- TGKP had liaised closely with HCA on their stewardship arrangements for SEEDA land and property assets in North Kent, which had led to the signing of the Stewardship Agreement in September.
- TGKP hosted a number of high-level visits: the Thames Gateway Minister's visit to Medway and Swale in May (as above); a day of meetings had been arranged for Lord Heseltine at the University of Greenwich, as part of his Competitiveness Review, which is discussed in more detail in the Board papers and, in July, a high-level delegation visited from Le Havre, who were interested in learning lessons from the Thames Gateway.

#### TGKP Board Membership

13. The Chair advised there had been two changes to the Board membership during the year; Mark Dance became Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development and had joined the TGKP Board as KCC's representative and will be a really valuable addition to meetings; and Robert Goodman, the new General Manager at Bluewater, was welcomed to his first Board meeting. There remains one private-sector vacancy on the Board.

#### Budget

14. David Liston-Jones introduced the budget paper and advised that TGKP was slightly below budget, mainly due to less money than forecast being spent on activity/consultancy budget and advised this

would be covered off in more detail in the Board meeting.

15. David gave thanks to the five local authorities and the Environment Agency for their financial support to the Partnership, and also to DCLG for their last installment of the Transition Fund. Furthermore, thanks were given to Medway Council for providing the financial services to TGKP throughout the year.

#### Legal and Human Resources Support

16. The Chairman thanked the local authorities for their support to the partnership over the year - Medway Council for providing the legal and financial services and Swale Borough Council for the human resources support.

#### TGKP Executive Team

17. There had been no changes to the TGKP team during the year and the Chair thanked David Liston-Jones, Katharine Harvey, and Linda Searle for their continued hard work and commitment.
18. The Chair also thanked Ross Gill from Kent County Council for his support to the Partnership during the year, especially for his excellent work in drafting the TIGER bid.
19. In conclusion, the Chairman stated he remained optimistic about the future. The year had ended well with the good news on the TIGER bid, which now needed to be effectively implemented. A number of sites had been progressing and there are some really crucial opportunities ahead; the proposed new leisure and entertainment resort at Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet would give a massive boost to jobs and growth.
20. The Chair said he felt TGKP was a strong and effective partnership, with 2013 further testing its strength. Further he said he would like to see further progress made on forging and strengthening links with business and felt TIGER would help that process and there would be a need for TGKP to address key challenging issues such as the Lower Thames Crossing, on which the Department for Transport would be seeking views in May on options, and the new Commission would be seeking views on airport capacity in the South East at some point next year.

**ACTION**

21. The Chair stated that he felt it a great privilege to have served as TGKP Chair over the past year and wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support.
22. The Vice-Chair, Cllr Andrew Bowles, said he wished to give thanks to the Chair for his support, which had been appreciated by all the Board.

**Item 3: Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman – paper by the Chief Executive TGKP(12)18**

9. David Liston-Jones introduced the Elections paper and explained the requirement to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Board.
10. Chairman: Rob Bennett was nominated by Cllr Andrew Bowles and seconded by Cllr John Burden. Rob Bennett was duly re-elected as Chairman of the Board.
11. Vice Chairman: Cllr Andrew Bowles was nominated by Cllr Jeremy Kite and seconded by Cllr John Burden. Cllr Andrew Bowles was duly re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Board.
12. The Chair went on to explain, as laid out in the Constitution, that it was also necessary to confirm the lead bodies for HR services, financial services and legal services and to approve the timetable for Board meetings for the next 12 months.
13. Lead Body for Employment of Staff: Cllr Andrew Bowles confirmed Swale Borough Council was happy to continue to act as Employment Lead Body providing HR services for the Partnership. Swale Borough Council was duly reappointed as Lead Body for Employment of Staff.
14. Lead Body for Financial Services: Cllr Rodney Chambers confirmed Medway Council was happy to continue to provide the financial, accountable body, and ICT services for the Partnership. Medway Council was duly reappointed as Lead Body for Financial Services. He also confirmed Medway Council was happy to continue to provide Legal Services to the Board and Medway Council was duly

**ACTION**

reappointed as Lead Body for Legal Services.

15. Future meetings of the Board would be held on the dates set out on the meeting agenda: Friday, 1 March 2013, Thursday, 30 May 2013, Thursday, 19 September 2013 and Friday, 29 November 2013. All meetings to be held at TGKP's Offices, the Innovation Centre Medway, Maidstone Road, Chatham.

**Item 4: Any Other Business**

16. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3.00pm.