



Thames Gateway Kent Partnership

BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the **Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting** held in the Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, from 3.00pm to 4.30pm on **Friday 1 March 2013.**

Board Members and Observers Present:

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader, Swale Borough Council
Cllr John Burden, Leader, Gravesham Borough Council
Robin Cooper, Medway Council
Mark Dance, Cabinet Member, Kent County Council
Ann Komzolik, North West Kent College
Naisha Polaine, Homes and Communities Agency

Also present:

Barbara Cooper, Kent County Council
Ross Gill, Kent County Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
David Hughes, Gravesham Borough Council
David Liston-Jones, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Pete Raine, Swale Borough Council
Linda Searle, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership

Apologies:

Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore
Professor Tom Barnes, University of Greenwich
Cllr Rodney Chambers, Leader, Medway Council
Rehman Chishti MP
Neil Davies, Medway Council
Robert Goodman, Bluewater/Lend Lease
Abdool Kara, Swale Borough Council
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader Dartford Borough Council
Andrew Pearce, Environment Agency
David Simms, Lafarge Tarmac

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. Apologies were noted.

Item 2: Minutes of the TGKP AGM and Board Meeting held on 30 November 2012 and Matters Arising

2. The draft AGM Minutes were agreed. On matters arising, David Liston-Jones advised the Board:

- Paragraph 5: There was still one private sector TGKP Board member to be appointed, however this was to be held in abeyance pending finalisation of membership for the TIGER Approvals Panel.

The draft Board Minutes were agreed. On matters arising, David Liston-Jones advised the Board:

- Paragraphs 13 and 15: Actioned.
- Paragraph 17: The agreed action was to request local authority Board members to make provision in their authorities' forthcoming budgets for funding contributions to TGKP for 2013/2014 at the same level as for 2012/2013. David said that his understanding was that provision had been made.
- Paragraph 20: Actioned. Copies of the letter sent in response to Lord Heseltine report (sent from TGSG rather than TGKP) and the Minister's subsequent reply had been circulated with papers for today's meeting.
- Paragraph 21: Actioned. A letter of support for the Medway University Technical College bid had been sent, and an acknowledgement received. We were now waiting to hear whether the bid would be successful.

Item 3: Delivering Growth in North Kent – follow-up to Officers' Group workshop on 14 February – paper TGKP(13)1

3. The Chair advised the Board that the Officers' Group had held a workshop on 14 February, which he had chaired, to review how best as a Partnership TGKP could respond to the 'City Deals/localism' issues. This paper highlighted the key points that emerged from the workshop and referred to the Government's subsequent announcement on Wave 2 City Deals. Whilst a number of Government announcements were still awaited, it was important for the Partnership to be clear about its own objectives and priorities so that it was on the 'front foot' to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

4. David Liston-Jones said the paper summarised the conclusions from the workshop, which were:

- there were aspects of the MAA proposals, particularly on strategic investment and on transport, where updated 'asks' could usefully be made of Government;
- there was a case for a joined up 'North Kent wide' bid on Enterprise Zones to be made to the LEP;
- if the Paramount proposals went ahead, that could provide a single unifying 'Big Idea'. But for now we should adopt a twin tracked approach to achieving growth based on, firstly, maximising the opportunities for our existing North Kent businesses and, secondly, working to secure delivery on the key development sites across North Kent.

5. The paper reported on the announcement, by Nick Clegg, that Government had decided to enter into negotiations with the 20 areas invited to submit bids for a Wave Two City Deal, including 'Southend and South Essex'.
6. David referred the Board to paragraph 21 which proposed the following approach:
 - develop the 'twin-tracked' narrative which emerged at the workshop and draw up a Work Plan for 2013/2014 based on that approach
 - when the powers in the Core Package were known, consider whether we should argue for it to be made available to North Kent
 - where we identified a specific 'ask' or request of Government, argue for that with the appropriate Government Department anyway, and
 - keep the position under regular review – it may be that new announcements from Government, for example on the response to Lord Heseltine's proposals for 'single pot' of funding, could alter our view.
7. The Chair asked the Board for their comments, and there followed a wide-ranging discussion on the relevance of the 'City Deal' approach to North Kent, and on how the Paramount proposals should be reflected in the Partnership's strategies. Points made included:
 - we should be looking now at the opportunities for North Kent firms in the supply chain for the Paramount project. The promoters of the project had stated that they were keen to focus on local suppliers where possible
 - there could be opportunities to seek support for development of the project at Swanscombe through the Local Infrastructure Fund
 - it would be important to return to this agenda after the Budget announcements. It would be helpful for the Officers' Group to take stock and report back to the Board
 - the Government was unlikely to have a Wave 3 for City Deals in the near future; it would take some time to work through the proposals for Waves 1 and 2.
 - the Partnership needed to be pro-active and positive in supporting the Paramount project. At the same time it was pointed out that more clarity was needed on the detail of the proposals, and on the precise nature of the 'asks' of Government
 - the Paramount project could open up huge opportunities for the whole of North Kent. For example, the resort would be accessible by water from other parts of North Kent opening up opportunities for ports such as Sheerness.
8. **Summing up the discussion the Chair said** it had been a very useful and positive debate. It was agreed the these issues should be considered by the Officers' Group once the outcome of the Budget was known, and then a further report be made to the next Board meeting in May.

ACTION: Officers' Group to consider further and a report back be made to the Board meeting on 30 May.

Item 4: North Kent submission on Enterprise Zones – paper TGKP(13)2

9. David Liston-Jones introduced the paper, which was by way of an action from the workshop and sought the Board's approval to submit a North Kent-wide application to the South East LEP on local Enterprise Zones, as per the draft letter and draft

pro-forma attached to Item 4 papers. As the deadline was 9a.m. on 4 March 2013, it would be necessary, if approved, to submit the application immediately after the meeting. **The Board agreed** to submit the application as drafted.

ACTION: David Liston-Jones to submit North Kent-wide Enterprise Zone bid immediately after the Board meeting, as per the draft letter attached to TGKP(13)2 and draft pro-forma.

Item 5: Updates from Members

10. There were brief updates from members on the HCA's 'Build to Rent' scheme, on the forthcoming Government consultation on a new Lower Thames Crossing, and on the agenda for the TGSG meeting on 19 March, which would include a presentation from Tony Sefton on the Paramount proposals.
11. Ann Komzolik advised the Board about the introduction of loans for 24 year olds and over, Level Three and above qualifications, and the 16-18 year old Work Study Programme.

Item 6: Budget Report and Future Funding – paper TGKP(13)3

12. David Liston-Jones introduced his paper, which was by way of updating the Board on income and expenditure against budget for 2012/2013, and funding for 2013/2014 which was noted.

Item 7: AOB

13. Anne Komzolik advised Iain Duncan-Smith had visited the Learning Shop at Bluewater.
14. The meeting closed at 4.10pm.

**Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
March 2013**