

Approved 26 May 2011

THAMES GATEWAY KENT PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the **Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting** held in Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway, Maidstone Road, Chatham. 2.30pm to 4.30pm 14th March 2011

Present:

Board members:

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader, Swale Borough Council (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader, Dartford Borough Council
Cllr Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member, Kent County Council
Cllr Mike Snelling, Leader, Gravesham Borough Council

Observer Members:

Nigel Pye, Environment Agency
Akin Durowoju, Homes and Communities Agency
Katharine Harvey, South East England Development Agency

Also present:

Kevin Burbidge, Gravesham Borough Council
Shanaaz Carroll, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Barbara Cooper, Kent County Council
Neil Davies, Medway Council
Ross Gill, Kent County Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
Abdool Kara, Swale Borough Council
David Liston-Jones, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership

Apologies:

Cllr Rodney Chambers, Medway Council,
Terry Fuller, Homes and Communities Agency
Glyn Thomson, Gravesham Borough Council
Andrew Pearce, Environment Agency

Item 1 Welcome and Introductions

Item 2 Minutes of meeting 28th January 2011 and Matters Arising

Para 6 – DLJ to add additional bullet point to role of the Board – Completed

Para 7 – This had been done and a meeting was being arranged – completed

Para 10 – names had been received and would be discussed later on the agenda

Para 11 – HE/FE – Professor Tom Barnes of University of Greenwich had been invited to sit on the Board and had accepted. DLJ would be meeting him shortly. An invitation would be issued to Ann Komsolik, North West Kent College, shortly.

Paras 17 and 19 – Actions completed.

Item 3 Thames Gateway Strategic Group – Feedback from first meeting and plans for future meetings

David introduced his paper which gave feedback from the first TGSG meeting and added that it had been a good first meeting. He advised the Board that the next meeting would be held in North Kent and asked for views on a venue. It was agreed that the first choice should be the Observatory at Ebbsfleet. The Innovation Centre Medway would be held in reserve should the Observatory not be available.

TGKP to investigate the Observatory

David added that it had been agreed at the meeting that Sir Simon Milton would be Chair of TGSG for the first year. Colleagues asked whether there had been any discussion regarding Vice-Chair arrangements, as this could help share responsibilities across the Gateway. David responded that this had not been discussed and he would raise it at the next Secretariat meeting.

DLJ to raise with TGSG Secretariat.

Colleagues were also informed that inward investment would be discussed at the May TGSG meeting. A paper was being prepared on the options for handling Thames Gateway inward investment in the future given the ending of the 'Invest Thames Gateway' arrangements.

Item 4 Board Membership – private sector members

Rob introduced this item stressing the importance of getting the right private sector involvement.

David identified for colleagues a list of suggested names, including their geographical and sectoral coverage.

After discussion it was agreed that a number of people would be approached to see if they were willing to become Board members.

DLJ to liaise with local authorities

The question of length of service for members was raised and it was suggested that this could initially be set at 12 months.

**Item 5 Setting priorities for 2011/2012
Taking forward issues from the MAA, and the
Next Steps on the Local Investment Plan**

Rob outlined the aim of this item and suggested that the MAA and LIP items be taken together with discussion to follow, as they were closely linked.

Shanaaz introduced her paper outlining progress which had been made through the Multi Area Agreement. She asked the Board for their view on whether housing, transport and skills and employment were the priorities going forward and whether they agreed to the Officers' Group looking further at the priorities within each theme.

Ross introduced his paper explaining that the document would be the place to set out the North Kent case for Growth. He added that some elements of the current document would need to be changed to reflect current thinking and asked the Board if the priorities were still correct.

The Chair invited comments from the Board. These included –

- housing, transport and employment and skills were all important but the Partnership needed to focus on a small number of priorities where it could add value.
- Suggested that two timelines are developed – 2-3 years and 5-10 years as they could be very different eras and therefore operating conditions may change in this time. It was suggested the shorter period ought to be 'energetic' with a small list of priorities.
- Skills and Employment first, and housing would follow according to the market. Transport was predominantly a big ticket item and there would be little progress made in the short term.
- With regard to employment and skills, it was a vast area and we needed to focus on what could be delivered at the sub-regional level.
- The LIP was more focused on housing and did little in the employment & skills area as it was for the purposes of the HCA. Whilst it listed the priorities the LIP was not a work plan.
- Levers and mechanisms were now different with no SEEDA, HCA, or DCLG funding to support this work.

The Chair summarised the discussion by confirming that a document was needed to show the priorities which the Partnership should be devoting its effort. He suggested that a long term horizon was needed but acknowledged the next few months could see many changes, and therefore a 2-3 years timeline would be useful to identify what could be done in the short term.

David (L-J) agreed it had been a useful discussions which would allow

him to develop a work plan identifying a small number of areas on which to focus.

Funding for the TGKP Executive team: 2011-12 and beyond

Barbara introduced the item. She said that KCC would know the position regarding their contribution in April She added it was useful that other contributions had been confirmed as this would add support for the application to the Kent Regeneration Fund.

It was stated that a request would be made to remove TGKP staff from the 'at risk' status once KCC had confirmed their contribution.

Rob asked David whether he was happy to go ahead on this basis. David confirmed and agreed to provide a work plan for the next meeting and for discussion at the Officers Group.

DLJ to prepare work plan for discussion

Barbara also stressed the importance of bidding to the DCLG Transition Fund, as included in the paper.

DLJ to prepare bid

Item 6 Updates on current issues

1. Cllr Kite said he would be interest to hear about the latest position on Medway's bid for City status. Neil Davies responded by agreeing to ask a colleague to present at the next Board meeting.

ND to arrange presentation.

2. Cllr Kite said it would be useful to have a discussion on planning for the Olympics outside of the main area. He commented that it was difficult to get information on issues such as coping with visitor flows, and keeping resident/commuters moving in the lead up and during the Games themselves. Barbara suggested that the KCC's Head of Olympics Service (Chris Hespe) be invited to attend the next Board meeting.

BC to invite Chris Hespe to next Board meeting

Item 7 TGKP Budget Report

David introduced the Budget Report which was for information only. The report sett out the position on finances, including the end of year forecast outturn.

Item 8 A.O.B

Rob expressed his thanks to Shanaaz, on behalf of the whole Board, for her work for the Partnership on the MAA and on wider TGKP issues, and wished her well for the future.

He also thanked Akin for his support for the Partnership and wished him well in his new role for HCA. He also asked that the Partnership's thanks be put on record regarding Di Woolloff's (GOSE) support over the years.