

Approved

Minutes of the **Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board Meeting** held in the Darwin Room, Innovation Centre Medway from 2.30pm to 4.30pm **on 26 May 2011**

Present:

Board members:

Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader, Swale Borough Council (Chair)
Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore
Professor Tom Barnes, University of Greenwich
Cllr. John Burden, Leader, Gravesham Borough Council
Cllr. Rodney Chambers, Leader, Medway Council
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader, Dartford Borough Council
Ann Komzolik, North West Kent College
Cllr Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member, Kent County Council

Observer Members:

Katharine Harvey, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
Naisha Polaine, Homes and Communities Agency

Also present:

Simon Bandy, Homes and Communities Agency
Barbara Cooper, Kent County Council
Neil Davies, Medway Council
Ross Gill, Kent County Council
Graham Harris, Dartford Borough Council
Chris Hesse, Kent County Council
Abdool Kara, Swale Borough Council
David Liston-Jones, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Glyn Thomson, Gravesham Borough Council,
Laura Murphy, Note taker
Paul White, SEEDA

Apologies:

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration
Rehman Chishti MP
Andrew Parkinson, General Manager, Bluewater
Andrew Pearce, Environment Agency
David Simms, Lafarge Cement

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

1. Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of Swale Borough Council and Vice Chair of TGKP, chaired the meeting as Rob Bennett, the Chairman, had been held up in traffic on his way to the meeting and was unable to attend.
2. Andrew welcomed John Burden and Kamal Aggarwal back on to the Board. He also welcomed Professor Tom Barnes, Ann Komzolik and Naisha Polaine to their first Board meetings.
3. Andrew went on to welcome Chris Hespe, Head of Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service at Kent County Council who was presenting at Item 3 and Simon Bandy, HCA, and Paul White, SEEDA, who were attending for Item 4.

Item 2: Minutes of TGKP Board Meeting on 14 March and Matters Arising.

4. The draft minutes were agreed. On matters arising:
 - Item 3, first paragraph: the Observatory at Ebbsfleet had been booked for the TGSG meeting on 22 June.
 - Item 3, second paragraph: the possibility of having a Vice Chair for TGSG had been raised in discussion at the secretariat, but there had been little enthusiasm for the idea. It had also been overshadowed by uncertainty over future Chair arrangements.
 - Item 4, third paragraph: actioned - the latest position on Board membership was covered in the Chief Executive's report.
 - Item 5, penultimate paragraph: actioned – this was on the agenda.
 - Item 5, last paragraph: actioned - and the bid had been successful
 - Item 6, first paragraph: actioned – but deferred to July meeting
 - Item 6, second paragraph: actioned – Chris Hespe attending

Item 3: Arrangements for 2012 Games as they affect North Kent – Chris Hespe, Head of Sport, Leisure and Olympic Service, KCC.

5. Chris gave the Board a presentation on the operational arrangements including an overview of scale and numbers involved. He spoke about the key opportunities for Kent and also the challenges, including resilience, public safety and security.
6. Opportunities included the Torch Relay, opportunities around Ebbsfleet, and the need to make the most of the fact that the international media would be arriving in the area for 3 weeks.
7. There was a discussion regarding the transport situation and the knock-on effects this could have in Kent – for train, road and air travel. It was agreed that it was very important to plan and communicate effectively to the public and also to businesses.
8. Chris suggested that there were several issues that the Board may wish to consider. For example:
 - making an input into the Integrated Transport Plan being prepared
 - the opportunities for raising the profile of Thames Gateway Kent
 - local parking solutions

- the provision of information to residents
9. Summing up the discussion the Chairman thanked Chris for his very helpful and comprehensive presentation. It was agreed that the Officers' Group should consider in more detail the issues raised during the discussion and report back to the Board in due course.

Action: TGK Officers' Group to consider issues raised on the operational impact of the 2012 Games in more detail at its June meeting.

Item 4: SEEDA Land and Property Assets – HCA Stewardship Model – Papers TGKP (11) 11 and TGKP (11) 12

10. Simon Bandy and Paul White introduced paper TGKP(11)11 which gave an update on SEEDA's Assets and Liabilities Plan and proposed a new 'Stewardship Model'. Paul reminded the Board that the documents distributed with the paper, and the information contained in them, should be treated as confidential. He gave an update/overview on the liability plan. Feedback from local partners was needed to test the feasibility of the proposals. SEEDA and HCA were looking for initial feedback from partners by the end of May.
11. Barbara Cooper introduced paper TGKP(11)12 which was a draft response to the stewardship proposals. Barbara raised the issue of which authorities the response should go from.
12. There followed a discussion on the stewardship proposals and on the draft response. The thrust of the draft response was agreed. It was further agreed that the signatories to the letter would include the Chair of TGKP, on behalf of the Partnership, and also the Leaders of the local authorities in North Kent.

Action: Barbara Cooper to coordinate issue of the joint response to HCA/SEEDA

Item 5: Developing a TGKP Work Plan for 2011/2012 – Paper TGKP(11)13

13. David Liston-Jones introduced paper TGKP(11)13. He said that there had been a number of discussions in the Officers' Group on the priorities and activities that the partnership should focus on in 2011/2012. The paper proposed that the overall priority for the partnership should be to focus on measures that maximise sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs. The annex to the paper set out a concise list of activities under a number of priority headings. The Board's views were sought on the suggested priorities and key activities.
14. In discussion a number of points were made:
- the proposed priorities and key activities were exactly the right ones to be concentrating on
 - the emphasis on the economic priorities was the right one – the key need was to attract and engage with the private sector
 - TGKP should appoint a third team member to support the Chief Executive

- we needed to do more to promote North Kent to businesses – we were in a competitive situation.
15. Summing up the discussion, the Chair said that the priorities and key activities set out in the paper were strongly endorsed by the Board. It was also agreed that a third team member be appointed to the TGKP team.

Action: The Officers' Group to take forward work on progressing the actions in the Work Plan and finalise arrangements for appointment of a new team member.

Item 6: Thames Gateway Strategic Group and Incentives for Growth – Paper TGKP(11)14

16. Ross Gill updated the Board on progress with the Thames Gateway Strategic Group. Following the very sad death of Sir Simon Milton in April, the GLA had yet to confirm who their new representative would be, and a new Chairman would have to be agreed. The next meeting was taking place on 22nd June in North Kent and Paul Carter had offered to chair that meeting. Ross went on to describe progress on the Incentives for Growth paper which would be discussed at the next TGSG meeting.
17. In discussion it was argued that the focus on dealing with the impact of the Pfizer closure in East Kent was resulting less attention and priority being given to the needs for North Kent. Barbara responded that whilst the formation of the Task Force, which KCC leads, had inevitably required a lot of attention this did not indicate any lessening of KCC's support for North Kent, or of its view of the importance of the Thames Gateway.
18. Glyn raised the issue of membership of the Strategic Group. He said that the Board needed to agree who should take Mike Snelling's place on the TGSG. The Board agreed that John Burden should replace Mike Snelling on the Group.

Item 7: Updates on current issues from members

19. Members gave brief oral updates in turn on current issues.

Item 8: Chief Executives Report

20. The Chief Executive's report was noted.

Item 9: AOB

21. There was no other business.

**Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
July 2011**