

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 17th July, 2013

Present: Cllr C P Smith (Chairman), Cllr Miss S O Shrubsole (Vice-Chairman), Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr M O Davis, Cllr S M King, Cllr Mrs S L Luck, Cllr M Parry-Waller, Cllr T J Robins, Cllr Miss J L Sergison and Cllr R Taylor.

Councillors Mrs Anderson, Balcombe, Baldock, Bolt, Coffin, Cure, N Heslop, Luker, Mrs Murray, Rhodes and Sullivan were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lancaster, Sayer and Mrs Simpson.


PART 1 - PUBLIC

**ERG
13/001 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct. However, with regard to the item on Escalate - Innovation and Growth Fund Bid, Councillors Baldock and Rhodes confirmed that they were former and current employees of one of the business organisations in the consortium backing the bid.

**ERG
13/002 ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD - PROPOSED
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The report of the Chief Executive set out the proposed terms of reference for the Advisory Board. A number of minor amendments to the text were noted by the Corporate Services Manager.

RECOMMENDED: That the Cabinet be commended to adopt the draft Terms of Reference for the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board as set out at Annex 1 to the report. 

***Referred to Cabinet**

**ERG
13/003 LOCAL BROADBAND SERVICES**

George Chandler, Kent County Council Regeneration Project Manager, gave a detailed presentation on progress towards the provision of enhanced broadband services for Kent.

**ERG
13/004**

TONBRIDGE TOWN TEAM UPDATE

Katie Iggulden and Howard Porter of the Tonbridge Town Team presented a proposal to launch a loyalty card scheme in Tonbridge to promote shopping and build support for local retailers and businesses within the area.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

**ERG
13/005**

SUPPORTING THE BOROUGH'S LOCAL CENTRES

Decision Notice D130083MEM

The report of the Chief Executive set out an approach to engagement with local Chambers of Commerce, parish councils and trading associations to identify opportunities to support business activity and vitality in the Borough's local centres.

RECOMMENDED: That the suggested process of engagement with local traders, as set out in the report, be endorsed.

**ERG
13/006**

ESCALATE - INNOVATION AND GROWTH FUND BID

Decision Notice D130084MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on the bid to secure a loan fund for small businesses in West Kent, Maidstone and East Sussex. It was noted that a decision on the bid had been received and that this had been successful.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the progress regarding the Escalate programme be noted; and
- (2) further promotion of the opportunities presented by the 'Accelerator +' programme be explored.

**ERG
13/007**

WEST KENT BUSINESS SUPPORT INITIATIVES - UPDATE

Decision Notice D130085MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on the commissioning of enhanced business support services for West Kent.

RECOMMENDED: That the West Kent Business Support Programme, as set out in the report, be endorsed and be promoted locally to ensure a good take up of such services within the Borough.

**ERG
13/008**

BUSINESS RATES – LORD HESELTINE REPORT

Decision Notice D130086MEM

The report of the Director of Finance and Transformation gave details of one of the recommendations contained in Lord Heseltine's Report entitled "No Stone Unturned: In Pursuit of Growth" which related to the publication of details of local businesses.

RECOMMENDED: That

(1) a list of businesses, excluding those in the names of individuals, liable to non-domestic rates in the Borough be published; and

(2) in due course, consent to publish be obtained from individual traders.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

**ERG
13/009**

WEST KENT LEADER PROGRAMME - UPDATE

The report provided an update on progress with transitional funding for the team which managed the West Kent Leader Programme.

**ERG
13/010**

WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP - MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the minutes of the meeting of the West Kent Partnership held on 19 April 2013.

**ERG
13/011**

FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES - SMALL BUSINESS INDEX

The Chief Executive submitted a report from the Federation of Small Businesses relating to business confidence.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**ERG
13/012**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No matters were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2128 hours

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Economic Regeneration**

Decision No: D130083MEM

Date: 17th July 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Supporting the Borough's Local Centres

(Report of Chief Executive)

The report set out an approach to engagement with local Chambers of Commerce and trading associations to identify opportunities to support business activity and vitality in the Borough's local centres.

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:

The suggested process of engagement with local traders, as set out in the report, be endorsed.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 17 July 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for J Balcombe
Economic Regeneration:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 19 July 2013

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Economic Regeneration**

Decision No: D130084MEM

Date: 17th July 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Escalate - Innovation and Growth Fund Bid

**(Report of Chief Executive)
(Annex)**

The report provided an update on the bid to secure a loan fund for small businesses in West Kent, Maidstone and East Sussex.

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:

- (1) the progress regarding the Escalate programme be noted; and
- (2) further promotion of the opportunities presented by the 'Accelerator +' programme be explored.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 17 July 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for J Balcombe
Economic Regeneration:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 19 July 2013

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Economic Regeneration**

Decision No: D130085MEM

Date: 17th July 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

West Kent Business Support Initiatives - Update

(Report of Chief Executive)

The report provided an update on the commissioning of enhanced business support services for West Kent.

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:

The West Kent Business Support Programme, as set out in the report, be endorsed and be promoted locally to ensure a good take up of such services within the Borough.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 17 July 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for J Balcombe
Economic Regeneration:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 19 July 2013

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Economic Regeneration**

Decision No: D130086MEM

Date: 17th July 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Business Rates – Lord Heseltine Report

(Report of Director of Finance and Transformation)

The report gave details of one of the recommendations contained in Lord Heseltine's Report entitled "No Stone Unturned: In Pursuit of Growth" which related to the publication of details of local businesses.

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:

- (1) a list of businesses, excluding those in the names of individuals, liable to non-domestic rates in the Borough be published; and
- (2) in due course, consent to publish be obtained from individual traders.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 17 July 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for J Balcombe
Economic Regeneration:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 19 July 2013

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.