

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 9th September, 2015

Present: Cllr S M King (Chairman), Cllr S R J Jessel (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs S M Barker, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr T I B Cannon, Cllr M O Davis, Cllr Mrs S L Luck, Cllr Miss J L Sergison, Cllr C P Smith, Cllr F G Tombolis, Cllr B W Walker and Cllr T C Walker

Mrs J A Anderson, P F Bolt, M A Coffin, N J Heslop, B J Luker, S C Perry and H S Rogers were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Bishop, J L Botten and R D Lancaster

ERG 15/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

ERG 15/18 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 23 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

ERG 15/19 WEST KENT PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH 2015 - 2018

Decision Notice D150064MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an overview of the amended West Kent Priorities for Economic Growth Strategy which identified five key areas for economic growth. Consideration was given to the priorities for West Kent set out in the document and, in particular, the transformational scheme to be accorded the highest priority for Tonbridge and Malling.

An update was also given on the case for a Kent and Medway Local Enterprise Partnership in place of the South East LEP and the Government's response that there was unlikely to be significant change to any LEP.

RECOMMENDED: That the transformational priorities set out in the West Kent Priorities for Economic Growth document be endorsed and the scheme for enhanced capacity to the Leigh Flood Storage Area and

flooding works at East Peckham be identified as Tonbridge and Malling's highest priority.

ERG 15/20 ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

Decision Notice D150065MEM

The report of the Chief Executive gave details of progress to date on the Local Neighbourhood Centres Programme, an initiative which sought to provide grant support to local traders for implementing improvements in those centres. A proposal was considered to redefine Quarry Hill Parade as a "district centre" eligible for grant assistance up to £7,500 rather than the £3,000 available to "local neighbourhood centres".

RECOMMENDED: That the progress in the programme be noted and the proposed increase in grant for the Quarry Hill area, as detailed in the report, be approved.

ERG 15/21 WEST KENT LEADER PROGRAMME

Decision Notice D150066MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on the development of the new West Kent LEADER programme, due to be launched in mid-October, including proposals for assisting with promotion of the available grant support and encouraging local take up.

RECOMMENDED: That the proposed actions to promote take up of LEADER grants within the Borough, as set out in the report, be endorsed.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

ERG 15/22 UPDATE ON BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Further to Minute ERG 15/14, the report of the Chief Executive provided an update and more detailed overview of the West Kent Business Support Programme following further discussion with Kent County Council and West Kent partners. Details were given of arrangements for generic and more specific business workshops, one-to-one sessions and web-based support. Reference was also made to promotion and raising awareness of the support available to local businesses. Members were requested to advise the Economic Regeneration Officer if they had any links with the secondary schools in their areas to help raise awareness of initiatives for young entrepreneurs.

ERG 15/23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman advised that the next meeting on 10 November would be more informal with a presentation from Paramount on the proposed

development in north Kent followed by a question and answer session. It would provide an opportunity to discuss how to promote the availability of some of the contract work among local businesses.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

ERG 15/24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm