



TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Chief Executive

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NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.

Contact: Committee Services
committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk

29 August 2017

To: MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board to be held in the Civic Suite, Gibson Building, Kings Hill, West Malling on Wednesday, 6th September, 2017 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

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Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr B J Luker (Chairman)
Cllr F G Tombolis (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr M C Base
Cllr R P Betts
Cllr T Bishop
Cllr J L Botten
Cllr T I B Cannon
Cllr S R J Jessel
Cllr S M King

Cllr R D Lancaster
Cllr Mrs S L Luck
Cllr L J O'Toole
Cllr Miss J L Sergison
Cllr C P Smith
Cllr B W Walker
Cllr T C Walker

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Apologies for absence

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Declarations of interest

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, 6th July, 2017

Present: Cllr B J Luker (Chairman), Cllr F G Tombolis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr T Bishop, Cllr J L Botten, Cllr S M King, Cllr Mrs S L Luck, Cllr L J O'Toole and Cllr Miss J L Sergison

Councillors V M C Branson, Mrs J A Anderson, O C Baldock, P F Bolt, N J Heslop, Mrs A S Oakley, M Parry-Waller, M R Rhodes and H S Rogers were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M C Base, T I B Cannon and B W Walker

ERG 17/7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

However, with regard to the Business Rates 2017/18 presentation and in the interests of transparency Councillor Mrs Luck reminded Members that she was a small business owner within the Borough. This was not considered to represent either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an Other Significant Interest and Councillor Mrs Luck remained in the meeting.

ERG 17/8 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 22 February 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ERG 17/9 BUSINESS RATES 2017/18 - PRESENTATION

The Principal Revenues Officer provided a presentation setting out the changes to the business rates from 1 April 2017.

In addition, the details regarding Business Rate Revaluation, Transitional Relief, Small Business Relief and Rural Rate Relief and other changes, such as the support for pubs, supporting small businesses, and the discretionary fund announced by the Chancellor were referred to. It was reported that the extra rate reliefs would be funded by Government via s31 grants.

An initial analysis of the business rates accounts in the Borough for the financial year 2017/18, undertaken before the implementation of the

'extra' reliefs announced in the Chancellor's spring budget, showed that for the majority of businesses the position was not as damaging as predicted. Approximately 1,100 (31%) businesses would have no liability at all; approximately 1,000 (28%) would be paying less than last year and approximately 800 (22%) would be paying <10% more than last year.

The implementation of a discretionary fund for hard pressed ratepayers needed development and a scheme would be presented for Member approval in due course. Fortunately, there did not appear to be a significant demand for this currently. However, Members were cautioned that further details and regulations related to the extra rate reliefs were still awaited.

Members expressed a number of concerns around the longer term difficulties that could be experienced by businesses as a result of changes to Business Rates; the implications around the Borough Council's cash flow if Government funding to pay rate reliefs was delayed; the introduction, development and funding of new software to administer the changes and the potential implications around any change to the Business Rates Retention Scheme.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

ERG 17/10 NORTH KENT ENTERPRISE ZONE

Decision Notice D170047MEM

The report provided an update on the progress being made on the North Kent Enterprise Zone initiative, which included a site at Rochester Airfield. Members were also asked to approve the next steps in the delivery of the project.

It was reported that the Accountable Body for the North Kent Enterprise Zone was Maidstone Borough Council and a formal request for contributions towards the cost of this role had recently been received from that authority. It was proposed that a 15% contribution towards legal, financial and administrative costs be made. This equated to £600 per annum and could be met through existing economic development budgets.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the updated information set out in the report be noted;
- (2) the support given to the North Kent Enterprise Zone to date be endorsed; and
- (3) the proposal to contribute £600 per annum towards the Accountable Body function be agreed.

ERG 17/11 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS WITH VISIT KENT AND TOURISM SOUTH EAST

Decision Notice D170048MEM

The report provided information on the Service Level Agreements that the Borough Council currently had with two tourism bodies – Visit Kent and Tourism South East – and set out proposals for 2017/18.

It was proposed that the Borough Council did not enter into a new annual agreement with Tourism South East as there was more scope for Tonbridge and Malling to have a higher profile with Visit Kent at a county rather than regional level.

In addition, it was proposed that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Visit Kent was retained but at a reduced level of up to a maximum of £3,500 for 2017/18. However, the SLA would look to retain the activities set out in paragraph 1.4.3 of the report as a minimum.

These proposals offered potential additional savings on existing budgets.

Members recognised the value of promoting the Borough as a tourist destination for the benefit of businesses, leisure facilities and other places of interest.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- (1) the proposal to not renew the Service Level Agreement with Tourism South East in 2017/18 be agreed;
- (2) the proposal to reduce the Service Level Agreement with Visit Kent in 2017/18 to a maximum of £3,500 be agreed; and
- (3) the inclusion of activities set out in paragraph 1.4.3 of the report be agreed.

ERG 17/12 'BUILDING OUR INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY' GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION

Decision Notice D170049MEM

The report set out the Borough Council's response to the 'Building our Industrial Strategy' Green Paper consultation, which was submitted in advance of the deadline of 17 April 2017.

A summary of the main points made were set out in paragraph 1.2.2 of the report, with the full consultation response attached as Annex 1.

Members welcomed the Green Paper and supported the aims and objectives of the strategy in stimulating economic growth and prosperity. However, concern was expressed regarding the requirement for a national infrastructure policy that properly addressed the challenges arising from growth, the delivery of a credible skills and training agenda and the need for clarity regarding the role of the local partnerships and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership in implementing the strategy.

In addition, it was reported that funding had been secured for a Careers and Enterprise Adviser and an individual was expected to be in post by September 2017. The Enterprise Adviser Network, as reported at the last meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board in February 2017, would be launched on 28 July.

RECOMMENDED: That the consultation response to the 'Building our Industrial Strategy' green paper, set out in full in Annex 1 of the report, be endorsed.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

ERG 17/13 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP - MINUTES

The Minutes of the West Kent Partnership meeting held on 28 April 2017 were reviewed by Members.

It was noted that the meeting had focused on the needs of the West Kent creative sector and the concerns raised related to the retention of staff, given the fast moving nature of digital technologies, and the demand for suitable premises where small technology businesses could base themselves alongside other such businesses.

Particular reference was made to business hubs and it was reported that a hub facility for small businesses would be set up at the Castle Lodge, Tonbridge. The organisation behind this venture would be The House, based in Tunbridge Wells, and representatives would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board to update on the progress being made.

Finally, the good progress in developing Job Fairs to assist with job creation in the Borough was recognised by Members.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

ERG 17/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.27 pm

The (Castle) Lodge Co-Working Space

Presentation by Dominic Johnson and Simon McArdle on the development of a new business incubator facility in Tonbridge

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

06 September 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 VILLAGE STORES INITIATIVE

This report sets out the progress that has been made on the Village Stores Initiative over the course of the 12 month pilot project, and puts forward potential next steps.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In September 2016, the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board approved the recommendation to proceed with a pilot project aimed at supporting our village stores in partnership with Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK).

1.1.2 The offer to local stores has focussed specifically on 1-to-1 guidance and support from a specialist retail advisor on:

- business planning
- store layout
- product sourcing
- networking with other retailers
- diversification

1.1.3 It was estimated that of the 20 retail businesses identified around 6 or 7 would take up the full range of services within the offer. The scheme was costed up at £3,700 with a 25% contribution being made by ACRK from other funded programmes.

1.2 Progress to Date

1.2.1 Once approval for the project had been given, promotional material was produced and an initial tranche of 10 village stores were contacted to offer them advice and support. Surprisingly, the take up of this support was high, with 7 stores responding positively.

1.2.2 The stores that the business advisor has been working with closely are:

- East Peckham News

- East Peckham Butchers and Stores
- Plaxtol Village Stores
- Little Market, Leybourne
- Watlington Post Office
- The Handy Store, Watlington
- Wouldham Village Store

1.2.3 Further information is set out in Appendix 1 on the level of support received by each of the above businesses and the ensuing actions. Due to the confidential nature of this information, this appendix is not publicly available and as such sits under Part 2 of the agenda, falling under the remit of the Local Government Act 1972 – Schedule 12A Paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person.

1.3 Proposed Next Steps

1.3.1 To date, the initiative has been of great success and has been well received by the 7 village stores that have taken up the offer. Full case studies and promotion of the pilot initiative are being produced by ACRK.

1.3.2 The availability of LEADER grant funding for the majority of the stores (unfortunately Leybourne is outside the eligible area) has meant that the support provided has been well timed to help support with capital investment in these stores.

1.3.3 Due to the high take up of the initiative amongst the initial tranche of village shops that were contacted, the level of support required and the benefits that have been delivered to date, it is proposed that this initiative be extended to a second phase in order to ensure that further village stores in the borough benefit for the support on offer.

1.3.4 Discussions with ACRK have concluded that a contribution of £2,800 would enable the initiative to extend into an additional phase that would be delivered over a 12 month period from September 2017. This would be taken from existing Economic Development budgets.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 These are addressed in Section 1.3.4 of this report.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 Not applicable.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 That an additional phase of the Village Stores Initiative **BE AGREED**.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and the Chief Executive confirm that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

None

contact: Jeremy Whittaker,
Economic Regeneration
Officer

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

06 September 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN - CONSULTATION

This report sets out some initial views and comments regarding the proposed refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The first SELEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) was published in March 2014. This document was produced at the time as a direct response to the launch of the Local Growth Fund, and set out a range of priorities for investment across the SELEP area that would create new jobs and homes and help further stimulate the local economy.

1.1.2 However, since 2014, the policy landscape has changed in the following areas:

- Triggering of Article 50 and the likely resultant changes to funding arrangements
- Slowing growth in the local economy and rising consumer borrowing
- Tighter public finances and pressure on public services
- Emergence of an Industrial Strategy and Challenge Fund aimed at addressing the UK's productivity challenge and strengthen trade activities.

1.1.3 As such, the SELEP are now looking to renew the SEP to ensure it delivers a strategy that addresses the complexities of the environment in which we now find ourselves.

1.2 Consultation

1.2.1 The process of producing the new SEP commenced in July 2017, with the production of the final document scheduled to be completed by January 2018. An initial meeting of officers across west Kent took place in early August 2017 with consultants, who sought early views on three high level strategic questions:

- What would we love the economy to become?

- How will we cope with the changes/challenges we face?
- What is our core proposition for attracting more funds to deliver better productivity/prosperity outcomes?

1.2.2 Initial views on these specific questions included:

What would we love the economy to become?

- More skilled workforce – be it via apprenticeships/universities/colleges.
- Above matched by well paid, high skilled employment opportunities locally.
- Healthy mixture of SMEs and larger companies in order to give the economy resilience and strength.
- Positive symbiotic relationship with London that creates local spin-off opportunities.
- Build on existing sectoral strengths – such as financial services, creative industries, horticulture, tourism and hospitality.

How will we cope with the changes/challenges we face?

- Skills development that is aligned with the needs of the local economy
- Investment in infrastructure in order to support growth and addressing the funding gaps
- Need for greater prominence to be given to the commercial property crisis as well as the housing crisis
- Innovation in business practices
- Greater investment in R&D

What is our core proposition for attracting more funds to deliver better productivity/prosperity outcomes?

- Evidence of a strong track record of delivery in West Kent
- There is often a greater return on investment in West Kent in comparison to other area, as such money spent in West Kent is likely to lead to greater outcomes.

1.2.3 The formal consultation is scheduled to take place after both the SELEP Board and the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership Board have met at the end of September 2017 and will run through October 2017. In advance of this consultation exercise, some upfront work has been undertaken to narrow down the key points that we should be making.

1.3 Proposed Response

1.3.1 As the Strategic Economic Plan will need to align with the Government's Industrial Strategy, it makes sense that a number of the points made in responding to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper are also made here. As such, whilst it is not

entirely clear at this stage what questions will be asked as part of the consultation exercise, it is proposed that the following points be made in the formal consultation response:

- Strong emphasis on the excellent strategic location of Tonbridge and Malling (and Kent), but the **need for greater investment in infrastructure to support growth**.
- Highlight the role played by **sector clusters** in the borough in strengthening the wider economy, such as transport and logistics in the Medway Gap and professional services in Kings Hill.
- Consideration needs to be given to **greater protection of commercial premises and land, and greater incentives to build modern commercial premises** to ensure local businesses and inward investors have the supply and range of available accommodation in order to enable local economic growth.
- Recognition of the **role that R&D plays in economic growth** and the potential of places like East Malling Research Station to stimulate innovation and growth.
- The need for further **investment in broadband and mobile phone services** to support rural economic growth.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 These are no financial implications arising from this report.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 Not applicable.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 That the key points to be included in the consultation response for the refresh of the SEP, as set out under section 1.3.1, **BE AGREED**.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and the Chief Executive confirm that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Jeremy Whittaker,

None

Economic Regeneration
Officer

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

06 September 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2017.

1.1 Minutes

1.1.1 The minutes of the meeting of the West Kent Partnership held on 28th July 2017 are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

1.1.2 In summary, the meeting focused on the following issues:

(a) skills issues across the West Kent area including the need to create more effective links between employers and skills providers including schools and colleges;

(b) the development of sector-based skills initiatives by employer groups led by a number of 'Guilds' across the County;

(c) the need to engage local SMEs in discussions about skills needs and future recruitment given that West Kent business sector comprises of over 80% of SME companies.

1.1.3 The meeting also discussed the recently launched Kent and Medway Business Fund which is now providing loans to local businesses to assist with growth and expansion plans. This county-wide programme has replaced earlier schemes for different parts of Kent including the former 'Escalate' programme in West Kent. Recycled funding from those schemes, from repaid loans, is now funding the new Kent-wide scheme.

1.1.4 After the West Kent Partnership meeting, the launch of the West Kent Enterprise Adviser Network took place. As reported to this Board at your February meeting, this new, and much needed, initiative will provide a co-ordinator and a network of volunteer advisers across the area whose aim will be to forge and sustain more effective and long lasting links between local schools and local employers. This aims both to help young people with career choices and to meet the skills needs of our local businesses.

- 1.1.5 Support and funding for the West Kent Network has been provided by the three West Kent district councils, the West Kent Partnership, the Hadlow Group and KCC. Further updates on this programme and the progress being achieved will be made to future meetings of this Board.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

Minutes - West Kent Partnership Meeting – Friday 28 July 2017

Present

Nicolas Heslop, Chairman
Peter Fleming, SDC
Jane March, TWBC
Brian Luker, TMBC
Andrew Stirling, SDC
Hilary Smith, TWBC
Anthony Dyer, Kent Police
Mark Raymond, TMBC
Sarah Nurden, KMEP
Tracy-Anne Barker, Hadlow Group
Tudor Price, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Wendy Wood, WKP

Guests

Louise Aitken, SELEP
Allan Baillie, KCC
Jacqui Ward, KCC
Rajmund Brent, KCC
Georgina Angele, Careers & Enterprise Co.

Apologies

Catherine Brunger, AXA PPP
Lesley Bowles SDC – Andrew Stirling attends
Pav Ramewal, SDC
Roddy Hogarth, SDC
Caroline Shaw/Jon Weller, IMAGO
Jon Regan, Hugh Lowe Farms
Julie Beilby, TMBC
David Joyner, KCC
Henry Warde, Squerries
Mark Dance/Sean Holden, KCC
Adam Bryan, SELEP
Roger House, Kent Association Local Councils
David Candlin, TWBC – Hilary Smith attends
William Benson, TWBC
David Jukes, TWBC

Introductions were made and the Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting. He explained the different meeting format with the meeting closing at 11.15. The launch of the West Kent Enterprise Adviser Network would then take place with other stakeholders and businesses joining Partners. The Chairman remarked that this initiative demonstrates that the Partnership delivers projects to address local issues. Thanks were recorded to Hadlow Group for hosting the event.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record. All actions were either picked up in Agenda or were for individuals outside of WKP ongoing involvement.

Skills

2. Apprenticeship Levy – Tracy-Anne Barker, Hadlow Group

Tracy-Anne provided a snapshot of the Hadlow Group and their breadth of offer across all sectors. The Group is commercially aware, operating a number of enterprises such as the Artisan restaurant, Broadview tea rooms and farm shops and all proceeds are reinvested in their core education provision.

Apprenticeships are now delivered as employer designed standards, incorporating an end point assessment delivered by a third party organisation. Apprentices have to pass this assessment to gain their award which is a big change in the system.

3. **SELEP Skills Strategy – SELEP and West Kent Perspective – Louise Aitken, SELEP**

Louise gave some background to the Skills Advisory Group and the work that is being undertaken on developing a supporting evidence base for the skills strategy which is in consultation.

Partners had an opportunity to see the type of local data that will be available to endorse the local picture, around such headings as Enterprise numbers, skills levels, work flows, growth, key sectors and vacancies. This links to a LEP wide view to position the LEP to lobby for funding.

4. **Guilds in West Kent – Allan Baillie, KCC**

Allan gave an overview of the Kent Guilds which provide an interface to create long term relationships between industry and education across 8 sectors –

- Construction and the Build Environment
- Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing
- Land Based
- Sciences
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Health and Social Care
- Creative and Media
- Financial services

The Chair of each Guild attends the Kent and Medway Skills Commission which feeds into KMEP.

5. **Skills Discussion**

Partners began to scope exactly what the skills challenge is in West Kent identifying factors including:

- Mainly SMEs, across range of diverse sectors, very few large employers,
- Focus on cross cutting themes such as Leadership and Management
- A need to streamline strategic links between employers and education providers so Guilds/emerging Network/college/ad hoc is all seamless for employers and schools
- Pull of London so need to be realistic and equip young people for those opportunities as well as meeting skills needs in local economy. (shared with other areas in LEP)
- Changing work patterns and infrastructure needs, future trends – equip our SMEs
- Losing office space under permitted development - therefore losing employers

- High housing costs impact on recruitment
- Role for the West Kent Adult Skills Forum (including Ashford)
- Find practical ways to keep workforce local in key sectors – eg – degree level apprenticeships in professional services
- Distinguish between skills issues now and in the future
- Can European skills funding be leveraged to help employers upsize premises?
- LEP funding available to get unemployed into work – message to businesses

SELEP West Kent data sets will be available in October. Louise accepted an invitation to return to the October WKP meeting and an item will be tabled to further explore the skills issues raised above, understand the local evidence base and identify ways in which the Partnership can help map action to address both current and future skills needs. **WW**

6. Kent and Medway Business Fund – Jacqui Ward, KCC

This is the successor scheme to Escalate and the other RGF schemes in Kent – Tiger and Expansion East Kent. Now one Kent-wide board with Peter Fleming representing West Kent. Escalate continues to be monitored and is doing well – delivered just over £5M to 40 companies. Five have gone into bad debt.

Recycled funds are ringfenced to be re-invested in the original area. £1.7M repaid to date. Round 2 has just closed with 27 applications from the Escalate area of which 23 are being progressed and will be invited to board in October. Offer to businesses is loan or equity investment with 50% match required from the business. Equity investment is new under this scheme and provides the potential for the investment to generate greater returns into the recycled funds. Peter asked if West Kent could potentially invest elsewhere in Kent to grow that investment to come back into West Kent. Jacqui will return to October meeting to advise Partners of options. **JW**

KMBF Round 2 Pre-Applications Overview						
Area	Former RGF	Status			KMBF Funding Requested £	Estimated Jobs Created/ Safeguarded
				Total		
East Kent	ExEK	Progressed	33	45	5,593,000	410
		Declined	12		1,588,000	175.5
North Kent and Medway	Tiger	Progressed	15	17	2,085,000	158
		Declined	2		150,000	15
West Kent	Escalate	Progressed	23	27	3,990,000	424.5
		Declined	4		660,000	61
No Location Confirmed		Progressed	3	3	1,050,000	76.5
		Declined	0		0	0
		Total Progressed	74	92	12,718,000	1,069
		Total Declined	18		2,398,000	251.5
		TOTAL			15,116,000	1,320.5

7. **KMEP Update - Sarah Nurden**

Sarah outlined the information in her Paper identifying potential actions for Partners

- SEP refresh – District and WKP response to questions issued as part of the consultation. Process for West Kent engagement with consultants to be advised.
- Housing Infrastructure Funds - Districts invited to liaise with Katie Stewart at KCC on funding bids
- Shared Prosperity Fund – There is an opportunity to contribute to the consultation on how this will look

Additionally

- A further £5M is being made available to Highways England network for investments to release housing developments
- Government Aviation Strategy consultation is underway. This includes use of existing runways. WKP may wish to respond in relation to Gatwick

8. **West Kent Priorities Update** – for information and noted.

9. **AOB** - None.

10 **Dates of next meeting**

- Friday 20 October, Alexandra Suite, Swanley, 10am
- Outlook calendar invitations to be sent for 2018

West Kent Enterprise Adviser Network Launch **MAC Theatre, West Kent College**

A launch event for partners, businesses and other stakeholders took place. The Chairman commented that establishing the Network demonstrates the WKP's capacity to deliver on economic issues for the local economy and is a direct result of a presentation and discussions at a recent WKP meeting. Through the Network the WKP aims to create powerful, lasting connections between local businesses and schools to provide greater opportunities for our young people and address the skills needs of our local economy. Enterprise Adviser Networks are a national initiative led by Careers and Enterprise Company that require match funding at a local level. Support and funding for the West Kent Network is through The West Kent Partnership, The Hadlow Group and KCC.

Agenda Item 8

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

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Agenda Item 9

The Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of any items the publication of which would disclose exempt information.

**ANY REPORTS APPEARING AFTER THIS PAGE CONTAIN EXEMPT
INFORMATION**

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

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