

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Tuesday, 5th November, 2019**

**Present:** Cllr B J Luker (Chairman), Cllr F G Tombolis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr G C Bridge, Cllr R I B Cannon, Cllr M A J Hood, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr D W King, Cllr J R S Lark, Cllr J L Sergison, Cllr K B Tanner and Cllr C J Williams

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, R P Betts, N J Heslop, D Lettington, Mrs A S Oakley and M R Rhodes were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Foyle, L J O'Toole and W E Palmer

**ERG 19/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**ERG 19/26 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 4 September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**ERG 19/27 PRESENTATION: WEST KENT SCALE UP PROGRAMME**

Members received a presentation from Tudor Price of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce on the West Kent Scale Up Programme. Members noted the growth of businesses within the Borough that had been supported through this Business Rate Retention Pilot funded initiative. The Chairman thanked Mr Price for his contribution to the meeting.

**MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET**

**ERG 19/28 ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Decision Notice D190078MEM

The report of the Chief Executive set out progress to date on the Economic Regeneration Strategy Action Plan and advised of the aim to recruit a Graduate Economic Regeneration Officer for a 12 month period to assist in future delivery, using funding from the growth element of the Business Rates Pool.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Action Plan update, including the arrangements to provide a Graduate Trainee post for 1 year fully funded by Business Rates Pool growth funding, be noted.

#### **ERG 19/29 LOCAL CENTRES AND PARADES SHOPFRONT GRANT SCHEME UPDATE**

Decision Notice D190079MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on the Local Centres and Parades scheme, which was launched in September 2019, and sought approval to extend the support provided by Action with Communities in Rural Kent to cover this new scheme.

**RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the continued use of hands-on advice and support from Action with Communities in Rural Kent for the Local Centres and Parades Scheme be approved.

#### **MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**

#### **ERG 19/30 STRENGTH IN PLACES FUND - GROWING KENT AND MEDWAY**

The report of the Chief Executive provided information on the Growing Kent and Medway 'Strength in Places' Fund bid, led by NIAB EMR (National Institute of Agricultural Botany East Malling Research), which had been submitted to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in September 2019.

#### **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**

#### **ERG 19/31 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.23 pm