

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, 3rd November, 2020

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

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, Mrs S Bell, R P Betts, V M C Branson, M A Coffin, N J Heslop, D Lettington, M R Rhodes, H S Rogers and Miss G E Thomas were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor W E Palmer

ERG 20/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

ERG 20/12 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 2 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ERG 20/13 THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 CRISIS - AN UPDATE

To assist the Board's consideration of the matters presented to the meeting the Economic Regeneration Manager provided a comprehensive update on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the local economy. Attention was drawn to support which could be available to local businesses in light of the recent Government announcement of a national lockdown. Particular reference was made to the impact on the 'High Street' economy and to planning for its recovery.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

ERG 20/14 BOROUGH ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY 2021-23

The report of the Chief Executive set out the proposed changes to the draft Borough Economic Recovery Strategy 2021-23 in light of feedback received during the consultation exercise undertaken in September and October 2020.

RECOMMENDED: That the Borough Economic Recovery Strategy, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be commended to the Cabinet for approval.

***Referred to Cabinet**

ERG 20/15 BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT AND POOL UPDATE

Decision Notice D200077MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on projects funded from the Business Rates Retention Pilot and Business Rates Pool. Further to the initial report presented to the Board on 2 September 2020 (Minute ERG 20/6 refers), the report set out details of potential priority projects which supported economic growth and resilience and could be funded from the remaining funds.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the proposed funding areas, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and submitted to Kent County Council for its agreement.

ERG 20/16 WEST KENT KICKSTART PROGRAMME

Decision Notice D200078MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an outline of the national Kickstart Scheme together with an update on measures undertaken to set up a 'gateway' to help tackle youth unemployment in West Kent. The report identified areas in which the Borough Council could actively support and encourage participation in the West Kent Kickstart Programme.

RECOMMENDED: That the support of the West Kent Kickstart Programme and, specifically, the provision of placements at the Borough Council through the programme, be endorsed.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

ERG 20/17 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The report presented details of the key matters discussed at the meeting of the West Kent Partnership held on 9 October 2020.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

ERG 20/18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm