

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, 12th November, 2013

Present: Cllr C P Smith (Chairman), Cllr Miss S O Shrubsole (Vice-Chairman), Cllr M O Davis, Cllr S M King, Cllr Mrs S L Luck, Cllr M Parry-Waller, Cllr A G Sayer, Cllr Miss J L Sergison and Cllr Mrs E A Simpson.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dalton, Lancaster and Taylor.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**ERG
13/022**

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Balcombe declared an Other Significant Interest in the item concerning the Christmas Lighting Scheme on the grounds of being a member of Aylesford Parish Council and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor Mrs Luck advised in connection with the item on Local Retail Centres that she had a business in West Malling and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

**ERG
13/023**

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 11 September 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

**ERG
13/024**

WEST KENT PRIORITIES FOR GROWTH - DRAFT DOCUMENT

Decision Notice D130133MEM

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive regarding a draft of the West Kent Priorities for Growth document produced by the West Kent Partnership to inform the content of the Kent and Medway growth strategy and, in turn, the higher level plans being prepared by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). It was noted that the document focused on identification of the main

locations for future growth in West Kent, its key future infrastructure requirements and needs in respect of business, skills and learning development.

A number of comments were made regarding the drafting of the references to transport links and these were noted by the officers for reflection in the final document to be submitted in the tight timescale available.

RECOMMENDED: That the draft West Kent Priorities for Growth document, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be endorsed subject to modification to clarify where good and bad transport links exist and include further examples as appropriate.

**ERG
13/025**

LOCAL RETAIL CENTRES - PROPOSED FUNDING SUPPORT

Decision Notice D130134MEM

Further to Decision No D130083MEM, the joint report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and the Chief Executive provided an update on the engagement process with local chambers of trade/traders associations. A time-limited grant scheme was proposed, utilising some of the funding from the Government's Innovation Fund to support measures to help boost trade in the Borough's local retail centres.

RECOMMENDED: That the grant scheme for local retail centres, as set out in Annex 1 to the report, be endorsed.

**ERG
13/026**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING SCHEME - REVIEW

Decision Notice D130135MEM

The report of the Chief Executive summarised the background to the scheme of annual financial support for Christmas lighting in local centres adopted in 2006 following a review by the former Scrutiny Committee. Consideration was given to a proposal that Aylesford village be included in the scheme following a request from Aylesford Parish Council and a recent review of floor space which indicated that the village now met the criteria for inclusion of local retail centres within the scheme.

RECOMMENDED: That Aylesford village be included in the scheme for Christmas lighting support on the terms set out in paragraph 1.2.2 of the report.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

**ERG
13/027**

BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

The report provided an update on various business support initiatives available locally with particular reference to the launch of the Escalate

Loan Fund in December. Members also discussed support for businesses based at home and the Be Your Own Boss programme.

**ERG
13/028**

WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP - MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the meeting of the West Kent Partnership held on 18 October 2013 which had focused on business support programmes, the Escalate loan scheme and issues regarding future funding via the Local Enterprise Partnership and the LEADER programme.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**ERG
13/029**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2021 hours

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

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

Decision No: D130133MEM

Date: 12th November 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

West Kent Priorities for Growth - Draft Document

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

Consideration was given to a draft of the West Kent Priorities for Growth document produced by the West Kent Partnership to inform the content of the Kent and Medway growth strategy and, in turn, the higher level plans being prepared by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). It was noted that the document focused on identification of the main locations for future growth in West Kent, its key future infrastructure requirements and needs in respect of business, skills and learning development.

A number of comments were made and noted by the officers for reflection in the final document to be submitted in the tight timescale available.

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:
The draft West Kent Priorities for Growth document, as set out at Annex 1 to the report, be endorsed subject to modification to clarify where good and bad transport links exist and include further examples as appropriate.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 12 November 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for J Balcombe
Economic Regeneration:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 15 November 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: D130134MEM

Date: 12th November 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Local Retail Centres - Proposed Funding Support

**(Joint report of Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and
Chief Executive)
(Annex)**

Further to Decision No D130083MEM, the report provided an update on the engagement process with local chambers of trade/traders associations. A time-limited grant scheme was proposed, utilising some of the funding from the Government's Innovation Fund to support measures to help boost trade in the Borough's local retail centres.

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration resolved that:
The grant scheme for local retail centres, as set out in Annex 1 to the report, be endorsed.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 12 November 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for J Balcombe
Economic Regeneration:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 15 November 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
Communities and Health**

Decision No: D130135MEM

Date: 12th November 2013

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Christmas Lighting Scheme - Review

(Report of Chief Executive)

The report summarised the background to the scheme of annual financial support for Christmas lighting in local centres adopted in 2006 following a review by the former Scrutiny Committee. Consideration was given to a proposal that Aylesford village be included in the scheme following a request from Aylesford Parish Council and a recent review of floor space which indicated that the village now met the criteria for inclusion of local retail centres within the scheme.

Following consideration by the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health resolved that: Aylesford village be included in the scheme for Christmas lighting support on the terms set out in paragraph 1.2.2 of the report.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board of 12 November 2013.

Signed Cabinet Member for B Luker
Communities and Health:

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 15 November 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.

In accordance with Paragraph 2, Annex 1 of the Executive Procedure Rules, the Leader nominated the Cabinet Member for Communities and Health to take this decision in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration.