

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**06 July 2017**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Information**

**1 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP - MINUTES**

**1.1 Meeting Held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

- 1.1.1 Minutes of the most recent meeting of the West Kent Partnership are attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.1.2 The main theme of the meeting was a focus on the needs of the West Kent creative sector which included presentations from three local businesses: The House (Tunbridge Wells), Treatout (Sevenoaks) and MCM (Tonbridge). Issues of concern to the sector related to the retention of staff given the fast moving nature of digital technologies and the demand for suitable premises where small technology businesses can base themselves alongside other such businesses.
- 1.1.3 The House in Tunbridge Wells is a good example of such a 'hub'. Following a report to the Finance and Property Advisory Board in September 2016 to agree future commercial use of the building, a similar hub facility for small businesses will be set up by the same company at the Castle Lodge, Tonbridge.
- 1.1.4 The meeting also heard from Adam Bryan, Chief Executive of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) regarding two new strategies being developed: a new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and a new Skills Strategy. Key to the development of both will be the need for stakeholder engagement which will include consultation with the members of the West Kent Partnership. These will be reviewed at future West Kent Partnership meetings.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby  
Chief Executive