

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 6th September, 2017

Present: Cllr B J Luker (Chairman), Cllr F G Tombolis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr R P Betts, Cllr T Bishop, Cllr J L Botten, Cllr T I B Cannon, Cllr R D Lancaster, Cllr Mrs S L Luck, Cllr Miss J L Sergison, Cllr C P Smith and Cllr T C Walker

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, O C Baldock, P F Bolt, V M C Branson, M A Coffin, N J Heslop, D Lettington, 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, L J O'Toole and B W Walker

ERG 17/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

ERG 17/16 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 6 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ERG 17/17 PRESENTATION BY DOMINIC JOHNSON AND SIMON MCARDLE: THE (CASTLE) LODGE CO-WORKING SPACE

Mr Dominic Johnson of Collaborative Working for Creatives outlined the proposal for the re-use of Castle Lodge, Tonbridge as a 'co-working' space to provide both fixed desk and co-working positions for up to 23 individuals/small businesses. He provided details of similar initiatives in Tunbridge Wells and advised that works to The Lodge were scheduled to commence in October 2017 and the facility would be launched in January 2018. In response to a number of questions from Members he outlined the contract periods, working arrangements and IT facilities provided to encourage networking within a creative space.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET**ERG 17/18 VILLAGE STORES INITIATIVE**

Decision Notice D170057MEM

The report of the Chief Executive set out details of progress made on the Village Stores Initiative over the course of the 12 month pilot project undertaken with Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK). Details of the stores assisted by the business advisor were set out in Part 2 of the agenda at Annex 1 to the report (Minute 17/22 refers). Following the high level of interest in and the success of the initial pilot the report outlined details of the funding arrangements which would allow the initiative to extend into an additional phase to be delivered over a 12 month period from September 2017.

RECOMMENDED: That an additional phase of the Village Stores Initiative be agreed.

ERG 17/19 SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (SELEP) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN - CONSULTATION

Decision Notice D170058MEM

The report of the Chief Executive advised that the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) was undertaking a review of the current Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) to ensure that the Plan delivered an investment strategy which addressed the complexities of the current economic environment. The process for producing a new SEP had been commenced in July 2017 and it was anticipated that the final document would be completed by January 2018. The report set out details of the formal consultation process to be undertaken during October 2017 and outlined a number of key points which could be included in the response.

RECOMMENDED: That the key points to be included in the response to the consultation on the refresh of the Strategic Economic Plan, as set out at section 1.3.1 of the report, be agreed.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**ERG 17/20 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP**

The Minutes of the West Kent Partnership meeting held on 28 July 2017 were reviewed by Members. Particular reference was made to the launch of the West Kent Enterprise Advisor Network which it was hoped would forge and maintain more effective and long lasting links between local schools and local employers.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

ERG 17/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman moved, it was seconded and

RESOLVED: That as public discussion would disclose exempt information, the following matters be considered in private.

ERG 17/22 VILLAGE STORES INITIATIVE - APPENDIX 1

(Reasons: LGA 1972 Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person)

Annex 1 to the report on the Village Stores Initiative set out details of the business which were receiving support under this scheme (Minute 17/18 refers).

The meeting ended at 8.37 pm