

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 5th September, 2018

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

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, O C Baldock, M A Coffin, N J Heslop, Mrs A S Oakley, M Parry-Waller, 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 T Bishop, T I B Cannon, R D Lancaster, L J O'Toole, Miss S O Shrubsole and B W Walker

ERG 18/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

ERG 18/18 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 4 June 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

ERG 18/19 BOROUGH ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY 2019-2023: CONSULTATION DRAFT

Decision Notice D180051MEM

The report of the Chief Executive summarised the achievements of the current Borough Economic Regeneration Strategy 2015-2019 and set out details of the proposed consultation process and timescales for the adoption of the Borough Economic Regeneration Strategy 2019-2023. It was noted that the views of the Council's key economic partners and individual local businesses would be sought during the eight week consultation period in October/December 2018 and that it was anticipated that the new Strategy would be formally adopted in the next municipal year.

RECOMMENDED: That the consultation draft of the Borough Economic Regeneration Strategy 2019-2023 be approved for the purposes of local consultation.

ERG 18/20 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP - BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT: HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL GROWTH FUND

The report of the Chief Executive sought endorsement of a range of economic development initiatives to be funded from the Housing and Commercial Growth Fund element of the West Kent Partnership Business Rates Retention Pilot scheme.

RECOMMENDED: That Cabinet be commended to endorse the economic projects for West Kent as a whole and those for Tonbridge and Malling as set out at paragraphs 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 of the report. ◀

*** Referred to Cabinet**

ERG 18/21 INNOVATION PARK MEDWAY MASTERPLAN - CONSULTATION DRAFT

Decision Notice D180052MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on progress with the illustrative masterplan for Innovation Park Medway promoted by Medway Council and advised that, as an area of the site fell within the Borough, the agreement of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council was required to progress the comprehensive development. It was noted that a six week consultation on the indicative masterplan would be undertaken between 17 September and 28 October 2018 and anticipated that the revised plan would be reported to Cabinet in January 2019 with a view to adopting it for the purposes of economic development and marketing.

RECOMMENDED: That the draft of the Innovation Park Medway indicative masterplan be approved for consultation.

ERG 18/22 BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOTS 2019-20

Decision Notice D180053MEM

The joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Transformation set out the background to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) invitation to local authorities to submit bids to participate in the Business Rates Retention Pilots 2019/20 which would allow 75% Business Rates Retention to promote financial sustainability and support strategic decision making across a functional economic area. It was noted that the Kent Council Leaders across Kent and Medway supported the submission of the bid for a further year of pilot status.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) a bid, with other Kent authorities, for pilot status under the 75% Business Rate Retention Prospectus for 2019/20, be supported; and
- (2) the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Transformation, in liaison with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance, Innovation and Property, be authorised to 'sign off' the final bid submission.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**ERG 18/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.08 pm