

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, 17th June, 2019

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 A P J Keeley, Cllr D W King, Cllr W E Palmer, Cllr Miss J L Sergison, Cllr K B Tanner and Cllr C J Williams

Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, R P Betts, A E Clark, M A Coffin, N J Heslop, D Lettington, Mrs A S Oakley and M R Rhodes were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs T Dean, J R S Lark and L J O'Toole

ERG 19/9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

ERG 19/10 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 20 February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ERG 19/11 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL ECONOMIC REGENERATION ACTIVITY 2015-19

The Economic Regeneration Manager presented an overview of activities undertaken by the Borough Council over the last four years to support the local economy.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

ERG 19/12 BOROUGH ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY 2019-2023

The report of the Chief Executive set out details of proposed changes to the draft Borough Economic Regeneration Strategy 2019-2023 in light of feedback received during the consultation exercise undertaken during October and November 2018. Particular reference was made to access to broadband provision in remote areas, the need to lobby for lower business rates to encourage High Street shops, the development of socio-economic initiatives in 'deprived areas' to support those seeking employment and the success of the West Kent Careers and Enterprise Network in promoting 'work readiness' in schools and colleges. It was

noted that these issues had been included in the revised strategy set out at Annex 1 to the report.

RECOMMENDED: That the Borough Economic Regeneration Strategy 2019-2023, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved. ◀

***Referred to Cabinet**

ERG 19/13 BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT SCHEME INITIATIVES - UPDATE

Decision Notice D190046MEM

The report of the Chief Executive set out details of progress on economic regeneration initiatives within the Borough funded by income received from the Business Rates Retention Pilot. Particular reference was made to the Town and District Commercial Frontages Grant Scheme launched at the end of March 2019 and the potential for this to be extended to local centres and parades across the Borough.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) initial scoping work on a local centres shopfront improvement scheme be undertaken and a report on the scheme, along with a list of other potential initiatives, be submitted to the next meeting of the Advisory Board.

ERG 19/14 VISIT KENT SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2019

Decision Notice D190047MEM

The report of the Chief Executive provided a summary of the current Service Level Agreement between the Borough Council and Visit Kent and set out details of the proposed agreement for 2019/20.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the proposal to continue the Service Level Agreement with Visit Kent in 2019/20 at the level set out at paragraph 1.4.1 of the report (a maximum of £3,680) be agreed; and
- (2) the activities set out at paragraph 1.4.2 of the report be included in the Service Level Agreement.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**ERG 19/15 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH**

The report of the Chief Executive provided an overview of the economic position of the Borough which included details of recent trends, up-to-date statistics on current performance of the local economy and comparison with neighbouring districts within West Kent.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE**ERG 19/16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm