

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

04 September 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 WEST KENT PARTNERSHIP – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2019

1.1 Key Matters Discussed

1.1.1 The full minutes of the recent meeting of the West Kent Partnership held on 5th July 2019 are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

1.1.2 The key matters dealt with at the meeting include the following:

- (a) An update on the West Kent Scale Up programme which provides intense support for a cohort of 12 local businesses via business coaches who aim to help them grow. A local West Kent business, Ming Foods, based in Swanley, gave examples of how the support programme had assisted the company. There are 4 businesses in Tonbridge and Malling that are part of this first cohort, they are – Mereworth Wines, Newton Waterproofing Systems, Greensand Ridge Distillery and PH Project Services.
- (b) An update from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) focusing on the need for a Local Industrial Strategy to be delivered by the South East England LEP by the end of the year. Concern was expressed that the role of district councils would be side-lined given the size and scale of SELEP.
- (c) Further work is being led by Kent County Council regarding a Kent and Medway Enterprise and Productivity Strategy and an ongoing review of Commercial Land requirements across the County.
- (d) Publication of the updated West Kent Priorities for Growth document setting out West Kent's economic priorities for the area (Appendix 2).
- (e) Updates from the Federation of Local Businesses (FSB) including their programme of events for small and medium sized businesses across Kent and the ongoing work of the West Kent Enterprise Adviser Network linking schools with local businesses.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 N/A

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 N/A

1.5 Policy Considerations

1.5.1 Economic Regeneration

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Jeremy Whittaker,
Economic Regeneration
Manager

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive