

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC REGENERATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Wednesday, 16th February, 2022

Present: Cllr F G Tombolis (Chairman), Cllr G C Bridge, Cllr R I B Cannon, Cllr N Foyle, Cllr N J Heslop, Cllr M A J Hood, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr J R S Lark, Cllr B J Luker and Cllr W E Palmer

(Note: As Councillors Mrs J Anderson, J Sergison and C Williams were unable to attend in person and participated via MS Teams they were unable to vote on any matters.)

Councillor V M C Branson was also present in the Council Chamber pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Councillors Mrs P A Bates, R P Betts, M A Coffin, D Harman, Mrs A S Oakley, M R Rhodes and K B Tanner participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited by the Chairman in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

ERG 22/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

ERG 22/2 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board held on 2 November 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ERG 22/3 PRESENTATION: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

Members received a comprehensive update on the continuing impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the national and local economy, in particular the impact on Local Government, inflation and wage growth. Matters relating to local recovery from Covid were considered in greater detail in later agenda items.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET**ERG 22/4 UPDATE ON THE BOROUGH ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

(Decision Notice D220026MEM)

The report of the Chief Executive provided an overview of the progress made in delivering the Borough Economic Recovery Strategy Action Plan 2021-2023 and set out details of proposed additions and amendments to the Plan.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the minor amendments to the action plan, as set out in paragraph 1.3.1 of the report, be approved so that it more accurately reflects the future activities of the Council.

ERG 22/5 WELCOME BACK FUND

(Decision Notice D220027MEM)

The report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive gave an update on the spend of funding allocated to the Council from the Welcome Back Fund to boost the look and feel of the high streets and make them more welcoming by investing in street planting, green spaces and seating areas. The report provided details of spend to date and outlined action being taken to encourage uptake prior to the cessation date of 31 March 2022.

RECOMMENDED: That the progress and spend so far on the Welcome Back Fund be noted.

ERG 22/6 SHOPFRONT SCHEMES - ANALYSIS AND NEXT STEPS

(Decision Notice D220028MEM)

The report of the Chief Executive outlined the results of an analysis undertaken of the Shopfront Schemes, assessed their economic impact and identified potential improvements which could be made to future initiatives.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the key findings of the analysis, as set out at section 1.3 to the report, be endorsed; and

- (3) a further round of the Shopfront Improvement Scheme, which reflect the findings of the scheme analysis and the town centre analysis, be approved and detailed scheme criteria be presented to the next meeting of the Advisory Board.

ERG 22/7 JOBS AND TRAINING FAIRS - ANALYSIS AND NEXT STEPS

(Decision Notice D220029MEM)

The report of the Chief Executive outlined the results of an analysis undertaken of recent Jobs and Training Fairs, assessed their economic impact and identified potential improvements which could be made to future events.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the key findings of the analysis, as set out at section 1.3 to the report, be endorsed; and
- (3) the next steps, as set out at section 1.4.2 to the report, be approved.

ERG 22/8 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.43 pm