

**Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce  
Minutes of North Kent Economic Development Group  
Held at Innovation Centre Medway  
on  
Wednesday, 23 January 2013**

Present:	Suzanne Wood, Chairman (SW)	Medway Fibreglass
	Jo James (JJ)	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
	Richard Lavender (RL)	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
	Louisa Felstead (LF)	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
	Carlo Gargiulo (CG)	Swale Borough Council
	Chris Inwood (CI)	Gravesham Borough Council
	Clem Smith (CS)	Medway Council
	David Liston-Jones (DLJ)	Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
	Janet Robinson (JR)	Springfield Education & Training
	Lewis Kirnon (LK)	Dartford Borough Council
	Phil Matthews (PM)	North West Kent College / SUSCON
	Peter Cooper (PC)	Penshurst Planning
	Steven Boxall (SB)	Regeneration X
	Stacey Driver (SD)	Stickleback Manufacturing
Apologies:	Alastair Gale	Port of London Authority
	Stephen Parker	Willmott Dixon
	Robert Goodman	Bluewater
	Edward Weir	Carousel Logistics
	Gareth Edwards	Gem Merchandising

The attendees were welcomed by SW and JJ, then RL gave a brief outline of other EDGs and how they work. This included the following main points:

- An agreed agenda
- Opportunity to include other KICC portfolio holders to assist with certain issues
- The need to remember this is for members' business needs
- Lobbying on behalf of businesses
- Working *with* local authorities
- Action lists that should be closed within one month of the meeting
- Getting involved
- Underlying reasons for these meetings – business growth and enterprise

While no formal minutes were taken at this meeting, the following items were raised, either for discussion or for consideration as to whether they may be discussed at a later date:

- Local Development Framework
- The challenge of working with four local authority areas in one group
- The proposed third Lower Thames Crossing
- Airports
- Energy provision
- High Speed Rail
- Paramount development at Swanscombe
- LEP Growth Plan

- Opportunity to have SME voice heard by the LEP through Chamber representation
- TIGER Regional Growth Fund
- Development of the Kent Innovation Corridor
- Public Sector procurement and opportunities for local businesses to engage with local authorities
- North Kent Skills Group

Additionally the composition of the group was discussed and it was felt that the following should be represented:

- Universities to supplement FE and private training provision representation
- SMEs as the main body of members
- Larger businesses (although these were represented by those who gave apologies)
- Local Authority representatives to agree between themselves and in conjunction with TGKP how they wish to be represented on an ongoing basis
- Occasional others to inform the discussion when needed

Points taken away for further information:

- KICC membership numbers within each local authority area (LF)
- Potential members in each area who are not yet signed-up members (LF)
- Future dates (SW, LF)

The attendees were all in agreement that they would wish to continue with their contribution to the group, and that it should be named North Kent EDG (rather than Thames Gateway Kent EDG).