**MINUTES OF THE ASHFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2017**

**AT ASHFORD BUSINESS POINT**

**Present:** Richard Lavender (Chair), Heather Grigson, Graham Galpin, Julie Anderson, Hugh Summerfield, Andrew Osborne, Paul Nixon

**Apologies:** Richard Stafford

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| **1.** | **Minutes of the last meeting**  The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as being a true record and signed by RL | **Actions** |
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| **1.1** | **Matters Arising**  Item 3 RL forwarded a letter of support to KCC regarding the Freight Action plan. HG view regarding J1 M25 was submitted with no further comments. |  |
| **1.2** | No outstanding items on the Action List |  |
| **2.** | **Chairman’s Report**  RL announced the departure of Linda Marsh from the Chamber.  JJ will take over the team and carry out a small reshuffle before recruiting a replacement Head of Membership and Events.  RL announced the good news regarding Coty, (Ashford), expanding providing additional job opportunities for the area.  It has been announced by Highways England that there will be a 40 mph speed restriction to the A2070 Bad Munster Eiffel Avenue and it was anticipated bring this restriction in prior to the commencement of J10a works. |  |
| **3.** | **Presentation from Andrew Osborne**  The remainder of the meeting was given over to AO to present the East Kent Growth Framework.  This was a very in depth and informative presentation and it was pleasing to see the major Ashford projects within the framework.  AO was unable to provide a copy of the report due to confidentiality issues, but informed the group that as soon as available he will forward to all members.  RL thanked AO for this presentation and it signified the close relationship between the Chamber and ABC. |  |
| **4.** | **Round table discussion**  Due to time restraints there were no items discussed from the round table. |  |
| **5.** | **Actions from Meeting**   * AO to forward East Kent Growth Framework to LH for distribution when available. |  |
| **6.** | **AOB**  RL said he had hoped to invite JJ to the next meeting in April. |  |
|  | **The meeting closed at 5:40 pm** |  |
|  | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 20 APRIL @ 4pm – please let Lynda know if you will be attending or not** |  |