#### Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

**Maidstone Economic Development Group**

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2017

##### at Golding Homes Offices, Allington, Maidstone, Kent

**Present:** John Taylor (JMT, Chair), Chris Blundell (CB), Nick Rowell (NR), Bill Lash (BL), Nick Rowell (NR), Roger Keach (RK),

**Apologies:** John Foster, Jacqui Brown, Jason Lewis

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| 1. | MINUTES OF LAST MEETING Approved |  |
| 2. | ROADWORKS KCC road works on the Maidstone Town Centre (Gyratory System) are almost complete and all noted that traffic in a south to north direction is flowing much better but there are problems with lane restrictions in the opposite direction which is hampering traffic flow in the south direction. (this latter issue is continuing into April) |  |
| 3. | **BREXIT**  The overall Chamber view is that so far business continues as usual |  |
| 4. | LOCAL PLAN – HOUSING ISSUES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT The Inspector has issued his preliminary findings which mainly cover housing matters including numbers. Overall there are no dramatic surprises although the Inspector seems to favour high quality campus Including offices at Junction 8. The Roxhill development proposed at Junction 8 has received a refusal of planning consent from MBC (and is being appealed). Noted that MBC will be making some amendments to the draft plan which went before the Inspector picking up on issues highlighted by the Inspector. For discussion at the next MEDG meeting. |  |
| 8. | **TOWN CENTRE FUTURE – GABRIELS HILL UPGRADE**  The Council are drawing up proposals but these are not as yet available. |  |
| 9. | SKILLS DEVELOPMENT No further update although noted that the Government have published a Green Paper on Industrial Strategy which includes some major references to skills development, |  |
| 10. | **LOCAL ECONOMY UPDATE**  NR Gave a briefing on the latest County wide BCC survey results. |  |
| 11. | **ARMED FORCES COVENANT**  There was nothing to report on this issue. |  |
| 12. | **BUSINESS INCUBATION CENTRES**  Nothing to report |  |
| 13 | **CYBER CRIME - KENT POLICE AND BUSINESS CRIME PARTNERSHIP**  A further Cyber Crime conference is jointly planned by Kent Police and the Chamber during 2017. (date now fixed for 1st September) |  |
| 14 | **CHAMBER UPDATE** |  |
|  | **AOB**.  Thanks were expressed to Chris Blundell for kindly hosting the meeting at Golding Homes Offices  Next Meeting Tuesday 11th April 2017 |  |