

**KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**EAST KENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP (EKEDG)**

**WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 10.00am**

**The Boardroom, Discovery Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Innovation House, Innovation Way, Sandwich, Kent,  
CT13 5FF.**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Members Present:**

Ray Johnson - Chair

Dan Deed –Woodley Coles

Mike Marsh - Barclays Bank

Jonathan Clarke – Morgan Jones

Jo Rossi – Locate in Kent

Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels

Katherine Harvey – Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Lauren Moore – Discovery Park

Karen Dean – Brachers LLP

Lee May – Brachers LLP

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello

**Apologies:**

Mark Minus – MHA

Kimberley Anderson – Discovery Park

Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley

Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Ltd

Tamsin Jarrett – Betteshanger Park

Ella Brocklebank – Jenner Construction

Louise Askew – Thanet District Council

Jonathan Smith – East Kent College

Graham Hammond – Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Richard Christian – Port of Dover

Richard Morsley – Betteshanger Park

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Agreed.

## **3. Outstanding Action**

- RJ confirmed he had meeting with Vattanfall Windfarm and been out to see the turbines. RJ will send information out to the group.
- RJ reported that he had visited Louise Askew at Thanet District Council. RJ asked if they could produce reports for the group when they were unable to attend. RJ also asked Dover District Council for the same.

## **4. Chairman's Comments and Report**

RJ reported as follows:

- RJ has attended various meetings regarding Brexit.
- RJ attended a roundtable policing meeting with people attending from the Home Office and Police, looking at strategy for Brexit. There may be a paper which RJ will share.
- RJ also attended a meeting looking at traffic impacts.
- RJ confirmed the Port of Dover were very busy looking at infrastructure.

## **5. Update/discussion – Jo Rossi – Locate in Kent**

JR gave a power point presentation relating to a project with KCC – Demand in Kent. JR confirmed she would share the slides with the group.

- LIK Successes  
138 jobs in retail and wholesale  
57 in East Kent  
One third FDI's
- New – 1000 jobs  
Top success pharmaceutical  
14 expansions into Kent  
5 FDI's
- Pipeline  
263 active projects  
Create 4000 jobs over next few years  
1300 jobs in East Kent over next 3 years
- What they are hearing

Commercial Property – property availability  
Financing  
Skills  
Talent pool

Demand for industrial/office space in East Kent

KH asked about supply in Kent and how long it had been on the website and how much available space was fit for purpose.

AC asked whether market research should be undertaken to give an accurate picture

JR confirmed that in Tunbridge Wells this had been undertaken by a surveyor.

The information JR was supplying was only demand that is coming through Locate in Kent.

JR reported there was a huge supply of office space available.

KH said that she felt the level of demand was potentially inaccurate as it was only what went through Locate in Kent and KH felt that Locate in Kent was not always used by local businesses.

Lauren Moore confirmed that there was range of office space up to 60,000 sq ft available at Discovery Park. JR said she would feed back to Locate in Kent about space available at Discovery Park. JR confirmed that demand is active projects they have only and not everyone that has registered with them.

JR said that the Locate in Kent Team meet regularly with Districts. They do a perception study every 2/3 years to see what draws people to Kent/Districts.

Locate in Kent update

- JR confirmed they share a lot on social media and if anyone in the group has anything to send it to her for them to share.
- Property Portal – new intelligent property portal
- Marketing – Kent makes sense to me
- Website – re-developed in April this year
- PR – Article for FT around Ashford – Chapel down

JR asked if anyone had any questions for her.

RJ said he felt employment of 1300 in East Kent in 3 years seemed low. JR said it's a third but will take a look and come back to him.

DS said that it is only projects looked at on the Locate in Kent website.

RJ asked about EU fund and JR confirmed that are ok until next year.

JR said that Locate in Kent would be having drinks on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and taking part in the Kent Construction Expo but would keep the group updated with information.

RJ thanked JR for her update.

## **6. Update/discussion – Planning – Lee May - Brachers**

### Local Plans

LM summarised the current status of the local plan preparation for each of the three District Council's within the EKEDG area; i.e. Thanet DC, Dover DC and Folkestone and Hythe DC. LM also explained the purpose and effect of the Local Plan system.

RJ asked for an electronic copy of LM's notes and thanked LM for his talk.

### Dover Western Heights

LM updated on the outcome of the CPRE Judicial Review of Dover District Council's decision to grant planning permission at Fathinglow

The Application was submitted: 30/05/2012

Planning Permission was granted: 01/04/2015

JR Challenge:

High Court – December 2015 PP upheld

Court of Appeal – September 2016 PP quashed

Supreme Court – December 2017 PP quashed

A fresh application for an updated scoping opinion was submitted in May 2018 and decided July 2018.

Ray thanked Lee for the informative presentation.

## **7. Sector Update**

**RJ reported:**

- Educating People – Looking for Enterprise people in Dover, Broadstairs, Sandwich and Margate.
- KA would keep the group updated
- SW meeting Cabinet office – EU settlement scheme – RJ will share information.

- Meeting in Thanet – Lords attended to review Thanet to see what can be improved on economic side.
- RJ confirmed business wise he was extremely busy.
- RJ reported the insurance sector are working with colleges and schools to bring students through.

**LM – nothing to report**

**JC reported:**

Things were pretty good. He feels it could get tough over next 12 months due to Brexit.

**Lauren Moore – nothing to report**

**AC reported:**

Construction industry booming. There is a great demand for skilled labour. AC felt that Brexit could cause problems

**DD reported:**

Lots going on but likewise felt that Brexit would impact.

**MM – nothing to report**

**DS reported:**

Had had a positive, busy and great summer. But major challenges going forward. Employment in hospitality with minimum wage keep rising.

Ashford's new commercial development were having a real struggle getting even large chains going in due to the uncertainty of what is going to happen.

Business rates is another problem for their industry.

**JR – nothing to report**

**KH reported as follows:**

- Annual business review – including productivity with the focus on driving it up.
- Split space requirements
- Business Grants – European programme £5m – SME's in Folkestone eligible. Calls open at moment with a 50% match.
- Opportunity for people with space in offices in the area to get funding.
- New business support programme – will be on a competitive basis coming forward in next few months.
- Growth Funding – developing employment funding – New Romney
- KH passed the group a copy of Folkestone & Hythe Business guide which she said was basically a hard copy of their website.

**8. Any other business & topics**

Nothing to report

**Date of next meeting**

28.11.2018 – Venue TBC.