

**Minutes of meeting held by the
East Kent Economic Development Group (EKEDG)**

25/05/2015

Held at: Port of Dover

The Board Room

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:

Ray Johnson (RJ) (Chair) – Independent Insurance Services

Lee May (LM) – Brachers LLP

Jonathan Clark (JC) – Morgan Jones

Brian Hall (BH) - Chamber

Steven Arnott (SA) -Shepway District Council

Paul Sayer – East Kent College

Kimberley Anderson - Discovery Park

Richard Christian – Dover Port

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello Building Consultancy

Karen Dean – Brachers LLP (Minutes)

Apologies:

Dan Deed

Kate Wilson

Tim Ingleton

Catherine Harvey

Danny Martin

Jo James

C Wilson

Absent:

David Hall

Abigail Raymond

Jane Hughes

Presentation – Dover Port

RC showed promoting film relating to the Port of Dover showing export campaign, western docks regeneration, community events programme with 23 local companies benefitting and about moving forward for the future.

RC agreed that he would be happy for members of the group to show the film at their own events etc and agreed to make it available.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Growth Hub Programme - Amendment to 2.5 full time staff, not 25.

3. Outstanding Actions

RJ reported he was still looking for extra people to join the group. He confirmed that Philip Clapham from Smith Woolley in Folkestone had agreed to join the group regarding Commercial Agency. He had heard nothing back relating to logistic/agricultural. RJ confirmed he had received a couple of responses in relation to forming a matrix of other groups and bodies of which people were members.

4. Chairman's Comments and Report

RJ reported that he had attended a few meetings relating to BREXIT including Dover Port, CBI, Chamber of Commerce, FSB and Education Authority. RJ reported that the general feel was to stay with a twist. He reported that some clients that were adamant to leave months ago now wanted to stay. RJ reported that all Universities across the Country had agreed to vote to stay in. The University of Kent has made it public whilst others haven't and they are all keen to stay due to funding for the sector.

RC reported that Dover Port hosted a breakfast on BREXIT. He reported that it would have a massive impact on border controls and processing traffic in Dover. They had received 43.5 million euros from the European commission to help with the western docks. They were looking at Dover growing as a destination rather than just for travelling through. RJ also reported exportation was around 52% and it would potentially cause problems for employment and uncertainty from a business prospective. Ray reminded the committee that the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce is an accredited chamber of the British Chambers of Commerce, which represent the wider views of businesses within the country and we convey information to them which is passed on to relevant parties including government. AC said that UK compliance was very high and would have a large impact on smaller organisations trying to tender.

5. Skills Update – Paul Sayers – East Kent College

PS gave a presentation on the Apprenticeship Reform. He reported that the Governments intention is to raise new starters from 2.2 million to 3 million by 2020.

PS reported that the government were keen to do it as the current scheme was not working properly.

PS spoke about Traineeships and Apprenticeships and the fact that 18% of 16 to 18 year olds go to college without passing exams in English and Maths. Also that they were keen to increase high end apprenticeships enabling people to secure degree level qualifications. This would greatly reduce graduate debt as people would be able to earn and learn at the same time.

PS confirmed that he would send copies of the slides to RC for distribution.

6. AOB

RJ reported that he had spoken with Hadlow College and the September meeting would be held at Bettshanger on Wednesday 28th September.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting 27.07.2016