

Thurrock Business Board

Minutes of meeting – 7 February 2018, 2pm

Venue

The Old Courthouse, Grays, RM17 5DD

Attendees

Perry Glading (PG) – Chair, Emma McCulloch (EM), Angela O'Donoghue (AO), Steve Cox (SC), Lyn Carpenter (LC), Tim Rignall (TR), Louise Ince (LI), Robert Edge (RE), Mat Kiely (MK), Lucy Harris (LH), Westley Mercer (WM), Gustavo Silvo (GS), Rob Audsley (RA), Ian Kennard (IK) and Andy Vickers (AV).

Apologies

Guy Pomroy, Robert Singh, Rhys McArdle, Dorian Hayes, Andrew Millard, Andrew Newcombe, Brett Smallcombe, BJ Chong and Cllr Brian Little.

Item	Subject	Actions
1	<p>Introductions, apologies and minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Members of the Board were welcomed to the meeting by PG and roundtable introductions were made. New members Westley Mercer and Gustavo Silvo were welcomed to the board by Perry.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>AO advised that following the presentation from Georgia Searle the College was working closely with BEST and that they had proved to be very useful and helpful in providing business advice.</p> <p>PG referred to the discussion at the previous meeting on the subject of a Vice Chair, meeting agreed that PG should approach BJ Chong of Palmers, if BJ Chong was not able to take the Vice Chair role at this stage, then we would continue without a formal Vice Chair and if the need arises then PG would nominate a board member to stand in for him as required from time to time with their agreement.</p>	
2	<p>Thurrock Business Conference</p> <p>EM gave a review on the business conference held on 25th January and shared the results from the 69 feedback forms collected from delegates.</p>	

Item	Subject	Actions
	<p>140 attended the conference with a further 123 viewing the conference on line. The overall results were very positive and a full analysis of feedback had been completed. Attached.</p> <p>Press releases had been issued before and after the event and the conference would continue to be available on Facebook for future reference.</p>	<p>EM to contact delegates that did not attend to understand why.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Lower Thames Crossing</p> <p>Ian Kennard and Rob Audsley from Highways England attended the meeting to provide an update on the current position and to outline the future work in respect of the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC).</p> <p>RA explained the network areas that Highway England covers across England.</p> <p>The Lower Thames Crossing preferred route decision had been made last year by the Secretary of State and the scheme is now being worked up in greater detail. It was felt to be vital that businesses can continue to work and the networks can continue to run while this work was ongoing. To this end Highways England would like to hear from business in Thurrock.</p> <p>PG asked about how local businesses could benefit from the procurement process for works on the Lower Thames crossing; suggested that apprenticeship opportunities were important to find local talent; and asked how the networks would operate between now and when the crossing opens.</p> <p>HE indicated that here will be events held for construction companies showing how they can get involved in bidding for the phases of work. Also later this year a Business community consultation will be held where Highways England want to hear from businesses in the local area this will be fed into the application in 2019 for works to start 2020/21.</p> <p>RA confirmed the procurement process had just started and that there is a call for interest in the main work. Local suppliers and companies across a whole range of products and services would be needed. There will be a platform in place for people to register interest to ensure a fair procurement process.</p> <p>Apprenticeships are important and HE is looking to work with local colleges and schools so that the local community can benefit from the jobs on offer. With regards to managing the local networks between now and the LTC opening some short to medium measures had been identified and further consultations were planned in mid-March. Discussions would include the A2, Thurrock Dartford corridor</p>	<p>Westley to join the taskforce for LTC.</p> <p>Any events from HE to let TBB aware.</p>

Item	Subject	Actions
	<p>and Kent.</p> <p>PG indicated that TBB had been offered a seat on the LTC Task Force and invited nominations from the Board.</p> <p>It was agreed – That WM be appointed as the TBB representative on the LTC Taskforce the next meeting of which would be on 19 March 2018</p> <p>PG thanked HE for their attendance and suggested that he would welcome their presence at future meetings to discuss developments throughout the process.</p> <p>It was agreed – That WM be provided with a briefing note on the TBB position prior to the next meeting of the LTC Task Force.</p>	<p>Invite HE back to TBB meeting.</p> <p>SC to arrange for the preparation of a briefing note.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Transport issues</p> <p>Congestion Taskforce</p> <p>LC suggested that traffic cameras at key junctions/roundabouts would be very useful for controlling/policing traffic when Thurrock is at a standstill.</p> <p>It was agreed – That PG will look at producing a letter from TBB requesting cameras.</p> <p>A13 widening</p> <p>Construction will start June 2018 and continue into 2019. No lane closures were expected between now and June. Pre- warning signage I would be used to raise awareness of the works and was thought to be very useful and traffic lights are being looked into to regulate the traffic flow.</p> <p>LH suggested that social media would be a good way to raise awareness and also the use of posters in the borough.</p>	<p>PG to look into a letter from TBB for cameras.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Thurrock Business Board communications</p> <p>EM explained that Thurrock Council would be able to host a platform on its website for TBB which could provide access to agendas, minutes and other useful info.</p> <p>It was agreed – That EM be asked to set up the TBB area on the website.</p> <p>EM to discuss with LH layout and subject to the changes they agree,</p>	<p>EM to organise platform for minutes to be transferred to the website.</p> <p>EM to take logo back to design to discuss changes and if</p>

Item	Subject	Actions
	the logo should be formalised and used straight away.	possible.
6	<p>South Essex 2050 / Council update and SELEP and Opportunity South Essex update</p> <p>South Essex 2050</p> <p>LC reported that 7 authorities were involved in the South Essex 2050 initiative. They are looking to collaborate and work together on a proposition which would be submitted to Government by June 2018 with the hope of feeding into the autumn statement. Across these authorities the area was looking to grow by 90,000 new homes and 80,000 new jobs over the next 12 years. Workshops are happening on 21 February 2018 at OSE and on 1 March 2018 for Leaders and Chief Executives to gain vital information and key issues.</p> <p>SELEP</p> <p>Thurrock has put forward the priorities for the area for the skills strategy, recognising the importance of a skilled workforce. The preparation of the Strategic Economic Plan had been put on hold until there was further clarity on plans for the industrial strategy.</p> <p>Council update</p> <p>Thurrock Council had successfully led a bid for a £5.5 million ERDF project called South East Creative, Cultural and Digital Support (SECCADS). The project would support growth in the sector and will include grants from £1,000 to £20,000 alongside business support.</p> <p>ESF money is still available with £20million left in the SELEP area to support skills project from £50,000 or greater. The call for proposals was due in mid-March and closing date is the end of July 2018. Any ideas that you may have or business support programmes please speak to the EDO team.</p>	<p>PG will be engaging with Basildon and Southend business board.</p> <p>Comments by TBB to feed into the priorities.</p>
7	<p>Economic commentary / Any other business</p> <p>WM – S Walsh Construction</p> <p>If there is a need for smaller units for business, then will look at potential sites to develop. SC advised of funding to help with this.</p> <p>RE advised he can give a list to WM for investors looking for work space.</p>	

Item	Subject	Actions
	<p>MK – Lakeside</p> <p>Footfall is increasing and building work continues and is on target. Contractors will be conducting tours around site. Invites will come to TBB. Potential merger(corporate position) will know more over the next 6 to 9 months.</p> <p>AO – South Essex College</p> <p>Looking at recruiting for next year. Numbers are increasing including costume making courses. A bid has been sent to DFE to establish an Institute of Technology – Transport and Logistics in the borough. The IoT would address the lack of level 4 and 5 skills for existing employers or to attract local talent for apprenticeships.</p> <p>RE – Invest Essex</p> <p>New enquiries:</p> <p>Canadian company/ green technology coming to Thurrock in March and recycling truck tyres.</p> <p>Leisure facility looking at leasing the lake at Lakeside</p> <p>No change in enquiries and still busy.</p> <p>AV – Barclays</p> <p>Business as usual and customers are still looking for premises. Looking at buying instead of renting as it makes more business sense as interest rates are so low.</p> <p>GS – Cemex</p> <p>Business is increasing with big contracts in this area.</p> <p>Thurrock Council</p> <p>Thurrock is in a very good position and continues to transform their services and invest in commercial business. A positive balance for the next 3 years with no cuts to services. £2.3 million Invested back into highways and cleaning the borough which is extremely important.</p> <p>Thurrock Council employs 2,100 people.</p>	

Next meeting

28 March 2018, 2pm at The Old Courthouse, Grays.