

## MINUTES

### Thurrock Business Board

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 14:00 – 16:00

#### Meeting venue

The Beehive, Grays

**Attendees:** Perry Glading (Chair), Steve Cox (SC), Amanda Sweeney (AS), Emma McCulloch (EMc) Neil Woodbridge (NW),, Louise Ince (LI), Lyn Carpenter (LC), Robert Edge (RE), Andy Vickers (AV), Ian Lewis (IL), Stephen Taylor (ST). Angela O'Donoghue (AO) Matt Johnson (MJ) Mark Mulcahey (MM) Andy Millard (AM)

**Apologies** Westley Mercer (WM), Lucy Harris (LH) Gareth Burton (GB) BJ Chong (BJ) Howard Oldstein (HO) Kristina Jackson (KJ) Brett Smallcombe (BS)

Item No.	Subject	Action
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
	Members of the Board were welcomed by PG and roundtable introductions were made.	
2.	<p><b>Notes of the last meeting and actions arising</b></p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate reflection and actions were completed.</p> <p>SC provided an update on the City of London Markets. Thurrock was shortlisted however Barking has now been announced as the preferred location. There may be an opportunity to attract a consolidation centre to Thurrock. A decision will be made in the summer.</p> <p>PG asked that the LTC be added to the agenda for the next meeting and that a representative from Highways England is invited to attend.</p>	<b>Action:</b> LTC rep to join next meeting
3.	<b>Business Conference 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>	
	<p>EM gave a review of the feedback from the conference, 112 delegates including stallholders attended the conference. The feedback was very positive with an increase in approval ratings in many areas. It was agreed the next conference would be discussed at the September board meeting to determine a theme and venue for the next Conference in 2020.</p> <p>Suggested themes for the conference include education, enterprise or the creative economy.</p>	<b>Action:</b> Agenda item for September 2019

## MINUTES

	<p>PG spoke about the Business Angels programme. At the moment, unlike other parts of the East of England, Essex does not have a Business Angels network. AV advised there are a number of individuals who do consider investing in businesses but they tend to focus on sectors in which they have an interest.</p> <p>LC talked about the Business Dinner programme and explained that changes are being made. She is keen to refresh the approach and asked the Board for ideas. PG suggested a balanced programme of speakers to engage people and ensuring there is an objective – something produced at the end. Other ideas included a buffet style event that will enable networking. LC thanked the group for their ideas.</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Thurrock Business Community Views</b></p> <p>LI – Positive few months with new enterprises attending the networking events. Smaller companies struggling with cash flow due to bigger companies payment terms of 60-90 days for invoices.</p> <p>AO – Onsite in Basildon town centre, pulling out of Basildon campus by September and relocating sciences programmes and animal management to Thurrock. Student numbers at 5200 across Essex for 16-18 year olds, 1500 apprenticeships, 800 HE students. Bid for the institute of technology: have asked for feedback from DFE with regard to the bid for funding as SEC felt there was a strong case for investment. PG asked about the restrictions on the piece of land identified for the institute. AM confirmed that use of the piece of land at London Gateway is time limited - any facility needs to be built by 2022 otherwise the land reverts to London Gateway.</p> <p>LC - explained that the Council is now rolling out an approach to delivery of services piloted in social care. The new approach is based on Asset Based Community Development and puts the community at the centre of all services. Your place, your voice approach for consultation on the Local Plan is another example of trying to work with the community.</p> <p>RB- Running a 2 day entrepreneur course in Thurrock and so far 6 businesses have booked to join. Gap Retail will be putting in a planning application in June and Green Tyre technology will be putting in a detailed plan by the end of year.</p> <p>SC - A13 speed limit at 40 is helping traffic flow. Completion due Autumn 2020. HIF bid still going ahead for Purfleet. Stanford le hope and Purfleet going well.</p> <p>PG - unemployed is below 400 in Thurrock to the labour market is tight. PG also explained that house builders have suggested that the market</p>	

**MINUTES**

	<p>for bigger houses has stalled at the moment however AO advised that the former College site in Basildon is to be redeveloped with large houses that are selling well.</p> <p>AV - Businesses are stock piling due to the uncertainty of Brexit. Some signs of slow down in retail.</p> <p>NW – attended independent advisory police emergency meeting for exiting the EU, no room to stock anything at Purfleet which is a cause for concern. NW chairs the economic and skills partnership and it feeds into this group to make sure all working together.</p> <p>AS - 3 vacancies and struggling to recruit. Giving for Thurrock went really well with over 30 events with 400 people involved. Pledges came in and over £4500 raised. There was a 15,000 social media reach. ‘Super men’ bin men were a big hit. Looking to work with more communities.</p> <p>AM – infrastructure seminar held and now progressing actions. Commissioned transport models to help shape the growth agenda for local plan. Completed formal consultation on local plan but welcome to comment. The Council has an ambition to build 1500 houses over next 5 years. Broadband is being looked into with DCMS - 214 sites across Thurrock could be supported to improve broadband. Lower Thames crossing to be put on the agenda for September.</p> <p>MJ – company commercial - no high volumes. Not due to Brexit</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Thurrock Council: Gets Business, Does Business, Means business</b></p> <p>LC presented the Councils ambitious plans on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thames Estuary Development conference</li> <li>• The local plan</li> <li>• Delivering half a billion pound capital projects</li> <li>• Purfleet</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Education, health and community facilities</li> <li>• Housing</li> </ul> <p>Attached Presentation for your perusal.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>ThurrockupdateTBB May 2019 kt.pptx</p> </div> <p>LI said that affordable accommodation for small businesses is a big concern at the moment, LC advised council are working with partners</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> To be proactive in assisting existing businesses in Purfleet to relocate.</p>

**MINUTES**

	<p>to look at options for commercial accommodation at HHPP and elsewhere.</p> <p>PG mentioned relocating business that will be impacted by the Purfleet development and to look at where these businesses can go to make sure they stay within Thurrock. LC recognised the concern.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Updates: ASELA, OSE, SELEP and LGF</b></p> <p>PG advised of the Importance of Thurrock business board and how it leads into SELEP</p> <p>ASELA – LC gave a brief update on the work of ASELA. Work is underway in a number of areas including a Joint Strategic Plan. There will be consultation with the business community in due course.</p> <p>OSE – IL gave a brief update on OSE. The next meeting will be held at high house production park on 25<sup>th</sup> June. LGF, 2 projects have been giving approval.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) South Essex College proposals in Basildon; and</li> <li>2) Digital learning centre in Castle Point.</li> </ol> <p>Further projects will be considered as funding becomes available to spend. The first project in Thurrock on the reserve list is the Tilbury enterprise units proposal. SELEP – review board and local industrial strategy being worked on.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>South Essex Productivity Strategy</b></p> <p>MM presented on South Essex Productivity Strategy. He has been appointed by ASELA to support development of a strategy and is in the early stages of development – gathering information from various groups and individuals including Thurrock Business Board.</p> <p>MM is producing a plan/report by the end of July which will have a 20-30 year timeframe.</p> <p>Presentation attached:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>ASELA Thurrock Business Board 150!</p> </div> <p>The groups raised a number of points including the need for creative spaces to bring communities together and to provide shared workspace within housing schemes. AM said that break out space is need within housing developments and a social scene and it will be important to</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> email presentation to TBB and ask for feedback</p>

### MINUTES

	<p>reflect this in the Local Plan.</p> <p>The group were asked to share other thoughts and comments with Mark Mulcahey. EMC to share presentation and contact details</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Infrastructure and AOB</b></p> <p>Infrastructure workshop notes to be emailed to TBB.</p> <p>ST encouraged businesses to register for the business buzz newsletter, it holds vital information to help business and let you know what is on offer  <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTHURROCK/subscriber/new">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTHURROCK/subscriber/new</a></p> <p>Facebook page has also been set up for Thurrock Business, please Like the page  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ThurrockBusiness">https://www.facebook.com/ThurrockBusiness</a></p>	<p><b>Action:</b> To email the infrastructure workshop info and asked for feedback</p> <p><b>Action: TBB</b> Please register for business buzz and the Facebook page</p>

**Date of Next meeting**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 2pm , Ikea Lakeside.