

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

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 at 10.00am**

**The Boardroom, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Innovation House, Discovery Park, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9ND.**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed Matthew & David to the group.

**Members Present:**

Ray Johnson - Chair

Karen Dean – Brachers LLP

Lee May – Brachers LLP

Kimberley Anderson – Discovery Park

Jo Rossi – Locate in Kent

Tarih Bolton – Martello

Daniel Sangiuseppe – Castlewood Hotels

David Robinson – Dover District Council

Matthew Arnold - Stagecoach

**Apologies:**

Graham Hammond – Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Jonathan Smith – East Kent College

Steve Wisbey – NIC Instruments Ltd

Mike Marsh - Barclays Bank

Philip Clapham – Smith Wooley

Dan Deed –Woodley Coles

Katherine Harvey – Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Louise Askew – Thanet District Council

Jonathan Clarke – Morgan Jones

Mark Minus – MHA

Ella Brocklebank –Jenner Construction

Jason Lewis – Peter Brett Associates

Richard Christian – Port of Dover

Andrew Cruttenden – Martello

Tim Ingleton – Dover District Council

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed.

## 3. Outstanding Action

- RJ confirmed he was still waiting to hear from Vattenfall
- Tech Fort presentation would be held at a later date

## 4. Chairman's Comments and Report

RJ reported as follows:

- RJ attended strategic planning meeting looking at Development/Infrastructure in Kent. He reported on:

Folkestone – Glassworks, Creative Corner, Otterpool, Shorncliffe Heights, Martello Lakes.

Dover – Port of Dover/Goodwin Sands, Tech Fort.

Thanet – Discovery Park, Manston Airport, Kent Mining Heritage Foundation.

- RJ said there was great alliances/good support mechanism in place with Locate in Kent and Local Authorities were very helpful. Also a good area for apprenticeships and all in all very positive. DS asked if he had heard anything further about Lydd Airport and RJ confirmed no update so he will follow.

## 5. Sector Update

**LM - Brachers**, reported he had lunch with a Land Agent yesterday that covers all of Kent. He was informed that central London property sales are possibly reducing and it spreads out but that the outer parts of London were doing ok. He confirmed that Brachers had lots of commercial/corporate work and that there is a trend towards some corporates setting up offices in the EU ahead of BREXIT.

**MA – Stagecoach**, reported they had 480 buses and coaches and 7 depots. Trading is where they thought it would be. 24 new buses had been brought in on Thanet Loop. This was a £4m investment with buses having USB charging/wifi. Also next stop info for visually/orally impaired. He reported that they were trialling an electric bus which was based at Dover but will run at the Park & Ride in Canterbury. He confirmed that charging electric buses would be challenging as so much power would be needed to do this. He said that the price premium for electric is 100% with diesel buses costing £150,000.00 and electric buses costing £300,000.00 and also when batteries needed replacing looking at £40,000.00 to £50,000.00. He confirmed that Guildford Park & Ride was 100% electric vehicles. He said there is the ultra low emission fund available but

he is unsure whether it will continue. They had someone centrally working funding. MA said that modern clean diesel vehicles are better than the average family car.

MA reported good relations with Dover District Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council but that Thanet was more challenging as no one is responsible for transport and the unchecked illegal parking causes issues for them.

MA spoke about Transport London and them cutting services in Dartford due to lack of money and that they are mainly publicly subsidised whereas Stagecoach are 97% commercial, covering costs without subsidy.

MA said that BREXIT would have a huge impact on them and that the use of Manston would have a direct impact on services due to the use of the m2 corridor and posed a huge business risk.

**TB – Martello**, reported that they were extremely busy.

**KA – Discovery Park**, reported that they had lost East Kent College and a lot was due to being unable to get the students to the site. They were trying to develop a science park school.

KA reported they were trying to create academic hubs, especially primary education hub teaching children from a very young age up to year 6. Pfizer were involved in that. Also a community lab for A Level students and use Canterbury Christchurch lab to train teachers and then bring in students. Scientists from Pfizer were involved and teachers from all schools in the area could apply through STEM learning.

**JR – Locate in Kent**, reported a healthy pipeline. Save the dates had been sent for Kent Property Market Review in Ashford on 6<sup>th</sup> November and she will share the link with the group. JR also confirmed they were talking to investors. She confirmed she would also share details of the Social Enterprise Kent Conference. They were updating case studies with reviews on website. JR confirmed Kent Construction Expo was on 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.

**RJ - Independent Insurance Services**, reported BREXIT preparation. He confirmed the chamber has a portal that is updated daily. They have taken on new staff and getting more business from London.

**DR – Dover District Council**, reported Dover tourism/regeneration has become a key area. He confirmed Deal was very popular for Developers wanting to build with Dover being less so. They are looking to explore becoming a strategic partner. The Open golf is a big issue for 2020.

RJ confirmed he had been at a round table chambers meeting:-

- Employment best its been since 1971.
- Kent property value, residential very slight increase and commercial slightly more.
- Banks have money available with One Bank having £1b available because people are being cautious.
- Shortage in warehouse space.
- Environment – consultation how Kent can be better (RJ confirmed he had sent out strategy report).

**6. Any other business & topics**

Nothing to report – RJ thanked Kimberley for her hospitality.

**Date of next meeting**

25/09/2019 – Jenner Construction

27/11/2019 – TBC - if anyone would like to host please let RJ know