

**Notes of a meeting of the
Ashford Strategic Delivery Board
Friday 22nd April 2016 at 10.00am**

Present:

Board Members

Cllr Gerry Clarkson (Chairman) – Leader, ABC
Rt Hon Damian Green MP
Cllr Graham Galpin – Portfolio Holder for Town Centres Focus & Business Dynamics, ABC
Cllr Mike Bennett – Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development & Enforcement, ABC
Mr Mark Dance - Cabinet Member for Economic Development, KCC
Mark Lumsdon-Taylor – Hadlow Group
Paul Harwood – Highways Agency
Chris Moore, Development Director, HCA
Barbara Cooper, KCC

Non Board Members

Tracey Kerly, ABC
Richard Alderton, ABC
Lois Jarrett, ABC
Simon Cole, ABC
Stewart Smith, ABC
Andrew Osborne, ABC
Katie Stewart, KCC
Stephen Gasche, KCC
Keith Fearon, ABC

Huw Edwards – Network Rail
Mark Ellerby – Network Rail
Sara Peters – Network Rail

Apologies

Mr Matthew Balfour, KCC Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome The Chairman welcomed all those present at the meeting.	

2.	<p>Junction 10a – M20</p> <p>Chris Moore advised that the HCA had identified the potential for them to deliver forward funding of £16m which was subject to HCA and DCLG approval by the end of May 2016.</p> <p>Simon Cole explained that Highways England were currently undertaking the 2nd stage of the public consultation exercise prior to the submission of the Development Consent Order.</p>	<p>HA/HCA/ ABC</p>
3.	<p>Ashford Station/Spurs</p> <p>Stephen Gasche (SG) briefed on the discussion with Eurostar and their very positive commitment to continuation of services from Ashford. He also explained that the Annual Kent Rail Summit on 16 May would provide updates on the Ashford Spurs project from Network Rail. Andrew Osborne explained that the estimated cost of the project was being developed by Network Rail between now and September 2016 when more detailed costs would be available. He also outlined the level of funding that had been identified for the project to date.</p> <p>Barbara Cooper also advised of discussions over this issue at the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) who considered that this project was crucial for East Kent. They were, however, concerned at the potential for increases in the overall costs.</p> <p>Huw Edwards and Mark Ellerby of Network Rail then gave a detailed presentation on the project, which included information on the design of the scheme, and an outline work programme. At the present time HS1 was the only section of track using KVB in the Country and it was therefore paramount for safety reasons that the system was compatible with existing stock. Track possessions to install the system also required close co-ordination and needed to take account of Eurostar, the freight operators and Southeastern services.</p> <p>Huw Edwards and Mark Ellerby confirmed that they shared the Boards objective of ensuring that this project was undertaken.</p> <p>The Chairman said that the presentation had given the</p>	<p>KCC/ABC/ Network Rail</p>

	<p>Board a better understanding of the complex issues associated with delivering the project and he asked that Network Rail attend the next meeting in July to give a further update on progress.</p> <p>In terms of the overall funding for the scheme, Stephen Gasche advised that there was a continued requirement to lobby government to ensure that the full funding to deliver the project was in place.</p>	
4	<p>Commercial Quarter</p> <p>Stewart Smith advised that a detailed Planning Application had been submitted which was most likely to be considered by the Planning Committee in July 2016. Subject to planning permission being granted and the completion of the Section 106 agreement there was an 18 month build programme.</p>	ABC
5.	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>a) <u>Ashford College</u></p> <p>Mark Lumsdon-Taylor introduced this topic and explained that Phase 1 was within budget and on target for completion in March 2017 with the college moving in in July 2017. Phase 1A was likely to commence at the end of the year. He also stressed that it was important to ensure that the Skills Funding Agency understood the importance of the project to Ashford.</p> <p>Tracey Kerly explained that a report would be submitted to the ABC Cabinet in June regarding funding arrangements for Phase 1A.</p> <p>Mark Lumsdon-Taylor also explained that all Higher Education would be provided by the Group and externally validated by the University of Kent.</p> <p>b) <u>Elwick Place</u></p> <p>Stewart Smith reported that the Council had agreed at its meeting the previous evening to fund the construction of the development subject to due diligence.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>ABC/ Hadlow</p> <p>ABC</p>

c)	<p><u>Designer Outlet Expansion</u></p> <p>Richard Alderton advised that the target date for full opening of the additional units was early 2019, although it may be possible to bring this forward.</p>	ABC
d)	<p><u>Jasmin Vardimon</u></p> <p>Richard Alderton advised that 2 options were currently being considered. It was noted that the Arts Council still wished to support a scheme.</p>	ABC
e)	<p><u>Chilmington Green</u></p> <p>Richard Alderton advised that it was expected that the S106 agreement would be circulated for signing shortly and that the HCA had agreed to support the early delivery of the infrastructure.</p>	ABC/KCC/ HCA
	<p><u>Other Sites</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised that in future the agenda would be restructured to take account of other emerging schemes.</p>	ABC

	Next Meeting 29 July 2016	
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