

# NOTES OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION & INVESTMENT BOARD

## 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017

**Attending:**

Cllr Clarkson (Chairman)  
Cllr Galpin  
Cllr Ovenden  
Cllr Shorter

Tracey Kerly (TK)  
Paul McKenner (PMcK)  
Steve Parish (SP)  
Ben Lockwood (BL)  
John Fairhall (JF)  
Lorna Ford (LF)  
Richard Alderton (RA)  
Dean Spurrell (DS)  
Stewart Smith (SS)  
Rosie Reid (RR) – minutes

<p><b>1. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Cllr Clarkson made a Voluntary Announcement as he was a Director of A Better Choice for Property Ltd.</p> <p>Cllr Shorter made a Voluntary Announcement as he was a Director for A Better Choice for Building Consultancy Ltd and Kent Play Clubs. He also declared that he knew the owner of the Chilmington site but not well.</p> <p>TK made a Voluntary Announcement as she was a Director of A Better Choice for Property Ltd and A Better Choice for Building Consultancy Ltd.</p> <p>PMcK made Voluntary Announcements as he was a Director of A Better Choice for Property Ltd.</p>	
<p><b>2. The Notes of the meetings of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b></p> <p>The Notes of the meetings of the Economic Regeneration and Investment Board on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	

<p><b>3. PID</b></p> <p>PMcK introduced this item. He explained that the proposed acquisition of this land had been discussed at the Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August, when it had been agreed that PMcK should make an offer on the land, up to the value agreed by the Board. The Board confirmed that they wished PMcK to proceed with the acquisition.</p>	<p><b>PMcK</b></p>
<p><b>4. Mecca Bingo site</b></p> <p>SS introduced this item and highlighted key issues in the report. He said the report contained as much information as was available at present, and that only limited information would be available before the bid deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> December. Following discussions amongst Members and Officers, it was recommended to the Chief Executive by the Board that, given the limited time before the deadline, she exercise her urgency powers to bid for the property on the terms agreed.</p>	<p><b>TK</b></p>
<p><b>5. Axiom Business Park (Industrial Estate) Acquisition</b></p> <p>SS introduced this item. Members agreed that they did not wish to pursue the option to purchase this site.</p>	
<p><b>6. KWG – Site Acquisition</b></p> <p>SS introduced this item. He advised Members that this item had previously been presented to the Board at a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The Board, having discussed the additional information that had come to light, recommended that a bid to acquire the site be made which was conditional upon Cabinet/Council approval being obtained on the terms agreed.</p>	<p><b>SS</b></p>
<p><b>7. Ashford Youth Theatre</b></p> <p>Members discussed the options for resolving this outstanding issue and the pressing need to secure vacant possession of the site. It was agreed that JF would serve further notice, should the matter of the relocation not be resolved within the next two weeks.</p>	<p><b>JF</b></p>
<p><b>8. Purchase of land</b></p> <p>PMcK advised that an opportunity had become available to purchase a plot of potential development land in the Borough. Members considered that more information was required before a decision was made and it was agreed that a report would come back to a future meeting with further financial information and options.</p>	<p><b>PMcK</b></p>

<b>9. Dates of Next Meetings</b>			
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	2pm	Council Chamber	
21 <sup>st</sup> February 2018	10am	Council Chamber	
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	2pm	Committee Room 2	
25 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	2pm	Council Chamber	

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact Rosie Reid:

Telephone: 01233 330565 Email: [rosie.reid@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:rosie.reid@ashford.gov.uk)

Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: [www.ashford.gov.uk/committees](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/committees)