

Enabling innovative, productive
and creative businesses

Tudor Price & Steve Samson



2. Focus support on measures that will increase long-term productivity resilience & adoption of new ideas – Made Smarter South East

Current Issue

- Kent & Medway SMEs in the manufacturing sector are aware that there are many new technologies that can boost productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and support diversification (AI, Automatic, Robotics etc.). Firms often lack knowledge, capacity and resource to adopt new technologies.

Desired Outcome

- SMEs better informed about new technologies
- SMEs able to adopt new technology solutions to boost productivity, efficiency and competitiveness
- Kent & Medway SMEs accessing support from new Made Smarter SE programme (advice and grants)

Recent Growth Board Activity

- Part of planning group for South-East roll out of Made Smarter Programme (DBT)
- Confirmation from DBT of £1.5m programme for SE to cover Technology Adoption Specialists to advise local firms and a small grant pot. Programme to support c130 companies across SE.

DECISION FOR KMEP TODAY

- **Note that Surrey CC will be accountable body for new SE programme to launch in April**
- **Consider nominations for K&M rep(s) on programme Steering Group and an industry expert to sit on grant panel**

Next Steps

- KCC/MC continue to work with SCC to plan for programme launch
- Promote programme support to local manufacturing SMEs to ensure take up of offer for K&M

3. Attracting and welcoming investors to Kent and Medway - **Investment Network**

Current Issue

- Kent & Medway businesses don't have access to a wide range of angel networks/ funds for seed/ scale-up funding.
- There is the demand to create an ecosystem of growth-oriented start-ups – particularly linked to high growth sectors e.g. creative industries, life sciences.

Desired Outcome

- The further development of angel networks/ funds that Kent & Medway businesses can have access to – particularly at pre-Series A stage.
- More Kent & Medway businesses accessing growth capital to expand their businesses in-county.

Recent Growth Board Activity

- Tudor Price has met with the British Business Bank.
- Alex & Sarah have met with the KMEP Life Sciences Group who noted a gap in support with respect to seed/ scale up funding.
- Thematic Leads met with John Stenhouse from Angels@Essex who is looking to develop a regional fund.

DECISION FOR KMEP TODAY

- **Note the ambition of John Stenhouse and Angels@Essex to develop a regional fund based on the 'Golden Circle' university geography.**

Next Steps

- Continue to engage the British Business Bank and relevant sector groups on developments in this area – including the proposed Kent & Medway Innovation Partnership.
- Continue to engage with John Stenhouse and Angel@Essex on the progress of their proposal.

Widening opportunities and unlocking talent

Simon Cook & Dan Ratcliffe



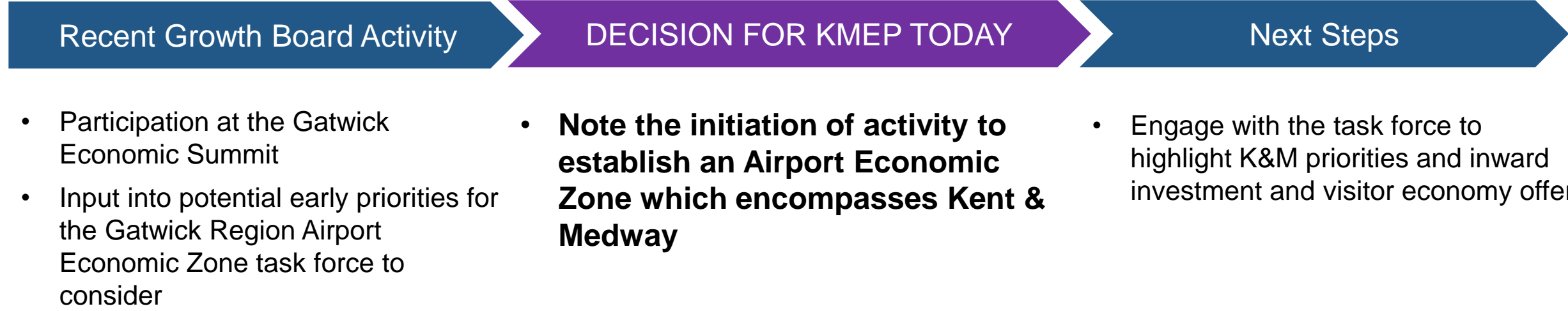
Securing resilient infrastructure for
planned, sustainable growth

Vince Lucas & Tom Marchant



9. Maximising the benefit of international connectivity – Gatwick Airport Economic Zone

Current Issue	Desired Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International airports are levers for investment, trade, jobs and tourism. Kent & Medway are not fully benefiting from the economic benefits of proximity to Gatwick Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K&M benefiting from investment opportunities, trade links and tourism linked to Gatwick’s international connections including visitor economy (e.g. capitalise on interest in viticulture tourism from long haul routes) Kent firms able to access supply chain opportunities for developments in and around the airport



Placing economic opportunity at the
centre of community wellbeing and
prosperity

Nick Fenton & Andrew Osborne



14: Developing a strategic partnership for health and the economy

Current Issue

- 18.4% of K&M's population was recorded as economically inactive due to ill health in 2020. By 2024 this had increased to 26% (up 7.6%).
- 48% of K&M employers surveyed in 2023 for the LSIP said recruiting staff was problematic (19.7% said staff recruitment is a major problem).

Desired Outcome

- More people with health conditions start, stay and succeed in work.
- The percentage of K&M's population that is economically inactive reduces to pre-pandemic levels.

Recent Growth Board Activity

- Strategic Partnership for Health and the Economy (SPHE) met **on 25 November**
- **Final feedback received from SPHE on the Integrated Strategy for Work and Health.**
- Strategy is now very **nearly finalised**

DECISION FOR KMEP TODAY

- **Public Engagement will commence 9 December 2024**
- **Strategy to be sent out with the KMEP minutes of this meeting.**
- **KMEP invited to engage in consultation**
- **Alert Sarah if you wish to sit on Strategic Partnership**

Next Steps



Creating diverse, distinctive
and vibrant places

Miranda Chapman & Adam Bryan

