**Draft KHG EXB Meeting Notes 6 February 2024, Microsoft Teams Call**

DRAFT

**Present**: Brian Horton, chair and SELEP; Stuart Ilsley, T&CH; Tessa O’Sullivan, RACE; Tim Woolmer, KCC; Charlotte Hudson, Swale; Mel Anthony, KCC commissioning (adults); Simon Thomas, representing Kent Planning Officers group; Nick Fenton, Kent Housing and Development Group; Helen Miller, KHG;

**Apologies received before the meeting:** Becs Wilcox, Medway; Shona Johnstone, HE; Steph Goad, Golding Homes; Christy Holden, KCC Commissioning (Childrens); Sharon Williams, Ashford and treasurer; Amy Cheswick, mhs homes; Vic May, Kent Homechoice lead;

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| **Reference** | **Notes/Outcome** | **Who** | **Action/Decision** |
| **Matters arising** | CH – send draft DFG Protocol to BW and WM for comments – done. |  |  |
| **KHG & RACE Budget & staffing** | Helen Miller presented the budget for 2024 highlighting the we have a balanced budget and healthy reserves but if the Bank of England interest rate drops, so our income from that drops, we may experience a small deficit.  The income and expenditure from events is hard to predict. mhs homes are hosting and paying for the lunch for the Consumer Standards event. KHG are advertising the event to non members, for a small fee, but have not sold any tickets yet. We have been surprised by our members reluctance to travel for a 3 hour event in Medway. The appetite for in person events remains low, except for the Awards.  The Board accepted the proposed budget. |  |  |
| **RACE** | Tessa O’Sullivan; The budget is running well. Their privately commissioned surveys turn a small profit. These generally come from parish councils but would be accepted from local authorities, RPs and developers. They also have surveys that they are obliged to do via the SLAs.  DEFRA announced funding for rural housing. The executive RACE group developed a proposal but could not find a way to make it fit the DEFRA criteria to use the funding after 2025. DEFRA were approached for flexibility to use the funding from 2025 to allow RACE to continue after the current funding ends but this was declined.  The new survey methodology is online and they are promoting this and getting the service better known in Kent.  BH and NF decided Tessa could be invited to speak at a Kent Housing and Development Group to raise awareness of the RACE service and for the SME group. | BH | write an introduction to Tessa to KH&DG and SME network |
| **Regular updates** | **Marketing\* – Jeff Sims** written update was circulated with main papers  Quarter 6: 1 December 2023 to 28 February 2024  HOME FRONT edition 6 – include Conference preview, fire safety campaign report, news, events, reports from sub groups – published mid-February  Pre-event media release on Conference, topics covered, key speakers, audience breakdown, venue, sponsors, contacts for more information – drafted by ABC Comms / White Label. Media distribution w/c 8 Jan  Research and draft Make Things Right media release; shared with partners by KHG in Dec and distributed to press and partner comms teams in Jan by ABC Communications; shared outcomes with client;  Attend Conference at Kent Event Centre 5/3, provide photography/editorial support  Attend regular meetings with client and White Label to plan for Conference 2024  Brainstorm ideas for thanking sub group chairs and action  Proofed / edited member renewal letters  Provide advice on BBC Politics Show request for input on leaseholder feature  ABC Communications to share and amplify all messages  Account management to include all client liaison, administration, email and phone, attendance at Board meeting and reporting  **Homechoice – Vic May**  Not present  **Events\* - Written update pasted in**  Busy as always! With the support of White Label the KHG [Conference](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/khg-conference-2024/) 2024 is coming together nicely with speakers confirmed, marketing launched and spaces filling up – reminder that each KHG member gets 5 free spaces so please ensure you are maximising this. We have held a number of events since the last board meeting which have been successful including a further Fire Safety event for front line officers in sheltered housing – 105 people attended with good engagement and potentially more events to be planned. We also have our Consumer Standards event coming up next month, kindly being hosted by MHS at their offices in Broadside. If your organisation has taken up its places yet please see the details here [Consumer Standards event - Kent Housing Group](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/events/consumer-standards-event/) We have also had a number of topics put forward by our subgroups that we are reviewing and considering how best to support these suggestions. Please look out for the KHG Excellence awards nomination announcement coming very soon! We have also welcomed a new person to our group – thank you Rachel Valerio from Riverside for volunteering – we have always got room for more especially with the exciting events coming up this year.  **Commissioning Update –Christy Holden and Mel Anthony**  **Christy Holden’s update pasted in from written update;**  **Supported Accommodation Service:**  Children that were accommodated in the former Shared Accommodation service have all been transferred over to the Low Needs service to meet Ofsted requirements.  Clearsprings Ready Homes are working with the providers of the Young People Supported Accommodation and Floating Support Service (YPSAFS) to facilitate the transfer of Children in Need, and 18-year-old Care Leavers into either the Low Needs service or the Transitional Accommodation service by the end of March 2024 when the YPSAFS contract ends.  Additional support has been allocated within KCC to those former Children in Need who are no longer eligible for the new service to assist with move on with the support from the Local Housing Authorities.  Weekly demand meetings are held with providers to prioritise referrals into the new services based on priority and need.  A Fact Sheet developed for KCC staff has been shared with the Districts and Boroughs via KHOG.  A Supported Accommodation Hub will be created to act as a first point of contact for KCC teams and key partners such as the District and Borough Councils, DWP.  The Medium/High Accommodation element of the Supported Accommodation service (replacing YPSAFS) will commence on the 1 April 2024.  **DFG Protocol**  Following the last KHG EXB, the draft Protocol has been shared with Vic and Rebecca. It is hoped that a final version can be presented to KHG EXB at the next meeting for sign off.  **Mel Anthony’s** verbal update for adult social care (Please also see the PowerPoint presentation)  KCC continues to face significant financial challenges.  Four big contracts will be extended whilst the consultants help on the fair cost of care and new models of care.  Kent Homeless Connect is coming to its end. Most people have left the supported housing and they continue to work with tenants to find alternative accommodation by the end of March 2024. They aim to repurpose any units that are not continuing with new funding.  They have had a significant restructure.  CH the supported accommodation will continue in Swale but it does not have long term funding as using RSI/DLUHC funding.  The KCC commissioning representatives will be Mel for adults services and Christy for childrens services.  **SELEP – Brian Horton**  SELEP will end at end of March. Roles will transition to county level. People value cross boundary work and that is still to be resourced.  **Medway Council\* –**  Written update pasted in;  We continue to work on our Local Plan. On 6 February we worked with Legislative Theatre with regards to Medway. Our Housing Strategy is currently being reviewed and engagement events are being held plus online engagement. TA is still a pressure point along with the Council’s general financial position. | all  HM | Please check whether your colleagues have booked on to the Consumer Standards event & Conference  Circulate MA’s PP presentation |
| **Planning protocol** | Simon, Nick and colleagues created a planning protocol [Delivering Growth, The Kent Planning Protocol - Kent Housing Group](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/protocols/delivering-growth-kent-planning-protocol/) some years ago. Brian questioned whether it is still working well and whether it needs to be promoted?  Simon said the protocol is still fit for purpose. We need to refresh it in people’s minds including new planners and Leaders. We need to check whether people are operating in line with this.  Nick there is some resistance to the PPAs and we need to ensure we give a good service when a PPA is used. We need to refresh Member training. We have some new Members who may have a tension between their constituents expressed concerns and their organisations need to deliver affordable housing.  CH agree that we need to engage with elected Members. The protocol is signed by people who have since left and so we may benefit from seeking re-adoption from current Members.  Nick would like to engage with LAs and planners to get their feedback on the document. | ST  NF, ST and BH | Request protocol discussed at Kent Chief Planning Officers Group and that BH and NF are invited  liaise on the planning protocol, identify the risks and the actions needed |
| **K&MHS** | Brian Horton the LEP will come to an end and there will be county boundary LEPs. We hope that that South East Housing and Development Group will continue. |  |  |
| **AOB** | Dates of 2024 KHG Board meetings; 28th March; 16th May; 18th Jul; 3rd Oct and 21st Nov. |  |  |

**\*Papers shared in advance of meeting**