

**Presentation – Yorktown & Watchmoor
Business Association**

Portfolio	Transformation
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

Purpose

To receive a presentation from Yorktown & Watchmoor Business Association.

Yorktown & Watchmoor Business Association

1. Yorktown & Watchmoor Business Association has existed for over ten years and has evolved from a Council led partnership to a thriving self-sufficient networking and lobbying group.
2. The Surrey Heath Economic Development Strategy, approved at the Executive in November 2014, includes the strategic objective of making Surrey Heath “A Sustainable Place to Live, Work, Shop and Play”. This includes the requirement to actively promote our key employment sites and help improve access to the business parks to reduce congestion and improve competitiveness.
3. Businesses consistently say key barriers to growth include poor connectivity and congestion. Commercial agents report that potential investors are put off coming to Camberley because of the lack of a bus service for the business parks. They also say there are problems attracting companies out of London because journey times can't be guaranteed.
4. To overcome this objective, a £4m bid has been submitted to EM3 for public transport improvements, including lunchtime bus services to give thousands of workers at the Yorktown and Watchmoor business parks easier access to the town centre. Morning and evening rush hour services taking commuters to and from Blackwater, Farnborough and Camberley railway stations are also included. The rush hour services would be co-ordinated with train arrival times to make sure buses are waiting at the stations when trains arrive. Some companies on the business parks run their own shuttle services to do this at their own cost.
5. One of the largest businesses on Yorktown Business Park was successful at the March 2016 Surrey Heath Business Award, namely the German power tools company, “Stihl” in the Developing Talent category for providing opportunities for personal development.
6. The Association is represented by James Stewart, the Managing Director – Property, of Dolphin Head Group Holdings PLC.

Recommendation

7. The Committee is asked to consider the presentation and consider any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

Background Papers:

Executive: Economic Development Strategy Reports

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