

## **Herefordshire Business Board**

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Present:** **Chair:** Neil Kerr (NK), Andy Edwards (AE), Cathy Meredith (CM), Joseph Connor (JC), Peter Brown (PB), Phil Collins (PC), Richard Garnett (RG), Mike Ashton (MA), Cllr Roger Phillips (RP), Rachel Jones (RJ), Nick Webster (NW).

**Apologies:** Angela Fitch (AF), Helen Thomas (HT), Ian Hilditch (IH), Jonathan Hines (JH), Paul Sinclair (PS), Ray Stone (RS), Stephen Eckley (SE).

**In attendance:** Prof Ian Oakes, Julia Bakewell, Stephen Foulger, Karen Usher

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies noted.

### **2. Follow Up, Actions and Matters Arising**

**Diamond Awards:** NK thanked board members who had sent in nominations for the Diamond Awards, they have received over 40.

**Board Membership:** A paper was circulated listing business sectors. There is a need to be fully representative across the County and business types and sizes. Who else might we need to be fully represented? The board was asked to review the list and make any additions including adding detail of organisations or people that could be invited to join the HBB. Any potential new members to the board would be subject to the application process.

It was commented that there is a need to agree the purpose of the board before progressing with new members so that people can be invited to join a firmed up and confident board. There needs to be a purpose to the HBB and a route up and down between the LEP. It was suggested an overview of the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Business Boards would be helpful, the role of the board members, their business ambassador programmes, relationship with the Marches LEP Board. The Marches LEP Board is currently recruiting a new chair and that needs to be confirmed so that the HBB is able to build a strong working relationship with the Marches LEP Board. There will be time for further discussion on this subject on the agenda for the 16<sup>th</sup> April.

NK also asked that all current board members consider if they want to continue on the board.

Completed form and any feedback to be sent to RJ for collation and NK and RS will review.

**Action:** All

### **Marches LEP Updates:**

NK circulated a paper which he had tabled at the Marches LEP Board meeting, with his views on the role of Business Boards going forward.

The LEP are currently recruiting for a new chair and there are two candidates who will be interviewed.

RP summarised further points from the meeting; the LEP has produced its delivery plan and this now has to be consulted upon and gaps filled.

NW added some detail to the LEP Delivery Plan, what it currently shows is the big projects and priorities for the LEP area and projects that are already underway. There is a need to consult to get private sector steer and see what is missing. It is a living document and more projects and priorities can be added in. Time will be given at the HBB on the 16<sup>th</sup> April to discuss this further because it ties in with the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy refresh and access to funding in the future.

The LEP has been awarded £250k and the match funding from Herefordshire is via the contribution from the Hereford Enterprise Zone project.

A Marches local transport body has been set up to cover the same territory as the LEP.

There is still funding available in the current round, and capacity within the West Midlands, however there are tight timescales

**3. Marches LEP & Hereford Enterprise Zone Skills Plans** (Prof Ian Oakes, Wolverhampton University and Marches LEP)

IO presented an outline of the process undertaken to produce the Marches LEP Skills Plan and the Hereford Enterprise Zone Skills Plan. The documents were signed off at the Marches LEP Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> March and will be published, along with the supporting evidence base, on the Marches LEP website shortly. [www.marcheslep.org.uk](http://www.marcheslep.org.uk)

**4. Apprenticeships in Herefordshire** (Julia Bakewell, National Apprenticeship Service)

JB presented an overview of the Apprenticeships service and what is available to support businesses and young people; she also provided an overview of the success rates in Herefordshire.

**5. Allpay** (Stephen Foulger, Head of Human Resources, allpay Limited)

SF presented an overview of allpay and the work they do with apprenticeships both within the company and to support other Herefordshire businesses.

**6. Higher Education** (Karen Usher)

KU presented an overview of work being undertaken in Herefordshire to bring a University to the County.

Copies of all the presentations are attached with the minutes.

The Business Board expressed their support for the work being undertaken in the skills arena and thanked all the presenters for attending. HBB would be pleased to hear updates from them in the future.

**7. Credit Union** (Peter Brown)

Time will be made available on the agenda for HBB meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May as the meeting was over-running.

**8. AOB**

NK is involved with a project on the Enterprise Zone, the Northlight building, and asked for volunteers to join a working party to evaluate the creation of a linked "County Innovation Centre". RG, JC and NW have expressed an interest and more information will be circulated to them.

**Action:** NK

RP confirmed that the agenda for next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April will be circulated as soon as possible and in addition to the items already listed the main agenda items will be led by RP and NW around the Local Plan, the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy and the

Marches LEP Delivery Plan and Growth Plan. The HBB must be involved with the change of the Economic Development Strategy and the Council needs a clear steer from the HBB on employment land, infrastructure and the community infrastructure levy. NW will bring a series of questions to be discussed.

**Action:** NW, RP, RJ

**9. Date of next meetings:**

- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm Plough Lane Offices (extraordinary Meeting)
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, please note new date, *venue to be confirmed*