

The Marches
Local Enterprise Partnership



Herefordshire Business Board

Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 10th May 2011

Attendance:

Chair: Neil Kerr (NK), **Vice Chair:** Ray Stone (RS), Andrew Sanders (ASa), Andy Edwards (AE), Cathy Meredith (CM), Gary Woodman (GW), Helen Thomas (HT), Ian Hildich (IH), John Jones (JJ), Jonathan Hines (JH), Joseph Connor (JC), Nick Webster (NW), Paul Sinclair (PS), Peter Brown (PB), Phil Collins (PC), Richard Garnett (RG), Stephen Eckley (SE).

Apologies:

Angela Smith (AS), Fenella Tyler (FT), Heather Gorringe (HG).

Introduction:

Welcome to Archtype offices from JH and general introduction to two new members – RG and JC.

Chair Update

Attended LEP Board (April 2011), Geoffrey Davies (LEP Chair) wants new membership from private sector, Marches wide Enterprise Zone Expression of Interest supported. Met with Mike Ashton – Chief Exec of H&W Chamber of Commerce, and Geoff Hughes – Council Director for Places and Communities. Both very useful meetings to understand wider economic vision and support. Will be providing a “business voice” on the Herefordshire Partnership Board.

HBB Vision

General content is in right direction, some discussion over setting of targets, perhaps set some Macro level objectives – increase in wage levels, young people into employment, and some Micro level targets – number of jobs created by grant funds, identify high growth businesses.

- **Action: NW** to liaise with NK and RS, circulate to HBB for comments.

Herefordshire Council Elections

Following recent Council elections need appropriate Council Member on HBB to represent HC.

- **Action: NK** to discuss with the new leader representation on both the LEP and BB Boards.

Working Group Updates

Small Business Growth. Mentoring: Chamber looking to recruit mentors, HBB could become conduit to Chamber scheme, looking for real business people. Business Grants: Unanimous support for recommendation. Procurement: PC and GW meeting with David Powell (HC head of Finance) to discuss opening up HC and Amey procurement, also lobbying politicians.

- **Action** – Encourage mentors to register with Chamber (Nicky Griffiths -)
- **Action – HC** to map what mentor schemes are running, any need to run one?

- **Action – HC** to set up a list of grants to businesses.
- **Action – PC & GW** to provide update at next HBB meeting.

Property, Land and Business Parks. Update on Enterprise Zone proposals, unanimous support for Rotherwas as choice of location.

- **Action** – Presentation on case for Rotherwas to be made at LEP Board.

Inward Investment. JC and PS met with Civil Servants from UK Trade and Industry (UKTI) to discuss Inward Investment, UKTI offered to visit Marches LEP, committed to supporting us.

- **Action:** Understand Herefordshire “offer” against UKTI requirements.
- **Action: Sub Group** to start to shape “pitch” for county.
- **Action: PS & NW** to provide specific briefing notes to HBB for LEP Launch at House of Commons.

Communications

Need to start this group as building offer, HG suggested as potential lead for sub group, website a priority, should contain info on grants, procurement, and other work of HBB.

- **Action:** Park development of website until branding exercise completed (July 1st)
- **Action: NK** to approach HG to lead working group.

Growth Coaching

Government tender to deliver support for high growth businesses out now, suppliers need to work with LEP's, no requirements identified by Marches LEP at moment, need to identify these in order to influence suppliers and their offer to businesses. Support to take this up with MLEP Board.

- **Action: JC** to brief MLEP Board and flag up need to develop MLEP offer and communications to potential suppliers.

Regional Growth Fund

No MLEP successes in Round 1, looking at number of business support offers going in for Round 2. Will flag up with Small Business Growth working group and provide briefing at next HBB meeting to obtain endorsement for bids.

- **Action: NW** to work up bids and endorsement process from HBB.

Branding

Exercise conducted by Small Back Room, company appointed by HC to look at tourism and business branding of county.

Date of next meeting:

6th June, 5.00, location to be confirmed.

Interim meeting required to address timely issues of Enterprise Zone, Regional Growth Fund submissions, HofC launch, and membership of HC Members on the HBB.

Normal sequence of meetings will resume in July.

Nick Webster
May 2011