

# Herefordshire Business Board

## Key notes of the Meeting - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### Attendance:

|                       |                                     |    |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----|
| Jonathan Hines        | Architype                           | JH |
| Gary Woodman          | Chamber of Commerce                 | GW |
| Ian Hilditch          | ETL Systems                         | IH |
| Gabe Cook             | Heineken / Bulmers                  | GC |
| Cllr Adrian Blackshaw | Herefordshire Council               | AB |
| Natalia Silver        | Herefordshire Council               | NS |
| Nick Webster          | Herefordshire Council               | NW |
| Rachel Jones          | Herefordshire Council               | RJ |
| Peter Brown           | Herefordshire Housing               | PB |
| Cathy Meredith        | Herefordshire Rural Hub (Chair)     | CM |
| Ray Stone             | Ingstone Associates                 | RS |
| Neil Kerr             | Leading Edge                        | NK |
| John Jones            | Philip Morris and Son               | JJ |
| Stephen Eckley        | Sequani                             | SE |
| Andrews Sanders       | Station Autos Ltd                   | AS |
| Andy Edwards          | Thorne Widgery                      | AE |
| Paul Sinclair         | Trade and Foreign Direct Investment | PS |
| Heather Gorringer     | Wiggly Wiggles                      | HG |

### Apologies:

|                    |                                |    |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| Angela Smith       | Federation of Small Businesses | AS |
| Cllr Roger Philips | Herefordshire Council          | RP |
| Fenella Tyler      | Heineken / Bulmers             | FT |
| Helen Thomas       | Westons Cider                  | HT |
| Phil Collins       | Pontrilas Developments         | PC |

### Update from Last Meeting:

- Ray Stone was in attendance at the last meeting but not recorded on the notes.
- Half day visioning – this meeting.
- Notes of the Sir Roy McNulty visit have been circulated.
- A branding meeting has been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm location to be confirmed. Other BB members interested in being part of the branding are: GC, PS, HG, JJ, GW and AB.
- The Herefordshire RGF projects went to the MLEP Board on 18<sup>th</sup> January and were approved and were received at BIS in time for the closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> January.
  - AS circulated a briefing note on the Herefordshire bid
  - HEFF (Heart of England Fine Food) entered a LEP wide bid which was also approved by the MLEP Board, but it had not been past the BB first which was noted.
- AS questioned the protocol for recording BB voting in such instances as the RGF bids being approved by the BB. In discussion it was agreed that a procedure be adopted and included in the terms of reference, alongside communication to the board, timing and summaries of information needing decision being sent out before board meetings.

**Proposal:** A proposal by PB was unanimously accepted by the BB as follows:

- That the BB agree to collective responsibility
- The BB chair decides if items need to be put to the vote/a decision to be made
- At a vote the numbers voting each way (for, against, abstain) be recorded
- The majority vote has the collective support of the BB

- Chair has final say/casting vote
- **Action:** Biographies of BB members; some have been received and circulated, those outstanding to send 100 word profiles to NW by 31<sup>st</sup> January. The full list will be circulated to the BB and will also include contact details.
- **Action:** Chair and Vice-Chair of BB, NW to send out nomination forms, procedure, and details to include MLEP Board dates, requirements of the role (at the MLEP Board) etc. Members can self-nominate or nominate another member of BB for the role. Members to inform NW if they would like/do not want to stand for the role.

#### **Business Board Vision / Terms of Reference:**

General discussion on remit, the wider strategy for delivery, and potential purpose of the BB. Contribution from NK was well received and NS was tasked with capturing points coming out from discussion and circulating for further input. Final draft to be circulated at next BB.

#### **Business Support:**

NS gave some background of work being done on behalf of MLEP by Peter Ainsworth on secondment from Business Link until the end of March. His role is to map Government provision, local provision, highlight gaps and garner business opinion, which could potentially lead to a MLEP business support application at the next round of RGF.

The next round of RGF is expected to be April 2011, but might be delayed until June or July. Members discussed the need to have a call for ideas for Herefordshire projects, what had worked well already such as the Business Booster and Training Vouchers, Redundant Building grants, and the need for mentoring. NS said they expected the 2<sup>nd</sup> round package will have different criteria; there might be a need to look at LEP wide projects, but that the package could tie in with business support requirements.

NW gave a brief outline of what is expected to happen with AWM assets and liabilities; HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) is expected to be looking after the portfolio, and that assets will be offered to local authorities and after that to the open market.

#### **Feedback to and from LEP Board:**

The new MLEP Chair has been appointed – Dr Geoffrey Davies OBE, Managing Director of McConnel Ltd and Alamo Group who is also Chair of the Shropshire Business Board.

#### **Any Other Business:**

NS explained that a new round of Business Planning groups is due to be held w/c 14<sup>th</sup> February, this follows two earlier rounds and a conference held at Ludlow racecourse. Herefordshire facilitates the Enterprise Group the aim of which is to get business input into shaping the MLEP Business Plan from businesses LEP wide. **Action:** Details to be circulated.

AS circulated a copy of the Hereford Civic Society magazine highlighting an article about MLEP and the BB. A response would not be made, however a group photograph would be organised for the next BB and a press release for Hereford Times would be arranged at a suitable time. **Action:** Photographer for next BB meeting.

#### **Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm – 5pm, hosted by Neil Kerr at the Kilpeck Inn. Opportunity for members to socialise with a meal at the Inn after the meeting.

Further meeting dates to be circulated, but will be every six weeks and Architype will host the meeting in April.