

## **Herefordshire Business Board**

### **Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Present: Chair:** Peter Brown (PB) **Vice Chairs:** John Jones (JJ).

Andy Edwards (AE), Angela Fitch (AF), Helen Thomas (HT), Jonathan Hines (JH), Mike Ashton (MA), Neil Kerr (NK), Phil Collins (PC), Richard Garnett (RG), Cllr Roger Phillips (RP), Stephen Eckley (SE), Nick Webster (NW), Rachel Jones (RJ).

**Apologies:** Cathy Meredith (CM), Heidi Chamberlain-Jones (HCJ), Jane Preston (JP), Joseph Connor (JC), Jon Turner (JT), Nick Read (NR).

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies noted.

#### **2. Business Improvement District**

JJ presented an overview of the BID work to date. They are now in receipt of a £40,000 seed funding grant and hope to employ a project manager to progress the project in the lead up to the vote which is planned for September 2014. The next steps for the team includes formalising the board membership, terms of reference and writing a business plan. JJ will keep the HBB updated and if anyone would like to help with canvassing support, the business plan or any individual help please contact JJ.

#### **3. Draft Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) / Growth Plan**

A copy of the SEP was circulated to the board before the meeting. NW presented an overview of the SEP/Growth Plan which is a Marches LEP strategic plan for the Government that outlines how the LEP will create growth in the local economy. The document has been submitted to Government and there will be a consultation period of four weeks starting 13<sup>th</sup> January where comments and feedback can be sent into the LEP. Details will be circulated.

**Action:** NW/All

#### **4. Marches LEP European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy (ESIF)**

The Marches ESIF is being reviewed and updated following feedback from Government and before the final draft is submitted at the end of January 2014. NW explained some of the proposals for Marches LEP projects and how call-outs for other projects would work. LEP wide projects include a single grant pot and other business support provision. The LEP will be consulting on the strategic activities and the priority project areas for two weeks from 10<sup>th</sup> January. Details will be circulated.

**Action:** NW/All

#### **5. DEFRA Pillar 2 CAP Funding 2014-2020**

RP circulated a paper (copy attached) outlining the funding from DEFRA under Pillar 2 which can be used for rural development. The Marches LEP has been awarded a notional allocation of £7.4m. The Marches LEP will set out how they want the funding used in the ESIF (see point 4.)

#### **6. HBB Vision for Herefordshire**

There was a brief discussion of the updated vision (circulated with the agenda) and some changes were discussed relating to sustainability and developing the scope of the paper as Herefordshire projects are identified. Overall the HBB was supportive of the vision as a working document. Comments will be incorporated.

**Action:** PB

## **7. Business Summit**

Following the last HBB meeting and the proposal from Alistair Neill (AN) to hold a Herefordshire business summit PB has met with AN and other local authority staff. There are concerns that the summit will be too local authority led so the HBB is proposing that they organise and host the event with the support of Economic Development staff. The proposed date for the summit will be the last week in February 2014, and RG and NW have been tasked with the organisation. PB and RP will speak to AN about the proposals.

**Action:** RG/NW and PB/RP

## **8. Exporting Metrics**

SE and AE have met with Lynda Smith from UKTI and there are no hard facts for Herefordshire with regards exporting businesses. To support local businesses with moving into the export market Thorne Widgery will be hosting a UKTI "Incubate to Export" seminar on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, with plans for UKTI to hold two more seminars in the next financial year. Details will be circulated as soon as they are available next financial year. Details will be circulated as soon as they are available.

**Action:** AE

## **9. Any Other Business**

JC has circulated an email to HBB members about contacts and projects with the MOD and inward investment and overseas opportunities. NW to respond and ensure that this is linked to the Hereford Enterprise Zone and their ongoing work with UKTI and their inward investment specialists.

**Action:** NW

AF asked if a board member would be able to stand as her deputy on the Redundant Building Grant (RBG) scheme panel when she is unable to attend. NK volunteered, his business has received an RBG grant in the past.

**Action:** AF/NK

## **10. Date of next meeting:**

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 4pm, location tbc