

Herefordshire Business Board

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 12th November 2013

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

Andy Edwards (AE), Angela Fitch (AF), Cathy Meredith (CM), Heidi Chamberlain-Jones (HCJ), Jane Preston (JP), Joseph Connor (JC), Mike Ashton (MA), Neil Kerr (NK), Nick Read (NR), Phil Collins (PC), Stephen Eckley (SE), Nick Webster (NW), Rachel Jones (RJ).

Apologies: Helen Thomas (HT), Jon Turner (JT), Jonathan Hines (JH), Richard Garnett (RG), Cllr Roger Phillips (RP).

In attendance: Alistair Neill, Chief Executive Herefordshire Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies noted.

2. Promoting Growth in Herefordshire

AN presented an overview of the current state of Herefordshire in particular relating to education and economic development and emphasised the importance of improving performance in these two areas for the County. Further information was given about the current financial status of Herefordshire Council, the demands on its services and the plans to cut spending over by 2017 and what this will mean in real terms.

A major aim is to create an Economic Development Master Plan for the whole of Herefordshire, not just a Council vision. This will cover the next 15 years and be broken down into 5 year plans. Herefordshire needs to be strong in its position in order to influence the LEP and own a better sense of Herefordshire. There will be a summit held in the New Year to include invitees from HBB, EZ Board, Hereford Futures to discuss the Economic Development Master Plan and a way of creating a single Herefordshire voice and vision.

3. HBB Discussion

HBB continued the discussions and the implications for HBB and its role in Herefordshire to be involved with and influence projects, funding and the Marches LEP.

It was agreed that HBB were keen to support AN in his plans and would like to offer their support to the summit and the creation of the Master Plan. PB would write an email, to be circulated to the HBB members for comment, to be sent to AN offering the support of HBB.

Action: PB / All

PB circulated an outline of a Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy drafted by NK. NK asked for contributions from the HBB to add detail to the draft and for comments and additional information to be fed back to him to build the strategy. This work can also be used to help support AN with his goals for Herefordshire.

Action: NK / All

4. EU funding – calls for proposals

NW updated members on the call for proposals for Low Carbon and Environmental initiatives. Members to liaise with the economic development team and submit proposals as soon as possible.

Action: All

5. Any Other Business

JJ presented a quick overview of the current status of the BID for Hereford. The team has just submitted a loan application to Government. If successful this will enable to the BID team to employ a project officer and complete the bidding process by Summer 2014.

PB apologised that the remainder of the agenda could not be completed, items will be rolled forward to the next HBB Meeting

6. Date of next meetings:

- Tuesday 7th January 2014, 4pm, Holme Lacy Campus.