

Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 10th November 2015

Chair: Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** Cathy Meredith (CM), Clare Greener (CG), David Harlow (DH), Debbie Gittoes (DG), Helen Thomas (HT), Ian Peake (IP), Karen Usher (KU), Matt Hayes (MH), Mike Ashton (MA), Nick Read (NR)

In attendance: Gill Hamer (GH), Graham Powell (GP), Ian Binks (IB), Matt Lloyd (ML), Rachel Jones (RJ), Nick Webster (NW),

Apologies: John Read (JR), Linda Smith (LS), Stephen Eckley (SE), Sue Browning (SB).

1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. New members were welcomed – Debbie Gittoes from Arctic Circle and Cllr David Harlow.

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2015 were approved and the actions were reviewed:

- 15/9 Action 1:** Invite Ian Binks from BT to attend a future board meeting. **FM**
Complete – Ian Binks and Matt Lloyd attending today's meeting.
- 15/9 Action 2:** Invite Matt Smith from Fastershire to attend a future board meeting. **RJ**
Complete – Graham Powell attending today's meeting for Fastershire
- 15/9 Action 3:** Discuss mobile phone problems in Herefordshire with Jesse Norman MP. **FM**
Ongoing
- 19/5 Action 4:** Identify potential business representatives from Defence and Security. **LS**
Ongoing - Information has been sent to FM/RJ and needs progressing
- 19/5 Action 5:** Discuss potential manufacturing business representatives. **NW/SE**
Ongoing - DG is new to the group from a manufacturing business.
- 19/5 Action 6:** Ideas for any businesses to be sent to Rachel for coordination. **All**
Ongoing - RJ and GP will meet with FM to progress
- 19/5 Action 7:** Schools curriculum initiative, interested members to make contact HBB
Ongoing – FM and KU are progressing and will continue to feedback and approach people to take part. Interest from the education sector is high.
- 19/5 Action 8:** Summary information about Growth Hub to be provided when available. **NW**
Complete – the Business Solutions Centre will be launched on 12th November. The first big event for the Marches Growth Hub Herefordshire will be a Business Support Showcase on the 17th November being held as part of a suite of events in Herefordshire for Global Entrepreneurship Week. The website (www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk) has been live about three weeks and continues to be developed, feedback is welcomed.

3. Broadband

There were presentations from BT and Fastershire giving an overview of the BT provision in Herefordshire relating to the Fastershire project. Milestones are being met and plans are in place for the next phase of the project which will take place in 2016 once the current contracts end. The ambition is to deliver Broadband to 97% of Herefordshire and delivery will be contracted to providers to deliver broadband to “everyone who wants it by 2018” through a variety of lots and bespoke support.

Copies of the presentation attached with the minutes.

4. NMITE / Herefordshire University

KA provided an update on NMITE:

- Fundraising is progressing through a variety of sources; philanthropy, industry and gifting.
- Second stage discussions taking place with a wide-range of industry representatives.
- The announcement of the Founding President will be made at the turn of the year.
- Conversations are ongoing with Herefordshire Council about the location of university buildings and student accommodation.
- An intern programme is being developed with the founder to go live in January 2016; this should provide 20 – 40 interns to Herefordshire businesses.
- NMITE is working with West Mercia and Warwickshire Police to set up a campus with Qinetiq in Malvern for cyber security students. This is expected to launch in 2016.
- In relation to Action 7 from 15/9 (above) KU appealed for help with speaking to schools. NMITE is keen to help schools develop methods inside the curriculum to help make students more employable.
- There will be more information and articles in the Hereford Times over the coming months.

6. Information Sharing – Marches LEP and Herefordshire Business Board

This is a two way process to ensure that the Business Board is aware of key issues for the LEP and to feed in comments and information from Herefordshire colleagues.

- **Consultation with manufacturers on skills training**
Board members will have received an invitation to a discussion event for manufacturing and engineering businesses. This is a follow on from the survey earlier in the year to test the responses and help develop procurement proposals for the Skills Capital pot of £2.7m. Further discussions will be held with local providers.
- **Marches LEP project longlist**
This was shared with the Board after the last board meeting (15th September) and the list is now being taken to the LEP Board. Proposals being put forward from Herefordshire include
 - NMITE / Herefordshire University
 - Incubation Centre on the Enterprise Zone
 - Research and Development Centre (with links to NMITE)
 - Enterprise Zone for Model Farm in Ross-on-Wye
 - Regeneration of Three Elms Trading Estate
 - Transport schemes – Western relief road and the Leominster southern link roadIt should become clearer what types of projects might be supported by the Government after the Autumn Spending Review and when it is known which departments will be contributing to the pot.
- **Midlands Engine**
This paper was circulated for information. GH and Graham Wynn will attend the meeting on behalf of the Marches LEP to be part of the discussions around the developing Midlands Engine.
- **Devolution Deals**
The three Marches local authorities have been discussing potential devolution deals and will be meeting to discuss common challenges with a view to showing Marches priorities with local priorities for each area underneath.

The Board discussed how they could be involved in these types of conversations at an earlier point so that they could be better informed and help to develop and back the different projects and proposals.

It was agreed that there would be standing items on future agendas around information sharing, broadband and the economic masterplan and that we can do more to involve people in discussions. Board members have to ensure they “do their homework” by reading background papers so that they can be part of the conversation.

7. Any other business

- FM had been to visit the Robert Owen School. DG is the Chair of Governors and gave an overview of the school and its aims.
- It was suggested that a future agenda is given over to a skills discussion with all partners
Action 1: Future agenda item **FM/RJ**
- An invitation has been circulated for a “Next generation food and farming” event at Harper Adams. Herefordshire delegates are unable to attend because it is the Rural Business Advice day. Jacqui Casey is attending on behalf of the LEP and will be asked to gather information for circulation.
Action 2: Contact JC to arrange for feedback to the Board **RJ**

8. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 5th January 2016. 4pm – 6pm.

Hereford Business Solutions Centre, Skylon Court, Coldnose Road, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6JS

10. Close
