

## Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

### Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Chair:** Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** Cathy Meredith (CM), Helen Thomas (HT), Ian Peake (IP), John Read (JR), Karen Usher (KU), Mike Ashton (MA), Nick Read (NR)

**In attendance:** Jacqui Casey (JC), Gill Hamer (GH), Graham Powell (GP), Nick Webster (NW), Rachel Jones (RJ), Seng Yeo (SY).

**Apologies:** Clare Greener (CG), David Harlow (DH), Debbie Gittoes (DG), Linda Smith (LS), Matt Hayes (MH), Stephen Eckley (SE), Sue Browning (SB).

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted

#### 2. Minutes and actions from last meeting(s)

The minutes of the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were approved and the actions were reviewed:

**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*

**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.

**10/11 Action 1: Completed** – Skills discussion is the key item on today's agenda

**10/11 Action 2: Completed** – JC to send the notes to RJ for circulation to the Board (copy attached with minutes).

#### 3. Skills and Education in Herefordshire

##### NMITE

- Key progress was the Autumn Statement and the Chancellors support of NMITE with the intent to support the university during this parliament.
- All the universities in the Marches LEP area met in November to discuss their plans and curriculums.
- Priority for NMITE now is planning for capital.

##### Hereford University Centre

- Herefordshire and Ludlow College (HLC) have campuses at Holme Lacy, Hereford and Ludlow with 2200 full time and over 6000 part time students. This includes over 1000 apprentices and 400 higher education students.
- The university centre showcases the existing HE provision in Herefordshire and recognises the links to and the franchise programmes delivered by HLC in association with Worcester University.
- The university centre will raise educational aspirations to study locally to a higher level and is a platform for growth.
- A series of business seminars with academic content are planned. Understanding the value of health and wellbeing to the economy was raised as a potential seminar subject.

**Action 1:** Board members to submit seminar ideas to IP. **ALL**

### **Marches Skills Update**

- A key element of the Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) is the requirement to prioritise the funding under the Marches Skills Plan. The Skills Plan was developed in 2012/2013 and is in need of a refresh. The LEP has commissioned Regeneris to review the data for both the Skills Plan and the SEP. This will also help inform the Post 16 review being undertaken by the Skills Funding Agency and help shape and influence funding.  
**Action 2:** Updated data to be brought to a future HBB meeting for review. **GH**
- The skills section of the Marches Growth Hub goes live w/c 11<sup>th</sup> January. Feedback would be appreciated to help develop those pages.  
**Action 3:** Provide feedback on [www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk](http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk) skills pages. **ALL**
- Alexia Heath (Post 16 Senior Advisor at Herefordshire Council) is planning an event to promote apprenticeships to employers during National Apprenticeship Week (14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March). HBB to be kept informed.

### **Schools Curriculum Initiative**

- The initiative is about working with schools and businesses to get better understanding, on both sides, of education, industry, skills and curriculum to get the talent we need.
- HLC has regular events where students and businesses meet, include the apprenticeships and workplace assessments.
- Chamber has launched a similar scheme and would like to do the same in Herefordshire.  
**Action 4:** Interested parties to work together with the relevant organisations to develop a co-ordinated project. **ALL**

### **Attracting Employees to Herefordshire**

- SY gave an overview of his experience of employing talent to the Wye Valley NHS Trust and into Herefordshire. The hospital and business are interlinked; helping business with recruitment helps the hospital and vice-versa. Appears to be a common problem and how to push Herefordshire as a place to live and work is important.  
**Action 5:** Interested parties to work together with the relevant organisations to develop a co-ordinated project. **ALL**

### **4. Information Sharing – Herefordshire Council**

- The Herefordshire Masterplan is about how we develop the resources to achieve the growth Herefordshire requires. It will look at both Herefordshire Council other projects to see how we might achieve it.
- The background is being written and a first draft should be ready for consultation towards the end of February and HBB will be involved. Other consultation will take place in the market towns and around the County.
- The masterplan will inform the Herefordshire elements of the Marches SEP and future Growth Deal bids.  
**Action 6:** Dedicate a meeting (1<sup>st</sup> March 2016) for HBB to respond to the Masterplan consultation. **FM/NW/RJ**

### **5. 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.
- In addition to the updates covered in the previous items GH confirmed that the Marches Investment Fund is still available and applications have been received. The LEP is getting ready for the next round of Growth Deal and confirmations have been received for projects allocated funds in previous Growth Deal rounds, this includes the South Wye package for Herefordshire.
- HBB will be involved with the refresh of the SEP, the focus of which is jobs and growth.
- Some funding programmes have gone live in the Marches including LEADER and the Growth Programme.

### **6. Any other business**

- Mandy Thorn, Chair of the Shropshire Business Board has approached FM with the suggestion of holding a joint meeting for all three business boards.  
**Action 7:** Progress a joint Business Board meeting with Mandy. **FM**

- Marches LEP is holding its Annual Conference in April, further information will be circulated.
- Board members asked if minutes were available for the other LEP business boards.

**Action 8:** Circulate links to Marches LEP business boards and minutes to HBB. **RJ**

**7. Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 2st March 2016. Timings to be confirmed but room booked from 2pm – 6pm.  
Hereford Business Solutions Centre, Skylon Court, Coldnose Road, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6JS

**8. Close**