

Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 5th January 2016

Chair: Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** David Harlow (DH), Debbie Gittoes (DG), Helen Thomas (HT), Ian Peake (IP), John Read (JR), Karen Usher (KU), Linda Smith (LS), Matt Hayes (MH), Nick Read (NR), Stephen Eckley (SE).

In attendance: Alexia Heath (AH), Gill Hamer (GH), Graham Powell (GP), Nick Webster (NW), Rachel Jones (RJ), Simon Hooton (SH).

Apologies: Clare Greener (CG), Cathy Meredith (CM), Mike Ashton (MA).

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 5th January 2016 were approved and the actions were reviewed:

- 05/01 Action 1:** Board members to submit seminar ideas (Hereford University Centre) to IP. **ALL Complete** - no further action required. Members should feed any ideas direct to IP.
- 05/01 Action 2:** Updated data to be brought to a future HBB meeting for review. **GH Complete** - see today's agenda.
- 05/01 Action 3:** Provide feedback on www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk skills pages. **ALL Complete** – board to provide feedback as required.
- 05/01 Action 4:** Schools curriculum initiative - Interested parties to work together with the relevant organisations to develop a co-ordinated project. **ALL Project is progressing** - there is a meeting at Arctic Circle on 2/3/2016
- 05/01 Action 5:** Attracting employees to Herefordshire - Interested parties to work together with the relevant organisations to develop a co-ordinated project. **ALL Complete** - on today's agenda
- 05/01 Action 6:** Herefordshire Economic Master Plan - Dedicate a meeting (1st March 2016) for HBB to respond to the Masterplan consultation. **FM/NW/RJ Complete** - on today's agenda
- 05/01 Action 7:** Joint Marches Business Boards meeting - Progress a joint Business Board meeting with Mandy. **FM Ongoing** - date needs to be confirmed.
- 05/01 Action 8:** Circulate links to Marches LEP business boards and minutes to HBB. **RJ Complete** - The links will be included at the bottom of HBB minutes.

3. Marches LEP Evidence Base

Simon Hooton from Regeneris Consulting presented an overview of the evidence base for an updated Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and a new Marches LEP Skills Action Plan. The aim of the work is to “provide a robust and updated evidence base to underpin the Marches Strategic Economic Plan and development of a Skills Plan.

Information was presented on economic trends, looking forward at the Marches economy, key messages from the business views survey and the emerging skills plan followed by a discussion of the key issues. A key question raised was about comparing the Marches to similar LEP areas (in addition to the comparisons to all the other LEPs) to see how they compare; are they performing better, do they have similar issues and is there something we can learn.

Once the reports are finalised there will be further discussion with the Business Boards to decide the next phase.

A copy of the slides is included with the notes.

4.1 Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan – Project Longlist

NW talked through the paper on the project longlists for the Marches Strategic Economic Plan. Herefordshire projects which have been brought to the Board in previous meetings have been included:

1. NMITE / Herefordshire University
2. The implementation of the Hereford Bypass
3. Incubation Centre and Research and Development Centre (with links to NMITE) on the Enterprise Zone
4. Delivery of the Model Farm employment site in Ross-on-Wye
5. Regeneration of Three Elms Trading Estate, Hereford
6. Implementation of the Leominster Sustainable Urban Extension, including the town's southern link road.

Following a series of engagements with major businesses across Herefordshire the council are preparing a further submission to the list which aims to improve the access arrangements for rurally based business parks and businesses to facilitate company growth and job creation.

All the above schemes meet the LEP (and government's) strategic aspirations to create new jobs, build new houses, and address the skills gap.

The Board were asked if they were still supportive of those projects being put forward. Support was unanimous. Board members proposed that they could provide letters of support for the Hereford Bypass. The Board agreed to perform a role in contributing to an ongoing pipeline of project submissions to the Marches LEP, and other relevant funding routes.

Action 1: Further discussion on the Hereford Bypass project, timings and communications to be an agenda item at the next HBB meeting. **FM/NW/RJ**

4.2 Herefordshire Economic Master Plan

A series of consultation exercises are being run around the County to help develop an Economic Master Plan for Herefordshire. The briefing paper had been circulated before the meeting highlighting that the aim of the plan is "to create the right conditions for economic growth and to move towards a higher value economy"

The Economic Master Plan will initially focus on achieving the following set of objectives:

1. To identify priority projects that can improve conditions for future economic growth;
2. To identify priority projects that can generate a higher value economy;
3. To help guide investment to and within the County;
4. To act as a vehicle to raise the profile of the County regionally, nationally and internationally;
5. To inform our negotiations with government, partner Local Authorities and crucially the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership;
6. To identify a set of outcomes or targets which can be used to monitor and measure progress towards our growth ambitions;
7. To build upon the statutory policy framework, including the Local Plan; and
8. To lock plans into the funding structure to develop 'shovel-ready' projects.

The Board broke into two groups and worked on Herefordshire maps to identify potential projects, locations and plans that could help achieve the objectives. The information will be collated and included with information received from the other consultation results.

There will be an opportunity for further discussions as the plan is developed and HBB will be involved again. The aim is to launch an endorsed plan in July 2016.

Action 2: Further discussion on the Herefordshire Master Plan to be an agenda item at a future HBB meeting. **FM/NW/RJ**

5. Any other business

FM had received an invitation from Inspector Nick Semper to a Business Crime reduction seminar but is unable to attend.

Action 3: Circulate details of the Business Crime Reduction Seminar to HBB members. **RJ**

The next Business Schools Initiative meeting (see **05/01 Action 4:** above) is being held at Arctic Circle on 2/3. HBB members welcome.

There is event on 18th March, as part of National Apprenticeship Week, for employers who are interested in taking on an apprentice. For further information and to book a place click here: <http://bit.ly/24Dlunw>

6. Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 26th April 2016, 4pm – 6pm

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

7. Close

Links to Marches strategic boards (ctrl & click to follow the links):

[Marches LEP](#)

[Herefordshire Business Board](#)

[Hereford Enterprise Zone / Skylon Park](#)

[Shropshire Business Board](#)

Telford Business Board – *to be confirmed*