

Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 14th December 2016

Chair: Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** Bill Jackson (BJ), David Harlow (DH), Debbie Gittoes (DG), John Jones (JJ), Mike Ashton (MA).

In attendance: Nick Webster (NW), Rachel Jones (RJ).

Apologies: Gill Hamer (GH), Karen Usher (KU), Mary Thompson (MT), Stephen Eckley (SE).

1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

14/12 Action 1: Declarations of interest forms to be circulated at HBB meetings and kept on file. **RJ**

2. Herefordshire Business Board

The paper outlining the role and responsibilities of the Business Board was circulated and discussed.

The purpose of the board is clear:

- To assess future trends affecting the economic wellbeing of Herefordshire and to provide the views of the business community in order to influence future plans.
- to influence and lobby and to ensure that these opinions are heard
- to feed information into the LEP for wider influence and lobbying
- to be representational of key Herefordshire projects

Where possible HBB meetings will be held in the week before Marches LEP board meetings so that the HBB can have sight of board papers to enable HBB to feed in their views to the LEP.

HBB is working in partnership with Herefordshire Council and the Council have a role to horizon scan and feed information from the LEP and other sources into the Business Board so that these can be properly considered in the formation of the Business Board's opinion.

The Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan is being refreshed in early 2017 and the HBB will be included in the SEP consultation and have timely input.

Subject to board approval membership could flex to include future strategically important projects that should be involved within the conversation regarding Herefordshire, NW gave the example of the Cyber Security centre project as a potential future board member.

Groups that feed into the Business Board were discussed and broadly mirror the key sectors identified by the Marches LEP. Members were asked to nominate organisations to represent the sub-groups, who will have a role to inform the Business Board and have places on Marches LEP sub-groups where appropriate.

14/12 Action 2: Please send nominations to RJ and FM to be collated for future decision making. **ALL**

Small business involvement was discussed and it was agreed that business speed networking events already being held could be utilised to gather opinions from the wider business base. Herefordshire Council, as the Marches Growth Hub, and the Chamber will look at putting on some joint events, with HBB involvement and HBB board members could attend and indicate their support.

It is important that opinions gathered at events and fed into the HBB are co-ordinated locally and expectations managed, but it is a real opportunity for the Board to hear what local business feelings are, respond to them and feed them into LEP as appropriate.

3. Economic Vision for Herefordshire

NW presented the final draft of the Herefordshire vision document which has a dual role as an Economic Development Strategy and more widely as a pitch-book to investors. This is an aspirational document and shows the types of opportunities which could be available and delivered in Herefordshire over the next five, ten and fifteen years.

The vision will be launched at an event in the New Year and the HBB will be involved. The vision will be updated on an annual basis so there is an opportunity to include new projects that come forward as part of a project pipeline. Developing a project pipeline, updates on project progress and new projects will be part of the regular board discussions.

14/12 Action 3: Copy of the Herefordshire Vision to be circulated. **RJ**

14/12 Action 4: Discuss HBB support to the economic vision launch. **FM, DH, NW**

4. Autumn Statement

NW circulated a paper summarising highlights from the autumn statement of 23rd November. MA noted that the Chamber was disappointed at the lack of detail in the statement, particularly around trade.

14/12 Action 4: Bring further information on the autumn statement and other announcements to the Board when more details are available. **NW**

5. Marches LEP

The LEP does not know the final settlement it can expect on the latest Growth Deal application, there has been contact from Government and discussions are underway. The LEP are hopeful of an announcement before the Christmas break and information will be circulated.

14/12 Action 5: Find out from LEP about levels of confidentiality when disseminating LEP documentation. **FM**

6. Any Other Business

The Hereford Enterprise Zone, Chamber and other local businesses took part in a very successful Midlands Engine mission to Baltimore looking at trade and inward investment opportunities for a “Cyber Valley”. A delegation will be coming to the UK next year and a return visit to Baltimore planned.

MA is retiring on 31st March 2017 and interviews for his successor are currently taking place.

7. Dates of Future Meetings:

- Tuesday 17th January 2017
- Tuesday 14th March
- Wednesday 17th May
- Tuesday 11th July
- Tuesday 19th September
- Tuesday 21st November

All meetings will be held at the Hereford Business Solutions Centre, Skylon Court, Coldnose Road, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6JS

8. Close

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

[Hereford Enterprise Zone / Skylon Park](#)

[Herefordshire Business Board](#)

[Marches LEP](#)

[Shropshire Business Board](#)

Telford Business Board – *to be confirmed*