

Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 14th March 2017

Chair: Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** David Harlow (DH), Doug Barrat (DB), Karen Usher (KU) Ian Peake (IP), Sharon Smith (SS),

In attendance: Gill Hamer (GH), Kevin Singleton (KS), Mairead Lane (ML), Mike Forrester (MF), Nick Webster (NW), Rachel Jones (RJ).

Apologies: Bill Jackson (BJ), Debbie Gittoes (DG), John Jones (JJ), Mary Thompson (MT), Stephen Eckley (SE).

1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies were noted. Declarations of Interest forms were completed and will be scanned and kept on file.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Actions Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved. Actions were reviewed as follows:

17/01 Action 1: Completed Midlands Engine Investment Fund.

Event was held at the Left Bank in Hereford on 08/03/17. There were approximately 70 attendees and feedback was positive.

17/01 Action 2: Completed Herefordshire Great Places Bid/Herefordshire Cultural Partnership.

FM is in touch with Nic Millington and updates will be shared with the board as appropriate.

17/01 Action 3: Completed Herefordshire Cultural Partnership/Hereford City of Culture.

Information circulated with notes and actions on 23/01/17.

17/01 Action 4: Completed Hereford City Area Plan.

Agenda item at HBB meeting 14/03/17.

17/01 Action 5: Completed Member for Marches LEP Agri-Food Sub Group.

Nominee Andrew Henry, General Manager of Allensmore Nurseries Ltd is representing Herefordshire.

17/01 Action 6: Completed Nomination for Doug Barrat to join HBB.

DB joins the HBB from the meeting on 14/03/17.

17/01 Action 7: Ongoing Marches Business Improvement Grant.

HBB to nominate a representative for the MBIG steering group.

3. Hereford City Area Plan

KS and ML presented an overview of the process and timescales of the work around the Hereford Transport Package and the Hereford Area Plan. Key pieces of work were highlighted and the need to undertake thorough consultation is important, support of the business community is vital and the HBB has a role and are encouraged to take part in the consultations and share information with their networks.

14/03 Action 1: HBB to take part in the consultations and to voice their support for the projects. **ALL**

14/03 Action 2: Invitations to the consultation business breakfast and other events are circulated. **RJ**

14/03 Action 3: Arrange for a consultation event to take place with the colleges. **IP/KS/ML**

4. Herefordshire Vision

NW presented the newest version of the Herefordshire Vision which combines the Economic Strategy for Herefordshire with investment opportunities which could be brought forward in the county. HBB has a role to

help the local authority to programme manage the vision. A launch is being planned in London in the summer and this event will be followed by local events in the following months. HBB will be invited to attend and champion the vision at the events and with their own networks.

A recommendation was made to the board, which was supported, where it was agreed that HBB has a role to help with the coordination of the programme of regeneration projects and investment opportunities across the county having particular regard to media and communications messages, management between projects of finances and budgets, potential collaboration between individual projects.

14/03 Action 4: Information on events to be circulated. **RJ/NW**

14/03 Action 5: A plan of works to be drafted and brought back to the HBB. **NW**

5. NMiTE

A series of announcements are to be made regards the project and all are very good news and will cover staffing, building plans and more. It has been formally announced by government that the university will be receiving £8m funding with the possibility of further funds to be confirmed.

6. Horizon Scan

A request to feedback information into the Industrial Strategy consultation for the Marches LEP and Herefordshire Council was made. An email had been sent to HBB today with a series of questions which can be commented on.

14/03 Action 6: Respond to the Industrial Strategy questions. **ALL**

7. Marches LEP

Herefordshire has had some good successes in the latest Growth Deal announcements; £8m for NMiTE and £2.8m for the cyber security centre. IP has also been part of a successful bid for all the colleges across the Marches who will receive £2.7m for IT and infrastructure.

The Marches LEP will be sponsoring a business event in Herefordshire on the 13th June at the racecourse in Hereford. Working with colleagues from HW Chamber, FSB, Herefordshire Council and Wolverhampton University the event will be a showcase for projects in Herefordshire and include workshops subjects such as export, business rates and access to finance.

8. Any other business

The role of the sector groups (sub-groups), membership and communications between them and the HBB was discussed. There is a requirement to have representatives from Herefordshire on each of the Marches LEP sector groups and to have links between the HBB and those representatives and their local sector groups to ensure good representation and information sharing. It was agreed that sector group reps will be invited to be observers at the HBB, but will not be HBB members. Further work needs to be undertaken to ascertain the sector groups and representatives in Herefordshire along with agreeing that ways of communication and information sharing.

14/03 Action 7: Draft a paper identifying Herefordshire sector groups and representatives, including identifying ways of communicating and sharing information. **NW/RJ**

9. Dates of Future Meetings:

- Wednesday 17th May
- Tuesday 11th July
- Tuesday 12th September
- Tuesday 14th November

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

10. 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*