

Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 11th July 2017

Chair: Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** Bill Jackson (BJ), Debbie Gittos (DG), Doug Barrat (DB), Ian Peake (IP), John Jones (JJ), Sharon Smith (SS),

In attendance: David Sheppard (DS), Nick Webster (NW).

Apologies: David Harlow (DH), Gill Hamer (GH), Karen Usher (KU), Mary Thompson (MT), Stephen Eckley (SE), Rachel Jones (RJ).

1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies 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 7:** **Ongoing.** HBB nomination required for the steering group of the Marches Business Improvement Grant.
- 14/03 Action 1:** **Completed.** HBB invited to take part in consultations.
- 14/03 Action 2:** **Completed.** Invitations circulated.
- 14/03 Action 3:** **Completed.** Consultations events arranged with the colleges.
- 14/03 Action 4:** **Completed.** Information circulated.
- 14/03 Action 5:** **Completed.** Herefordshire Vision and Economic Plan brought back to the HBB.
- 14/03 Action 6:** **Completed.** Information circulated for response from HBB members.
- 14/03 Action 7:** **Ongoing.** Paper drafted identifying Herefordshire sector groups and representatives, including identifying ways of communicating and sharing information. To be brought to future HBB meeting.

FM discussed the support of the Marches LEP and the relationship with the HBB; he has approached the LEP for financial support to facilitate the Board and to build relationships with business.

- 11/07 Action 1:** Obtain copies of Job Description and Person Specification from the LEP and circulate to the Board. **FM**

3. Launch of the Herefordshire Economic Vision

DB gave an overview of the event held at Eastnor Castle on 23rd June, it was well attended and feedback was positive. Plan to develop relationships with key individuals and influencers and will be creating a small working group in the next few weeks.

- 11/07 Action 2:** Provide regular updates to the HBB. **DB**
- 11/07 Action 3:** Circulate the pitch book to HBB. **NW**
- 11/07 Action 4:** Share delegate list with SS. **NW**

4. Herefordshire Bid for UK City of Culture 2021

A paper was circulated about sponsoring the UK City of Culture bid for Herefordshire “21 in 21” and clarifications made about what support was needed and the nomination and shortlist process for the bid.

11/07 Action 5: Roger Morgan to be invited to subsequent HBB meetings if bid is successful. **FM**

5. NMiTE

The team are working on the curriculum (including working locally with the colleges around collaboration on curriculum) and development plan and looking to recruit a company liaison. Meetings are being held with the Department of Education and the LEP with the expectation of announcements on funding in August or September. A property guidance panel is being created and plan to pitch the opportunity to developers for developing living and teaching accommodation. NMiTE are also looking at opportunities in the city in existing buildings. First student intake, creative cohort of 25, is planned for September 2018 with fee paying students arriving in September 2020.

6. Horizon Scan

NW provided an update on two new funding initiatives that were emerging from government. The first was the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund – looking to support some specific industrial sectors to encourage innovation to a world leading standard. Specific sectors were Robotics, Self-drive vehicles, Composites, clean energy technology, satellites and space technologies, bioscience and biotechnology. These are the supported sectors in the governments emerging Industrial Strategy but there is the potential for other sectors to be included. The fund is worth £300m in 17/18, NW will establish future funds and application route.

The second emerging opportunity is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which is seen as a replacement for EU funding and would cover the same economic development and regional development aspects. The fund should rebalance economy – attempting to support activity in lagging areas. Government are looking to publish a Green Paper on fund by end 2017, the LEP and HC have potential to gain early involvement in discussions with government to shape the fund. Government are looking to potentially launch before leaving the EU.

11/07 Action 6: Circulate report and information on sectors and innovation. **NW**

7. Marches LEP

Marches Skills Board round table events are being planned and HBB are asked to input to the agendas. The next round table in Herefordshire will be in October. It has been proposed at the Marches Skills Board that only colleges and FE/HE institutes attend the Skills Board, IP has proposed that at least one business per area should attend.

11/07 Action 7: Business representation on the Marches Skills Board - Raise as an issue for discussion at the next LEP Board. **BJ**

11/07 Action 8: Business representation on the Marches Skills Board - Raise with GH and Marches LEP Chair via email. **FM**

Information on the Energy Strategy has come to the LEP Board and FM would like it to be shared with the HBB.

11/07 Action 9: Arrange for a synopsis of the Energy Strategy to be circulated to HBB. **NW**

8. Any other business

NMiTE has plans for the Shell Store and site on the Enterprise Zone and are undertaking an audit of equipment required in the centre.

9. Dates of Future Meetings:

- Tuesday 12th September
- Tuesday 14th November

All meetings will be held in the Seminar Room 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*