

## Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

### Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Chair:** Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** David Harlow (DH), Deborah Gittoes (DG), Doug Barrat (DB), Ian Peake (IP), David Sheppard (DS) Mark Pearce (MP), Sharon Smith (SS), Stephen Eckley (SE) and Alison Rogers (AR).

**In attendance:** Gill Hamer (GH). Daisie Rees Evans (DRE), Nic Millington (NM)

**Apologies:** Mary Thompson (MT), Eric Drummond (ED), Gareth Williams (GW), Andrew Henry (AH) and Karen Usher (KU).

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#### 1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting and Actions Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the board.

The following actions have been **completed** since the last meeting:

**23/01 Action 1:** Meet to progress ideas around skills. **FM, IP, SS, DG**

**13/03 Action 2:** Circulate information about the Worcestershire Skills Show. **SS**

The following actions are **ongoing**:

**14/11 Action 1:** Marches LEP Skills Programme Officer to collate learning from other rural areas to help delivery in Herefordshire. **GH**

**14/11 Action 2:** Agree the recruitment process, role and responsibilities of the sector champions and work with the nominations committee (FM, DG, JJ) to recruit to the roles. **NW**

**14/11 Action 3:** Set in place a process of monthly reporting from the Marches Growth Hub. **NW/GH**

**13/03 Action 1:** Progress the questions around skills with the Marches Skills Board and local representatives to develop a full picture of skills in Herefordshire in order to develop future plans. **FM, IP, SS, DG**

Whilst reviewing the minutes of the last meeting, FM commented that whilst engaging in the process of recruiting more Board Members and Sector Champions it was becoming increasingly difficult to explain the difference. He suggested that it would be more logical to remove the differentiation and treat all attendees as Board Members. This was unanimously agreed.

#### 3. Consultation Workshop

Currently the LEP wants to evaluate the Strategic Economic Plan to determine what they've achieved so far and what the next strategic steps should be including areas that need further investment. Next week they are meeting for a workshop and the outcome will then help to inform the consultation workshop for the Business Boards.

Proposed that the consultation workshop should be run at next Business Board meeting (10<sup>th</sup> July) this will take around an hour. This was approved by the board.

#### 4. Skills Show

There are plans to have an Annual event in July to help people of all ages understand the local sectors and skills they can become involved with. The event has been replicated in both Telford and Shropshire with a good turnout. It will be a chance for employers to use it as a recruitment event and make it as interactive as possible.

Need to get both schools and employers to buy into this to make sure people get the best out of it and, to make sure everyone can attend, they are planning on having the event from late afternoon until early evening.

#### 5. Marches Business Improvement Grant and Marches Skills Board nomination

DB put himself forward for the MBIG  
DG put herself forward for the Skills Board

Both of these nominations were accepted

##### Completed actions:

**17/01 Action 7:** HBB nomination required for the steering group of the Marches Business Improvement Grant. **ALL**

**11/07 Action 8:** Business representation on the Marches Skills Board needed. **FM**

#### 6. Herefordshire Investment Partnership

Hereford Bypass consultation recently finished and there were over 1500 respondents for the consultation. There are six route options that need to be narrowed down to a preferred route and then go to consultation again. DB has met with Bill Wiggin MP and Jesse Norman MP separately to discuss building the Hereford Bypass and both seem to understand its importance for businesses.

They've recently completed a draft report for the new Enterprise Park (Model Farm) at Ross on Wye. In Bromyard they have applied for residential planning permission and Keepmoat Homes are looking at a factory site in Bromyard but also looking elsewhere due to current road infrastructure. The Link Road was initially developed to open up more land and this has allowed for a health practice to be developed and will help the area become the new transport hub. Development of the football club is looking promising and Premier Inn will be coming in near the football site meaning more opportunities for people.

It is clear from people outside the county that Hereford must concentrate on and give emphasis to being joined up in communicating what they are doing and the positive outcomes of projects and campaigns. Having a more joined up approach will help increase interest in Businesses to come to Hereford. It was suggested that NM put together a few paragraphs describing how HBB could be at the centre of creating and managing this joined up communication strategy and he agreed to do so. HBB would then turn to the MLEP for ideas about how to fund this initiative.

**15/05 Action 1:** To put forward a few paragraphs to help show a more joined up message about Herefordshire and to indicate the required budget **NM**

**15/05 Action 2:** To consider how to fund a budget that would help ensure that Hereford has a good joined up message. **GH**

## **7. NMiTE**

The University is building the team and currently will have six members of faculty arriving from June onwards from around the Globe. Still developing the Academic Plan and that will need to be approved by the University of Warwick in January. Planning and pre-application underway to have two student hall buildings south of Link Road which will house the first cohort that comes to the University.

They're currently talking with employers on how businesses can recycle the Apprenticeship Levy and up-skill their workers into Level 4/5 to Level 7 with NMiTE.

The faculty salaries reflect the salaries at the University of Warwick and are on-par with other Universities, basing it on Jobs.ac.uk and the Times. NMiTE want to create a high level institution and in order to do that they need good quality lecturers.

Given the negative emphasis on Faculty salaries in the recent Hereford Times, it was suggested that it would be helpful for HBB members to receive briefings from time to time about the progress being made and the governance arrangements being put in place. This would enable them to be informed as ambassadors for the project. DS agreed to provide this.

**15/05 Action 3:** DS to provide updates from time to time to enable HBB Members to be fully briefed as ambassadors. **DS**

## **8. Updates from Board Members**

### **Hereford Enterprise Zone – MP**

Have 30 businesses moving to the Enterprise Zone and over 4000 sq. feet is being built. There have been quite a few positive news stories but with negative titles from the Hereford Times and they have been spoken to about this because it doesn't help matters.

### **Marches Growth Hub Herefordshire – SS**

Sharon noted that the Chambers of Commerce Nationally still have the largest voice of business in the 2 Counties, and as the 7th largest Chamber, Herefordshire and Worcestershire play a big role in the National picture. Contact from the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC) with top Government is very regular, with only this week the Director General of the BCC writing to the Prime Minister. The emphasis of the letter supported our discussion on skills, noting that aside from Brexit, there are major issues at home in Britain that urgently need addressing.

Members of the Board were interested in the letter that BCC wrote to the Prime Minister as this could help with the skills agenda.

**15/05 Action 4:** Circulate letter if possible from the BCC **SS**

The Queens Award had a good number of entries but unfortunately no winners this year, hopefully there will be more applicants for the Award next year from Herefordshire. There are lots of Herefordshire businesses as finalists at the Chamber Awards and hopefully in June there will be some winners!

### **Hereford BID – AR**

The BID is currently working on projects to reduce the misconceptions of Hereford and to promote the positivity of Herefordshire. The Weeping Window display at the Cathedral was a great success, it brought people in to Hereford and showed that Hereford are driven to have projects like this in the area.

The BID is currently working on trying to put Hereford on the map and one way to do that is to showcase blacksmithing.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Mary Thompson will be leaving the Business Board as she will be moving elsewhere with Cargill. Her place will be taken by John Reid

Gareth Williams, Managing Director of Caplor, will be joining the Business Board to represent the Energy and Renewables sector.

Next meeting will be moved to July 10<sup>th</sup> in order for it to take place before the school holidays commence

## **10. Dates of Future Meetings:**

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

All meetings will be held in the Seminar Room (unless stated otherwise) at the Hereford Business Solutions Centre, Skylon Court, Coldnose Road, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6JS

## **11. Close**

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**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*