

Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 5th February 2019

Chair: Frank Myers (FM). **Present:** Abigail Appleton (AA), Christian Dangerfield (CD), David Harlow (DH), Debbie Gittoes (DG), Doug Barrat (DB), Gareth Williams (GW), John Reed (JR), Karen Usher (KU), Mark Pearce (MP), Nic Millington (NM), Stephen Eckley (SE).

In attendance: Daisie Rees-Evans (DRE), Nicholas Alamanos (NA), Karen Banks (KB), Roger Allonby (RA).

Apologies: Andrew Henry (AH), Eric Drummond (ED), Ian Peake (IP), Sharon Smith (SS), Gill Hamer (GH).

1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. The Board welcomed Nicholas Alamanos who was a substitute for Gill Hamer, Roger Allonby who is sitting in for Nick Webster, and Karen Banks from the Careers & Enterprise Company.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Actions Arising

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

The following actions are **ongoing**:

14/11/17 Action 2: Set in place a process of monthly reporting from the Marches Growth Hub.
NW/GH

13/03/18 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

DRE to set up meeting.

15/05/18 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**

15/05/18 Action 2: To consider how to fund a budget that would help ensure that Hereford has a good joined up message. **GH**

15/05/18 Action 3: David Sheppard (DS) to provide updates from time to time to enable HBB Members to be fully briefed as ambassadors. **DS**

04/12/18 Action 3: The Board is looking for a support letter they can use to show their support for the Housing Infrastructure Fund project. **NW/FM – Action has been given to Roger Allonby to draft letter**

3. Update on Marketing Herefordshire Message

NM has been taking forward 15/05/18 Action 1 by having further discussions with Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce and looking at any funding the LEP could offer to develop this project.

SS has now put in a application for Business and Culture working together as this is the main theme of how we can market Herefordshire. NM is currently looking into creating a short film to look at all businesses within the county including Micro, SME and larger business to combine with the local culture and creative landscape in Herefordshire. This video will then be shareable and can be a part of seminar series to look at how business and culture can work effectively together.

4. Showcase Herefordshire

From the 18th until the 21st February 2019 Showcase Herefordshire will be at the European Parliament building in Brussels to present Herefordshire to the whole of Europe. Using the large space it will show the journey of Herefordshire and what the county has to offer in terms of business, tourism and culture with a bold and abstract approach.

There will be sensory sculptures designed for the food industry and heritage at the bottom. All of the attraction will be abstract and link to the Shire website that's currently being created and will be a gateway to businesses and other things. There will also be flyers with a call to action for people at the space.

Once this has been at the European Parliament it is hoped that it will then be installed in Hereford to show it off to local people.

5. Update on Careers & Enterprise Company

KB gave a update to Members of the Board including the leaflets the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) are distributing. The leaflets help emphasise that becoming a Enterprise Advisor doesn't have to be strict with the number of hours you spend with the school and can be very flexible. Now have 15/18 Enterprise Advisors and currently have 17 schools engaged with the programme.

Now the Gatsby benchmarking is in place, schools are keen to have Enterprise Advisors and provide career guidance. Having Career leads within the schools will definitely help address the skills agenda.

Board expressed concern that there needs to be pressure put on through the LEP as more needs to change with the education system. Most pupils lack social/life skills and schools are now just having more pressure to achieve the benchmarks on top of everything else they have to do.

Action 1: Daisie to circulate the hardcopies to the Board electronically from the Careers & Enterprise Company update.

6. Hereford Enterprise Zone

Great progress with the zone, ½ million square foot has been established with the private public partnership. Currently there are 38 businesses for the Enterprise Zone and that's growing.

Next stage is the Shell Store which will be a business incubation site as well as an area for the Arts College and that work will start in March. Undergoing the process of the cycle route into town from the zone to make it easier for people to get to/from work.

Action 2: Daisie to circulate the hardcopies of the draft images and facts sheet to the Board electronically.

7. Herefordshire Vision - Herefordshire Investment Partnership

Soon to have a visit from New Market Development who have a history with Herefordshire and they may take an interest in what the county has to offer. There has been some good development with 3 projects in the city and one non-city project and have been successful in receiving funding for one project.

The Marches Build Investment Grant sees a lot of interest from SME's but to obtain the people providing the funding must go through that business with a fine tooth comb and so the process has been lengthy for many. However they are now looking to the LEP for more funding with the Grant due to its popularity and businesses wanting to expand and grow in the county.

8. NMiTE

Project is going well 25 students are currently there with a good gender split, some are from the county, some farther afield and even have some international students. Staff wise also has a good gender split as they don't want to reduce bias. There will be 50 students arriving in September as the test-cohort, those who attend for the full year will receive a 1/3rd towards their Masters and will be given sponsorship as well as a grant for that year and hopefully for the rest of their Masters degree.

Now looking at the Robert Owen building and hoping to secure occupancy to move forward. Have met the Government threshold for March in match funding which is good news and the founders fun has helped to achieve this goal. NMiTE in process to look at 2 grants as well to help with funding.

9. Horizon Scan

Locally, Alistair Neill looking at a restructure of the Economic team to build and develop existing projects more effectively in the county.

Currently there is £25 million funding to re-invigorate the high street in Hereford and also looking at funding for other town centres in order replicate the process. The UK Shared and prosperity fund it set to replace any EU funding and there will be a consultation coming out soon. The City wall project sees the development of the walking path and they are working with Highways England to survey this project.

Action 3: Roger to provide any updates on the bypass to Board Members in upcoming meetings

10. Marches LEP

There are 2 new vacancies for the Board and a Chair vacancy with the LEP. They want a more gender balanced board and would therefore encourage Women to apply for vacancies.

The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has been approved by the Board and now looking ahead to conduct the Local Industrial Strategy. The draft will be completed by Autumn 2019 with the final draft due in 2020.

The LEP will be company limited from the next financial year and will be looking at articles of association as well as public scrutiny for when this does come into place.

Action 4: Nicholas to provide the Board with the updated SEP

11. Any Other Business

12. Dates of Future Meetings:

- Tuesday 2nd April
- Tuesday 28th May
- Tuesday 30th July
- Tuesday 1st October
- Tuesday 3rd December

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

13. 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](#)