

## **Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)**

### **Notes / Actions from the Meeting - Wednesday 31st July 2019**

**Chair:** Frank Myers (FM) **Present:** Abigail Appleton (AA), Christian Dangerfield (CD), Debbie Gittoes (DG), Helen Bowden (HB), Karen Usher (KU), Mark Pearce (MP), Nic Millington (NM) Stephen Eckley (SE), Sharon Smith (SS)

**In attendance:** Gill Hamer (GH), Nick Webster (NW)

**Apologies:** Gareth Williams, Ian Peake, John Reed

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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 are ongoing .....

- A replacement for David Harlow is being sorted out by FM
- Next year's High Sheriff, Trish Thomas, is keen to do something on skills development. FM setting up a meeting - cfwd
- No progress on dealing with conflicts of interest- still on agenda - FM/GH - cfwd
- All to continue raising awareness of Cyber Centre - cfwd
- Cllr Trish Marsh, the cabinet member replacing David Harlow and Cllr David Hitchiner to attend a future meeting - cfwd
- Chair vacancy for LEP has been circulated - done.
- Priorities to discuss with the new cabinet have been passed to FM- done.

#### **3. Bypass update**

HB presented a first idea of an advertisement for The Hereford Times campaign. The sub group will continue finalising this. The press release is likely to go tomorrow to launch the campaign.

The Board received an update from NW. Cabinet member decision to be taken tomorrow, or shortly after - options are start, pause and review or stop, for each project: South Wye Road and Bypass. There is not necessarily a timescale for the 'pause'.

Decision can be 'called in' - scrutiny meeting (3 councillors from 2 parties).

National govt support could potentially be called in by the HBB, if things don't go well.

HBB could also ask for a meeting with Jesse Norman and Bill Wiggin (local MPs), plus Midlands Engine (Sir John) and Midlands Connect (Maria Machancoses) representatives. Plus some businesses, Marches LEP chair, Hfd Business Board, Hfd Investment Partnership and Chamber. Meeting to be with each of the new political (cross political) group leaders, ask Hereford Administration too. Meeting to be early Sept. High level transport forum - strategic leaders session.

**Action Sharon and Frank to discuss, set up**

There are still some questions to ask Marches LEP re: funding, can it to be transferred etc.

**Action - Frank**

#### **4. NMiTE**

KU reported that we are two weeks away from completing on the Robert Owen building. Substantial fundraising and partnership wins have been achieved.

The next cohort of 50 students was intended to start in September 2019, but this will now be January 2020, then a further 200 in September 2020.

#### **5. Horizon Scan**

£5m is being bought forward for spend on the Enterprise Zone.

#### **6. Local Industrial Strategy**

The plan is for a meeting to be held in October - **GH organising**.

#### **7 Marches LEP**

GH reported as follows:

- The LEP had received a briefing from a Wolverhampton University Cyber professor.
- New MLEP Directors had been welcomed.
- A new limited company structure and governance for MLEP have been finalised.

- The Skills Advisory Board is now to be known as a panel with new terms of reference which were agreed.
- The House of Commons public accounts committee report on LEPs is quite critical.
- The risk register was reviewed.

## **8. Any Other Business**

(i) CD informed those present that the bar would re-open in the Green Dragon on the coming Thursday.

## **9. Dates of Future Meetings**

- Tuesday 1 October
- Tuesday 3 December
- 2020 meeting dates to be arranged.

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**Links to Marches strategic boards** (control and click to follow the links)

[Hereford Enterprise Zone / Skylon Park](#)

[Herefordshire Business Board](#)

[Marches LEP](#)

[Shropshire Business Board](#)

[Telford Business Board](#)