

Herefordshire Business Board (HBB)

Notes / Actions from the Meeting - Tuesday 10th September 2019

Chair: Frank Myers (FM) **Present:** Abigail Appleton (AA), Christian Dangerfield (CD), Cllr David Hitchiner (DH), Debbie Gittoes (DG), Gareth Williams (GW), Ian Peake (IP), Mark Pearce (MP), Nic Millington (NM), Stephen Eckley (SE), Sharon Smith (SS),

In attendance: Gill Hamer (GH), Nic Webster (NW), Richard Ball (RB), Roger Allonby (RA)

Apologies: Doug Barrat, John Reed, Karen Usher

1. Welcome and apologies

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. A particular welcome was extended to Cllr David Hitchiner to his first meeting.

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

- Next year's High Sheriff, Trish Thomas, is keen to do something on skills development. FM setting up meeting - cfwd
- All to continue raising awareness of Cyber Centre - cfwd
- SS and FM to discuss setting up meeting with local MPs, Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect, etc, to discuss Bypass
- FM to raise funding questions with Marches LEP re Bypass

3. Bypass update

Another advertisement will appear in The Hereford Times this week. FM reported that of the replies received, more than 95% were in support of the bypass. The crowd funding campaign is going well with a leaflet drop planned for the future.

RB 'call in' yesterday of the decision to pause/review the two packages. The outcome of the debate was that the Council will ask the Cabinet Member to re-consider its decision around four key areas. No timeline to date. The Board

discussed the perceived risk to funding, particularly if the delay takes place up until the end of the financial year.

FM highlighted the possibility that the end outcome of the campaign might be a referendum to vote on the bypass.

MP asked if the Business Board views would be considered within the review. RB agreed they would be. FM had a discussion with Cllr Harrington (JH) who agreed there would be more consultation. DH noted that there had been consultation with businesses to date.

DH offered JH to come to the next HBB meeting.

4. NMiTE

GH reported that the funding application was across the line with £2.34m of spend out of the £8m provision allocated. A further £5.7m to be drawn down shortly.

The lease on the Blackfriars building had been concluded and refurbishment orders commenced. The QAA review will be commencing soon and students commencing the next academic year.

5. Horizon Scan

NM reported that there are no further details about the Shared Prosperity Fund but it is being talked about again.

NM reported on the Hereford Stronger Towns Fund that applies to transport, social and economic projects. There is a competitive bidding process with which HBB and Hereford Bid will be involved. No timeframe is yet available and the prospectus is to follow.

With reference to the Future High Streets Fund, NM reported that we weren't successful.

The Station approach student accommodation has started and is on course for next academic start.

6. Local Industrial Strategy

LIS consultation meeting will be held on Thursday 17 October at 4pm, at Hereford racecourse.

7. Marches LEP

GH outlined the skeleton agenda for the next Marches LEP Board. This includes: LIS consultation, NMiTE presentation, Marches LEP Board governance, changes to Board membership, government year review of LEP, Telford land deal,

Growth Deal report, Access to Finance strategy, developing LEP network and Growth Hub discussion, risk register and reporting.

8. AOB

(i) NW referred to an Invitation to Tender for the Hfd Cultural Partnership to review the publicly owned buildings in Hereford and Kington. Commissioning consultancy is taking place today.

(ii) Admin assistant for BB - FM advised that he is at the interviewing stage.

9. The Board moved into private session in order to discuss a confidential item.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

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

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](#)