

## Herefordshire Business Board

Notes / Actions from the Meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Present:** **Chair:** Neil Kerr (NK), Angela Fitch (AF), Cathy Meredith (CM), Helen Thomas (HT), Jonathan Hines (JH), Joseph Connor (JC), Phil Collins (PC), Ray Stone (RS), Richard Garnett (RG), Mike Ashton (MA), Cllr Roger Phillips (RP), Stephen Eckley (SE). Rachel Jones (RJ), Nick Webster (NW).

**Apologies:** Andrew Sanders (AS), Andy Edwards (AE), Ian Hilditch (IH), Paul Sinclair (PS), Peter Brown (PB).

**In attendance:** Kevin Singleton (KS) Team Leader Strategic Planning, Herefordshire Council.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies noted. PS has resigned from the Board, NK to send a message to him thanking him for his time and input to HBB.

**Action:** NK

### 2. Herefordshire Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy

RP and KS presented information about the Herefordshire Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy. Closing date for responses to the consultations is Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The board asked a variety of questions to clarify their thoughts on the plan and levy.

After discussion the board was in general agreement that HBB is very supportive of the Local Plan and CIL and are confident that it supports and enables the development of housing, jobs, and the provision of employment sites in Hereford, the market towns and rural areas of the County.

However the Board wants to encourage a more ambitious vision in general with specific suggestions in housing and roads infrastructure, and above all in timing of delivery – HC should try to bring forward the many initiatives that support economic regeneration. JJ suggested that an HBB position statement previously submitted to the Council regarding the ELR could be resubmitted, which was widely supported

NK agreed to summarise the points agreed during the meeting and circulate them to the board as a draft of the HBB formal response to the consultations. After input, an agreed response would then be submitted.

**Action:** NK

RS has already responded to the consultation online and he and NK encouraged other board members to respond to the consultation individually if they had particular points to make as well as the joint response from HBB.

**Action:** All

### 3. Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy Refresh

NW presented an outline of the process to be undertaken to refresh the Economic Development Strategy. The aim is to review the priority projects and target additional sectors

to give the County updated baseline data which can be used to inform the Economic Development Strategy, the Marches LEP Growth Plan and Delivery Plan and inform applications for future funding rounds. This is the best way for the HBB to influence MLEP policy and action – by helping shape and deliver the HC Economic Development plan.

NW proposed, and HBB agreed that the business organisations and the HBB would support the Council with this project, JC volunteered to act as the specific HBB partner to the HC economic development team.

**Action:** MA, CM, AF, JC, RJ

#### **4. HBB Development Plans**

There were 11 responses and 1 resignation as a result of the questions sent out by NK. A collation of the responses was circulated. The HBB currently has 13 members plus representation from 3 business organisations and a Councillor from Herefordshire Council making a membership of 17 taking into account the recent resignation.

Terms of reference and a process are already in place and have been used for recruitment to date; this will be used going forward. The process will be transparent and the new positions advertised widely. The goal is to create an updated HBB with a max 20 actively involved members.

It was agreed by HBB that the three business organisations would lead on the review of current board membership, recruit new members and manage the process for nominations and election of the new Chair and Vice-Chair. JJ volunteered to represent HBB throughout the process.

**Action:** MA, CM, AF, JJ, RJ

Some names have already been submitted, but recommendations of people to be invited to apply to be sent RJ. The goal is to try to achieve a balance of sector representation, business size and location around the County.

**Action:** All

It was suggested that an interim chair may be necessary at this point, with a suggestion of a single year appointment, pending the appointment and bedding in of a new LEP chair. This would ensure that HBB and LEP chairs would then recruit in alternate years. Having two vice-chairs will also be considered. A timetable will be drawn up with a completion date of 1<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **5. Date of next meeting:**

- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, please note ***date is subject to change and venue to be confirmed***