

Minutes: Business Forum Meeting

Meeting details

Date	27 th April 2017	Time	10:00-12:00
Location	BioPark, Welwyn Garden City	Recorded by	Molly Curtis

Present

Board	Pam Charman	Kuaconsulting.Com
	Mel Hilbrow	Stanta
	Geraint Burnell	Royston BID
Executive Team	Paul Witcombe	Hertfordshire LEP
	Molly Curtis	Hertfordshire LEP
Invited Guests	Mark Bretton	Hertfordshire LEP
	Adrian Hawkins	Weldability
	Julian Dull	BRE
	Norman Jennings	Hertfordshire LEP

Agenda item 1: Minutes from the last meeting- matters arising

All actions from the previous meeting on 12th January 2017 have been actioned. The board discussed a potential business survey and what could be noted. Ian Taylor offered a survey to send to Paul for guidance with the questions.

Agenda item 2: Low Carbon Innovation Network

Julian Boss-BRE delivered a presentation of the Low Carbon Network proposal. The board had a few concerns and need more information.

The board agreed: To be given more information about the project before making a decision for it to go to the main LEP board.

Action: Molly to circulate the presentation to the board.

Agenda item 3: Access to Finance: Business Survey Results

Amanda Freeland gave information about the Growth Hub and what it has to offer regarding finance. It is funded by Capital money. Paul updated that the LEP have secured £43.96m as new LEP Growth Fund. The LEP are going to deliver a significant number of projects of Innovation and Skills related projects. Stevenage is the main regeneration priority, working to regenerate the town and retail to bring more



people in. The Growth Hub are happy to deliver a workshop and discussion to other businesses to promote what it has to offer. The business survey is to provide finance services for overseas and the DIT are keen to get new exporters. Paul Findlay said that he has helped 5,000 SME's and their customers to export with Innovation Trade.

The board agreed: The survey needs to educate clients. The businesses/banks can refer the programme to the Growth Hub for funding.

Action: Paul to circulate the Business Survey/mapping mid-April.

Agenda item 4: Envoy Programme: PDR dinner

There is an Envoy dinner on 18th May including a discussion on Permitted Development Rights. There is a high concern on the loss of office space. The forum have raised this as an issue over a long period of time and are keen to receive other opinions on the matter. The board suggested the forum should encourage Envoys to become members of the group and to invite them to future meetings.

Action: The forum to address their opinions on PDR by 10th May so they're shared at the dinner on 18th May.

Agenda item 5: LEP response to Industrial Strategy Consultation

The forum shared their opinions on the Industrial Strategy. Mel Hilbrow addressed his concern of the sustainability with business start-ups that face the biggest challenge regarding skills in the workforce. The LEP can't publicize the consultation because of Purdah. The government are interested in place making businesses yet have no narrative with supporting Hertfordshire.

Action: Paul to circulate the Industrial Strategy Draft to the forum.

Agenda item 6: Science and Innovation Audit - update

The Science and Innovation Audit is to be completed by the end of June.

Action: Paul to circulate the audit once completed.

Agenda item 7: Apprenticeship and Skills Survey

Norman Jennings gave information on the survey. It was produced in 2014 and needs to be refreshed. The Herts Chamber need to include the Apprenticeship Levy and Amanda suggested to circulate one version to all clients. Norman asked for the forum's support to proceed with the survey.

The board agreed: The survey should be refreshed and the forum will contribute and use the survey.

Agenda item 8: AOB

The forum said that they are pleased to be working with the LEP and the work they have done so far to support the economic growth in Hertfordshire.



Action: Amanda Freeland to respond to a customer and circulate the finance survey when it is completed in 6 months' time.

Next meeting

Date	20 th July 2017	Time	10:00-12:00
Location	BioPark- Meeting Room 2		

