

Notes and Actions from Growth Hub Board Meeting – 2nd February 2017

Attendees: Gary Woodman (GW)- Chair/ Phoebe Dawson (PD)/ Ian Edwards (IE)/ Cassie Bray (CB)/ Sue Crow (SC)/ Tim Maxfield (TM)/ Roy Irish (RI)/ Steve Singleton (SS)/ Carolyn Davies (CD)/ Mike Goodall (MG)/ Philippa Smith(PS)/ Jane Dobson (JD)/ Ian Priest (IP)/ Rob Morris (RM) / Simon Wilkes (SW)

Actions from previous minutes: Actions from previous minutes have all been completed

WBC Business Plan

Before beginning the presentation PD highlighted

- A challenging year due to staffing levels (2 Business Engagement Officer positions to be filled by end of March)
- European Funding has now been secured
- Internal and external reporting is now in place
- Advised in Worcestershire has been brought in to the WBC remit
- WBC working closely with partners and district councils

Presentation of the WBC Business Plan-

- Inbound Calls- Is it achievable to make the volume of calls with the volume of inbound calls that WBC receives, especially with increased exposure. PD to report back on this and target to be reviewed in June
- Signed data deal now in place with Worcestershire County Council. 3 CRM systems now shared.
- One day business conference to be delivered by WBC as part of ERDF funding- can WBC piggy back on other events? Suggested date for this in November. GW suggested an events calendar is created
- Suggestion that events should be run allowing smaller businesses (0-15) to be involved- not just for funding but perhaps supply chain etc. Larger businesses could be used to promote to small.
- PD Shared information regarding cyber plans and the work that Engagement Manager Kevin Aisbitt is doing for this (Leading on from Blast Cyberfast)

Questions Following Presentation

- GBS Listed as a threat in plan- also to be added as an opportunity **PD**
- Is there a clear distinction between WBC and Chamber? What is the level of recognition of other Growth Hubs?
- Social media Plan/Twitter review
- Business Plan received agreement to be signed off. To be circulated to Business & LEP boards.

European Funding Update from Sue Crow

- 8 European funding bids (around £8 million) have been successful.
- Further information provided via slideshow (attached)

Growth Hub Month/Events

- Growth Hub Month throughout March with events such as the Business Expo (3rd March), Quarterly Partnership Roundtable (7th March) Skills Show (8th March) Redditch Business Leaders (10th March) Launch of ERDF Business support programmes (14th/16th March). WBC will also be supporting the Apprenticeships Levy event.

WLEP update

- The board is now more topics led rather than fixed agenda. 3 key areas have been examined- mentoring programmes, robotics discussion and property review. The next meeting is the 2nd March. The growth fund (round 4) has been confirmed, closing date of 31st March- straight to full application.

Actions for next meeting:

-WBC to record inward calls versus outbound calls which will be reported on in June **PD**

-Paper to be prepared on suggested WBC Business Conference for next meeting- **PD**

-Events calendar to be created to share events including district councils, FSB & Chamber. This is to be added to the WEP agenda **PD**

AOB

-Partnership events

-Continue to use WBC Quarterly Partnership as a key route to engage with partners and stakeholders across the county

- MEIF Launch: could this be incorporated into GH Week?

Date of next meeting: 5th April – 10am

Venue: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, Severn House, Prescott Drive. Worcester WR4 9NE