

**HEREFORD ENTERPRISE ZONE
EXECUTIVE BOARD
7 March 2017**

Present:	In attendance:
Bill Jackson (BJ) Chair	Dorothy Coleman (DC)
Tracey Goodwin (JG)	Nick Webster (NW)
David Harlow (DH)	
Geoff Hughes (GH)	
Neil Kerr (NK)	
Mark Pearce (MP)	

	ACTION
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
Glyn Morgan	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
As per Register of Members' Interests.	
3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2017	
The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January were approved as a correct record.	
4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA	
<p><u>Chair Recruitment</u> The Board reviewed the timetable and process for the recruitment of a new Chair, and agreed that the role be advertised in April and May using promotional articles in local and national business and property magazines.</p> <p><u>Treatment of business rates post 2017/18</u> Initial discussions had been held about the possible extension of business rates relief for new investors. A report would be drafted for Cabinet Member approval demonstrating the benefits that could be generated.</p>	
5. HEREFORD ENTERPRISE ZONE LIMITED – REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016	
The Hereford Enterprise Zone Limited Reports and Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2016 were approved.	
6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION	
<p>a) Sales issues/plot disposals The Board's decisions relating to 2 new potential investors, as outlined by emails, were confirmed. A presentation submitted by a further interest was considered and action agreed.</p>	

7. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**a) Sales Progress**

MP reported on progress with sales.

It was noted that at least two further exchanges of land sale contracts were expected before the end of March.

Work on the Erebus and GB Electrical & Building Services sites was nearing completion and would be occupied later in the month. The LDP Engineering development was progressing well with occupation expected in May.

Negotiations on the sales of several other sites were progressing.

b) MarketingCommunications and PR

A new video of the Estate highlighting particular sites, had now been completed and would be used on the website and referenced at MIPIM 2017.

Inward Investment Activity and Events & Exhibitions

- Herefordshire Defence and Security Expo

This event, held at the Courtyard on 1 February, had attracted high profile speakers, over 30 exhibitors and 400+ delegates. Feedback had been positive with a number of business opportunities and contacts cited. The prospect of holding the event bi-annually was being considered.

- MIPIM 2017

MP reported that he would be attending MIPIM 2017 from 14-16 March representing the Marches LEP as part of the Midlands Engine exhibition team, and would be looking out for inward investment opportunities.

- Return Maryland visit to the UK

MP was supporting the development and planning of the return Maryland visit to the UK in June 2017, which would include attendance at Infosec 2017.

- DSEI 2017

A stand had been booked for this event from 12-15 September at ExCel London.

c) InfrastructureBroadband

The first of the regular meetings with ITS to review the implementation of ultrafast broadband services on the estate would be taking place on 21 March.

Greenway Cycleway Lighting

Work was underway and was expected to be completed by the end of March.

<p><u>Straight Mile Cycleway/Walkway</u></p> <p>Discussions were taking place with the highways authority on the detailed elements of the design for the cycleway/walkway. It was hoped that work could start on this project later this year.</p> <p>d) Business Support and Networking</p> <p>Suitable subject areas for future network events were being considered with Qinetiq and the University of Wolverhampton.</p> <p>e) Direct developments</p> <p><u>Shell Store: Incubation and Development Application Centre</u></p> <p>The funding announcement relating to the Local Growth Deal was expected imminently. Should this project not be selected for funding through this pot, discussions would proceed as to how it could be progressed.</p> <p>As soon as the full funding package had been secured, a meeting would be called, which would include the Vice Chair, to finalise and sign off the detailed design proposals prior to any contracts being let.</p> <p><u>Centre for Cyber Security</u></p> <p>The funding announcement was awaited, as above, and indications were that the project would be supported. A bid was also being submitted to the ESIF process, with an expected decision date in October. This would enable a start on site early in 2018.</p> <p>The remainder of the South Magazine would be reserved as a Cyber Campus for grow on space for the Cyber Centre.</p> <p>The progression of this project would put Hereford in a better position in relation to cyber conversations nationally, aligning with Cheltenham and Malvern, and would provide an asset to encourage cyber businesses to the site. It was agreed that it was becoming increasingly important for the Zone to connect with the Regiment in terms of maximising its economic benefit, and in a more systematic way than relying on personal contacts with current base representatives. This would need to be facilitated through the Ministry of Defence.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>MP</p>
<p>8. RELATED PROJECTS</p>	
<p><u>Skylon Tower</u></p> <p>It was noted that Historic England had asked that a Heritage Assessment be provided prior to determination of the planning application and further ecological work had been requested. Lower Bullingham Parish Council had submitted objections to the application. It was likely that it would be considered by the Planning Committee on 7 April.</p> <p>BJ reported that he had received a request from an international sculptor asking that consideration be given to commissioning her to design a sculpture for the site. It was</p>	

agreed that BJ would write to explain that the Board was committed to the Skylon, on which the brand was based, and on which the likely private sector support for the installation of the Tower was predicated.	BJ
9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
<p><u>Parking on Coldnose Road</u></p> <p>As a result of the success of the Business Solutions Centre at Skylon Court, parking was becoming an issue to existing businesses on Coldnose Road. On occasions there had been parking on both sides of the road. It was agreed that the Zone team should bring this to the attention of the University of Wolverhampton team, and encourage them to emphasize the protocols and alternative parking options to attendees at events.</p> <p><u>Canary Girls plaque/sculpture</u></p> <p>DH explained the discussions at the previous week's full council meeting on possible opportunities to commemorate the contribution made by the 'Canary Girls' to both the First and Second World Wars. MP had discussed the proposal with the Council's Democratic Services Manager, and suggested that the appropriate time would be following the Shell Store refurbishment, and the University development when landscaping of the whole area could be properly planned. Sir John Cotterell was also interested in some sort of commemoration on the site.</p> <p><u>Goodwin Trust industrial units</u></p> <p>TG advised that he would be seeking views from the planning team about the relocation of units currently on Skylon South which would need to be demolished and relocated to allow the Bloors development to proceed.</p>	DC
	TG
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
2.00pm on 16 May at the Rural Enterprise Centre	