

Minutes of Marches Growth Hub (MGH) Steering Group 18th March 2021

Present		
Dave Courteen	DC	MGH Chair, Marches LEP Small Business Champion, Managing Director Mosaic Group
Gill Hamer	GH	Marches LEP Chief Executive
Yasmin Sulaman	YS	Marches LEP Business Support Lead
Kathryn Jones	KJ	Marches LEP Partnership Manager
Frank Myers MBE	FM	LEP Board Member, Chair of Herefordshire Business Board – Director MCP Systems Consultants Ltd
Paul Kalinauckas	PK	LEP Board Member, Access to Finance Champion
Graham Guest	GG	Telford Business Board representative, Principal - Telford College
Beth Heath	BH	LEP Board Member, Chair of Shropshire Business Board, Director Shropshire Festivals, Director Shropshire Think Tank
Kathy Mulholland	KM	Telford and Wrekin Council - Inward Investment and Business Support Service Delivery Manager
Nick Webster	NW	Herefordshire Council - Economic Development Manager
Emma Chapman	EC	Shropshire Council - Marches Growth Hub Shropshire Manager (in place of Matt Potts)
Richard Nicklin	RN	University of Wolverhampton - Business Engagement Deputy Director
Steve Havins	SH	Department for International Trade - Head of Business Development and Partnerships
Colin Preece	CP	Marches Skills Provider Network - Executive Officer
Maisy Owen	MO	Chamber Member - Chair of Members Committee, Director MO Management Consultancy Ltd
Hollie Whittles	HW	Federation of Small Businesses - Regional Chair West Midlands, Director Purple Frog Systems Ltd, Director FragglesWorks,
Sharon Smith	SS	Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce - Chief Executive
Amy Bould	AB	Marches LEP PR and Marketing - Director Be Bold Media Ltd
Charlie Hepworth	CH	Black Country Consortium Ltd – Senior Researcher
Phil Peak	PP	Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub – Operations Director, West Midlands Growth Hub Cluster Lead
Apologies: Matt Potts – Shropshire Council, Business Growth and Inward Investment Manager		

Not Present: Oliver Hindle – Marches Area Lead – Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS		
ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions GH welcomed members and introduced DC, the new MGH Chair.</p> <p>DC introduced himself and welcomed the group including new Members and guest speakers.</p> <p>DC confirmed MO will continue to represent Shropshire Chamber of Commerce. Thanks were conveyed to Richard Sheehan for his contribution.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Member Interest DC acknowledged completed form received from HW. No further conflicts were declared. DC asked for hands to be raised if any conflicts should arise during the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Guest Speaker CH, PP and SH delivered an informative presentation followed by Q & A from the group.</p> <p>Business After Brexit: A New Chapter for the West Midlands - event video link to be circulated https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60V-hx2o_z0</p> <p>Breakdown of Business & Professional Sector business death data</p> <p>Share COVID 19 loan default and business failure data when available.</p> <p>GH confirmed that data and feedback from businesses will help shape future business support projects/programmes and help inform short/medium/long-term Economic Recovery Plans. Continue encouraging and referring businesses to the MGH.</p> <p>EC confirmed her suggestion to YS around LA's using Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) to support continuation of WM Cluster EU Support Project. Project legacy to be raised on next WM Cluster call.</p> <p>SME Brexit Support Fund - Up to £2,000 to help with training or professional advice if a business has up to 500 employees and no more than £100 million annual turnover. PricewaterhouseCoopers are administering the grants for HMRC. On-line applications opened 15th March. SME Brexit support fund – Customs Grant Scheme (customsintermediarygrant.co.uk) Members to share with their networks.</p> <p>Copy speaker presentations to be circulated to the group with minutes.</p>	<p>YS</p> <p>CH</p> <p>YS/CH</p> <p>All</p> <p>YS</p> <p>All</p> <p>YS</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and actions 10/12/2020 Members approved the draft minutes. Actions were reported as being complete with some being covered during this meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>LEP Update KJ provided the following update: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget - UK Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund announced. Information to be circulated to the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Links to Papers: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus ➤ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-additional-documents 	YS

8.	Marketing and Social Media / Google Analytics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB provided an update on activity and themes delivered October to January inclusive. • Risk of MGH being fragmented with partner/stakeholder/cluster partnerships. Group may wish to consider how Business Support is framed moving forward. • Be Bold to update report font. 	AB
9	Any other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Business Charter - This is open to all companies, charities and public sector organisations. • There was no other business and the meeting closed at 18.35. 	YS