



Minutes

Name of meeting	Economic Development Board
Date and time	Friday 16 November 2018, 2.30pm-4.00pm
Venue	Conference room 3, Floor 2, County Hall
Present	Chris Ashman, Simon Dabell, Will Myles, Wayne Whittle, Janet Stevens, Ashley Curzon, Justin Steele, Steven Holbrook, Don Brame, Julie Jones- Evans
Apologies	Norman Arnold
1.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>Chris Ashman chaired the meeting in Norman's absence</p> <p>Social media training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WM SH and CA met to have a conversation about social media training- decided not to progress with the proposal.• WM looked at how this could be done from a tourism perspective and has engaged with Michelle Russell- will liaise with Steve re retail sector. VIOW will offer out to bid levy payers- cost involved, and first come first served basis. Michelle working with Isle Engage. <p>Diagram linking strategies together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SD keen that this is taken forward• Board decided to revisit this when the Economic Development Plan is signed off• CA reported that he and senior colleagues met with Norman A and Peter T from Chamber/FSB to talk through the economic vision: whether there was a need for overarching strategic partnership, governance of each of the strands of the programme and how they link together and whether the board becomes a wider constituency- e.g. wider than just business.• It was agreed a chart/supporting narrative would be useful, the family of partnerships approach would be the best way forward <p>Wightbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SD reported he had not heard anything further• CA met with Michelle who gave timelines- completion is expected in April <p>Footfall counters</p>

- JJE circulated info- roughly £1k per counter
- Claire Kennard is looking at another company- counters can also track movement from car parks
- JJE would like to see this investigated further and funding options explored
- **Action- check with the finance department on the category of spend for footfall counters (revenue or capital)- Chris A/ Claire Kennard**
- **Action- Shaping Newport to be added as an agenda item for the next board meeting- Elaine**

Construction employers update

- Despite a big push to encourage construction companies to attend the Careers Fayre at the College by incentivising a meeting with procurement team and presentation about the pipeline of Regen projects, only 1 company accepted the invite to exhibit and no one turned up for procurement meeting
- Advice from College- a specific construction related event may be more appropriate as exhibitors would be assured that attendees would be interested specifically in construction
- It was suggested that it may be worth working alongside the Agents Forum
- A construction apprenticeship agency may be the route to take
- **Action- CA to potentially take proposal back to the LEP re construction apprenticeship agency**
- It was noted that CITB members pay levy to CITB- if the apprentice is not employed by them they do not get investment back
- New requirement in the procurement process to have skills and training plans

Green Impact- update

- Up to 31 businesses signed up so far
- Event with Liz Earle- looking at date at end of January- workshop style event to follow presentation
- VIOW have offered a place in the newsletter for JJE
- Students will be looking at audit- need to tie up with curriculum
- Businesses with gold star etc. will feature in Chamber magazine
- Ash C added that Green Impact is on Jim Fawcett's work programme

2. The Budget- highlights and response (paper attached) High Street Regen

- CA asked for comments on the budget paper
- It was noted that for levy paying employers, the government

are reducing the apprenticeship contribution from 10% to 5%- this is likely to make a significant change to memberships

- It was reported IOWC council leadership will meet Newport & Ryde business associations in relation to recent budget proposals – as set out in the UK govt budget paper a fund/policy is needed to save the High Street – IOWC to tap into this
- JJE commented that the figures for Crocker Street in Newport may not have been thought through properly, evening charges could be targeted e.g. Coppins Bridge/ cinema, and expressed concern for staff working lone late at night
- CA commented that aligning a local parking need with an annual need to make savings is always a challenge
- The board discussed the effect on permit holders in Cowes who will have to leave their jobs during the working day to move their cars
- The direct impact on no free period for on street car parking on businesses was discussed
- The view was also taken that a certain level of paid parking is needed for businesses otherwise spaces will be used for commuters
- **Action- Communicate that the EDB has taken a view for Cabinet to reconsider proposals- Chris A**
- **Action- Local parking strategy work to be progressed**

3. Northwood Business Survey (appendix 1)

- Pilot before wider exercise with the rest of the Island
- Chris A took recommendations from the report- hard copies were circulated at the meeting
- **Action- Rosie to circulate the 20 questions with the minutes**
- Contact details for businesses have been obtained through the survey- lots of work has been done to find businesses (door knocking etc.)
- Different models may have to be looked at for Economic Development work- e.g. Contracting for specific pieces of work as opposed to full time employment

4. Enterprise Facilitation Project (appendix 2)

- 18 month pilot project- potential to be roll out programme for the Island
- Primarily aimed at young people
- Contract with CIC to deliver training to 30 people/10 potential business start-ups in Ventnor/ South Wight area- VTC have been keen to engage

- Degree of risk- public money, but useful for piloting to see if this generates start-up enterprises for the non-academic group
- Potential tie up opportunity with the Chamber as the Chamber offer grants for 18-30 yo- need to ensure that the mentors are aware of the Chamber money
- Comms to be progressed on the opportunity via Chamber and VIOW

5. Our Plan for Growth (circulated at meeting)

- Ash circulated the latest version of the Economic Development Strategy
- **Action- Rosie to circulate electronic version**
- **Action- ALL to send back comments**

6. Solent Growth Hub- update (see appendix 4)

- Reshaping relationship with the Growth Hub
- AC met with James Ford- spoke about ambitions and making sure there was no duplication of efforts etc.
- James gave update on what they are proposing to do. JF offered to come to a meeting to discuss where IWC and Growth Hub can collaborate
- **Action- Ash to arrange for James Ford to attend future board meeting**
- Ash emphasised the importance of not doing things in isolation

7. Projects/Funding/Initiatives- update (see appendix 5)

- Highlights of some of the ongoing work being done by the Economic Development Team
- Ash will update work so the board can see what is going on
- CCF bid- IOWC unsuccessful. JJE involved in bids- Newport was not successful, Bay bid was.
- Justin shared with the board about his correspondence with SSE. Ofgem have supported Justin- if a company want to generate electricity from solar panels, and not give it back to the grid there would be no network reinforcement costs.

8.

AOB

- SD retiring- the board gave thanks for all of Simon's commitment and work
- Will Myles will be representing VIOW
- The board discussed Sandown airport- CA clarified that the case officer had to refuse as the applicant was not able to meet constraints on traffic/ access arrangements. Applicant will have to resubmit.
- **Action- Elaine/Rosie to circulate link to the Draft Island Plan and add as a substantive agenda item for the next meeting**
- **Action- JJE pre research- micro businesses as an agenda item**
- **Action- Elaine/Rosie- circulate dates for next meeting**