Minutes SME Supergroup 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Welcome and minutes of meeting

Bravissimo → Type-O in paragraph at last minutes.

2.

New private sector board member is about to be announced with retail background

Plan to invite other board members

Revo: investigating new task force

3. Warks town centre

DAH Digital Skills Course for retailers -- > social media and online presence. Clockwork city. Run in 4 places, each has 15 places. Halfway through training

Stratford and Warwick full attendance (15), Nuneaton 11) and Rugby 7. Looking to do it again in new year

Cohorts being worked on at the moment.

Looking to get support package together. Including Cybersecurity issues.

Also improving customer footfall Janurary 18. 4-hour sessiins rtun by Alison reed through decisiins by design. -> Aaron corsi 4 x 4 hour sessions

18hours over 6 weeks for digital skills.

Businesses of pilot cohort have seen increase of digital business.

4. In process

5. Roger scott

Transport committee

Infrastructure and Planning & Housing. Presented 4 case studies of businesses that were leaving the region.

PHBG key drivers planning housing and delivery, employment & housing, c7w boundary requirements

Employment land supply

Private sector identifying shortage

Single spatial plan coordinating transportdemands for planningproposals

Transport infrastructure

- Optimising relationships to WMCA and gov funding -> value of collaboration
- C&W get chunk of share because of involvement in delivery,
- Midlands Connect and wider transport west midlands plan.
- Traffic flow to enable growth in A46 corridor.
- Coventry city centre and opps there
- Aviation plan, surface access for travellers and staff into Bham Airport.

Key points:

- Land supply
- Site-specific issues
- Generic supply
- SSS -> single visual around planning space, infrastructure housing and commercial
- Database work around what's coming into the market, rental and ownder occupancy
- Maximising C&W opportunities.
- Challenge between delivery across boundary
- Plan to have quarterly catchup
- AP: Sarah to forward minute once confirmed


Digital infrastructure?? (SW) no but energy supplies.

SK: Spatial strategy, any debate around starting the process?

RS: Local planners to allocate plan accordingly

SW: Bill to produce something?

AW: no formal agreement on just one spatial strategy. There's draft portal in place – bring all info on one place. Not sure where it's at in terms of getting live

DAH: don't have statutory backing until plan is produced. All local plans could come into action at same time.

LEP doesn't have power to put SSS in place but p to the planners. Need wider areas like Solihull. LEP is working on pulling this together.

DK: competition with private sector?

RS: no competition, planner with property agents and building companies who know the demand.

Main problem is pace of working.

Time scales around Local authority planning process.

AW: Coventry good in terms of speed, and putting queries on table.

SF: different LA s have different interests, priorities.

6. Joined up;

SW: What is communications rather than PR led – business focussed, looking at business concerns.

To catch up with Louise, Adam and Craig after next Board meeting

RS: CWLEP LinkedIn works well. Growth Hub stuff also works well.

SW: Case study and call to action

AW: business festival can send this message out.

SW to speak with Adam around


8. Digital update:

Andy Street formed a digital board.

Infrastructure board, work around 5 G. Up to 5 mio for a test bed in the West Midlands. Can't be a public sector-led bid. There is one going in around connected autonomous vehicles.

Idea is that it will be an open testbed for SMEs to use. 5G innovation network -> work to be fed back into innovation network.

Make 5G something that works.

Innovative businesses that might want to work in the space.

How can we start getting this activity together. Pockets of activity going on around gigabit.

Space Catapult in Oxford being visited, to find out what satellite can provide at cheaper cost.

Bid for testbed by 30th December, awarded by March 2018. DCMS wants 60% private sector funding. Results needed by March 2019.

Bristol are already testbed. 3-4 universities that got awarded 5G technology development money.

Findings and learnings are being made available

Gov has announced that we are 1 of 4 testbeds for full fibre pilot to business 100 megabit per second. Supplier-led and run centrally. Fund will stay open til March 2018.


Keely Hancox intruded superfast programme schemes. Joining up the strands.

9. MEIF regional advisory board

Reps from al the LEPS around governance. Agreeing the structure for the board going forward. No breakdown yet. Meetings around the LEP areas and Chair of board moving around in LEP areas. Not huge amount of information being pushed out.

Lead for the MEIF needed. Not being pushed out.

Soft launch only due to issues around contracts being assigned.

SCALEUPS

- Discussion around different partners on what can be done with scaleups. Business ready dealing with scaleup clients, working with Lloyds bank. Can we get an offer for scaleups. Already doing lots.
- No minimum turnover -> Scaleup insititutes.
- Looking at more up to date information. Organisations that are at tipping point of scaleups. Trying to identify companies tht are at early stage of scaling. How to increase employees.

Issue is identifying companies and looking at tsupport tht works best for them. Issues at that small select network -> 20-25 people.

- Deal with specifics of the group
- Opening up to supply chains.
- Pushing people at the Councils and unis to identify projects out the supply chain.
- Looking at those looking to get investors, mergers and acquisition.
- Enterprise Research Centre, Warwick and aston uni are leading.Midlands seen as leaders, send links.
- In depth analysis of impact
- What is giving the benefit?
- Three way engagement and knowledge and expertise sharing.
- Look at research capabilities in private sector and academia
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SW: Urban tech challenge

Value for public sector to deal with local SMEs.

JP: Councillors want local SMEs to be supported. Tuesday afternoon, a people talking about public procurement. Can be hard to go through this. It's a process, think like the procurer

SW: Difficulty to find the opportunities.

JP: Working with the LEP, Growth Hub, UWSP around finding the tender opportunities.

SF: difficulty, to get everything in one place. Tenders.

DAH/JP: CSW Jets, Compete for.HVM Catapult.

SW: information on procurement portal is not sbusiness-friendly.

10 Cybersecurity.

Board discussion around cyber security. Potential to bring this together.

Chamber doing a lot on this. Difficult sell.

KH: GDPR coming up with this, picking up pace.

SW: Ethical hacker, showing how easy it is to hack into IT systems.

How can we pull work together? → Cyber security partnership

Pull together an event → Event GDPR

Business support map → Risk Evolves, FSB, Chamber, West Mids Cyber cluster, ICO

JP: Looking at general risk areas. Hard sell nationally, focus group divided, talk about risks and benefits, in particular for IT solutions.

SF: GDPR route in particular draw.

Scope alongside that to get a joined up approach to this?

SW: Get local providers out there together, communictions -> Event on risk.

Feeding cybersecurity into other