**Business Growth Committee**

**Agenda**

**Tuesday 11th May 2021, 10am**

**Venue:**

**Microsoft Teams**

* Introduction from Chair– 5 minutes

Feedback from covid update and look forward to the queen’s speech later in May.

Positive news with pound up and retail sales bouncing back with strong economic and demand in the commercial rental sector indicating a good prospects for recovery.

* Minutes from previous meeting

agreed

* Introduction to new branding by Marketing Cheshire

Marketing Cheshire the current draft of the new LEP branding which will also include sub brands for Growth Hub and other elements of business growth agenda. Current timescale is to roll out with new website at the ned of June.

It was noted that Coventry and Warwickshire also use the C&W brand and that this could cause some confusion.

* Growth Hub update - 10 minutes

Andy gave an overview of current activities including the recruitment of additional team members to enhance the offer of the Growth Hub.

It was agreed that the June meeting would be dedicated to introducing the team to the committee and discussing priorities and potential impact measures.

* Cheshire and Warrington Export work

Tricia Francis joined the meeting and presented the ongoing work to further develop the Cheshire and Warrington export offer. This work is also providing a baseline of current activity and support offers. Further work will be carried out over the Summer with a final report due in September.

* Recovery and Growth strategy

This has been a standing item and further updates were given, the plan was presented the main board at the last meeting and will be published this month.

* Local Authority recovery grants

The three LAs gave a further update on the recovery grants, all 3 are on course to pay out their entire allocations to businesses which will trigger tranche of funding to local businesses.

* Round table on issues raised by committee members – 30 mins

**Debbie** – No new covid cases for 4 weeks across uk business. Significant issues being caused by EU exit with consultations ongoing to get through the issues. Carbon prices have significantly risen which is cause for concern as well as prices of raw materials and lack of availability for simple things such as limestone. This could be a result of increased regs due to EU exit

**Alice** – Global healthcare comms remains strong but recruitment of experienced staff is proving difficult. Return to office strategy is being developed with a preferred model of hybrid working

**Stephen F** – Volume of export enquiries seems to have returned to normal

Property enquiries have picked up

Business exchange intel looking at return to face to face working

**Kathryn** – Continuing to facilitate resilience across networks and business and recovery

**Nigel** – Concerns around skills initiatives for supply chains. Anticipation than return to office working will result in increase in productivity Clarification needed on HS2 stopping at Crewe

**Iain** – increase in property enquiries, preparing for return to office and managing footfall and queues in town centres and high streets

* AOB