



FOREST

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Delivering a thriving economy

Forest Economic Partnership Stakeholder Meeting

12 March 2021

Agenda

1. Welcome from **Neill Ricketts**, Chair of Forest Economic Partnership
2. Forest of Dean Growth Hub (Kevan Spencer)
3. Forest of Dean District Council Local Plan (Nigel Gibbons)
4. Fastershire: Partnership Projects (David Trevelyan)
5. Business Discretionary Grants (Andrew Knott)
6. Forest Economic Partnership Update (Wendy Jackson)
7. 2021 Stakeholder Meeting Dates (Neill Ricketts)
8. AOB

Please note this meeting is being recorded.



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CIC Number: 12262533

Welcome

(Neill Ricketts)

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Forest of Dean Growth Hub

(Kevan Spencer)

The Forest of Dean Growth Hub at Vantage Point Business Village continues to progress despite COVID cases and lockdown restrictions impacting our various contractors.

We have recently created the structural openings for the Growth Hub entrance from our main atrium and disabled access point, and for the new female toilet facilities.

The main site PBX (Telephony) has been relocated to a dedicated server room to permit a clear entry into the Growth Hub.





Office and glazed partitioning, along with white Oak veneered doors are programmed for installation week commencing 22nd March 2021.

The fit-out of the new toilets also commences during the same week.

Floor coverings are ordered and follow immediately after the partitioning is completed.

Sliding doors and associated control systems are on order and follow behind the partitioning elements.

The new reception desk is being manufactured in Poland and should arrive later this month or early April.

A four person acoustic meeting pod will arrive next week.

All H&V is installed, along with extraction systems for the café kitchen etc

CAT6 cabling is already installed to support state of the art video conferencing equipment, printers, staff VOIP phones and so on.

The primary client facing WiFi Broadband nodes are already installed and fully operational.

All ceiling grids are now installed (excluding the toilet areas), including the 'Basement' Café and associated seating area.

All electric first and second fix is installed in the Growth Hub, along with LED lighting and emergency lighting.





A staff kitchenette will be installed later this month.

Most of the areas are already plastered, decorated and painted.

Once the partitioning and floor coverings are installed, the Growth Hub branding and logos will be applied to the wall areas.

A state of the art video conferencing facility will be installed in the main meeting room early in April, along with a monitor near reception to display Growth Hub/LEP messaging.

It is proposed to install a second monitor in the Café seating area to display 24 hour BBC news.

The Café/Shop facilities will follow immediately after the Growth Hub is finished.

At the same time, we are installing an external seating/decking area with disabled ramp.

The physical Growth Hub space should be completed during April 2021

In the meantime, we have restarted the recruitment process for the staff to operate the Growth Hub.

To date we have over fifty candidates, of which the best ten will be selected for interview.

We will be commencing forward marketing of the Growth Hub incubator offices later this month, as revenue from office and meeting room rental, along with subscriptions, will help us reduce the overheads of running the facility. Running costs are funded by Vantage Point Business Village as part of the match funding agreement with the LEP/EU, so incoming revenue will be more than welcomed.

It is likely that the role of Growth Hubs will be expanded to assist business in more diverse ways over time, so we hope to see good engagement with wider business community here in the Forest of Dean once COVID restrictions are fully lifted.

There is likely to be a virtual opening first (date to be agreed) with a physical opening event later in the year.





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Local Plan for the Forest of Dean

(Nigel Gibbons)

Shaping a strategy- change for growth likely to be a blended approach between existing settlements and something different

All subject to FoDDC approval- a deliverable LP and one that does as much as it can for the corporate objectives- Climate, environment, economy, housing against need. Looks to 2041.

More detail in a draft end of 2021

Refine and amend 2022

Submit and examine 2023

NB reforms of the whole system and other changes pending- design codes, move to zoning?,

Currently old LP is showing its age- 2026 end date and a lack of up to date information.



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Fastershire: Partnership Projects

(David Trevelyan)



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Business Discretionary Grants

(Andrew Knott)



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Forest Economic Partnership & CIC Update

(Wendy Jackson)

The Board



Wendy Jackson

Wendy Jackson leads on Human Resources.



Neill Ricketts

Elected Chair of FEP in December 2020, Neill Ricketts and leads on Legal.



Bernie O'Neill

Bernie O'Neill is the Vice Chair of FEP and leads on Equality and Diversity.



Andrew Callard

Andrew Callard leads on Marketing. When not volunteering for FEP, he runs Aimed Business.



Paul James

Paul James leads on Finance. He is a member of the Digital Communications subgroup.



David Trevelyan

David Trevelyan is Company Secretary for FEP and leads on the Health and Safety, Governance, Quality and IT.



Rob Jenkins

Rob Jenkins leads on Safeguarding.

Join The Board

We are looking for new Directors with specialities
in Law, Accounting & Community Interest
Companies!

Please email fep@fdean.gov.uk for more
information.

Financials

Account Balance	£ 15,642.80
Allocated Funding: IF Project	£ 13,945.60
Core Funding	£ 1,697.20

- Cross border working
- CIC board member training
- Business West Western Gateway
Webinar - May
- Brunel University London - social
enterprise survey



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Stakeholder Meeting Dates 2021

(Neill Ricketts)

Dates For Your Diary

11 June 2021 2pm - 4pm via Zoom

10 September 2021 2pm - 4pm at Hillside Brewery, Longhope

10 December 2021 2pm- 4pm (venue TBC)



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AOB

(Neill Ricketts)

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