#FOD2050

FOREST
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
Delivering a thriving economy

Today's Agenda

1. Welcome (Andrew Callard Chair FEP)
2. Review of Progress of FEP & Sub-Groups and Brochure Launch (Andrew Callard)
3. Proposal to form a Community Interest Company (CIC) as a legal body to receive project funding (Andrew Callard)
4. Annual Review of Terms of Reference (Wendy Jackson)
5. Policy Drafts (Andrew Callard)
6. Proposed Projects:
7. AOB
8. Meeting close (Andrew Callard)

Achievements

- FSB Most Innovative Small Business Campaign
- Agreed SWOT
- Enabling each proposed project to have SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic, Time-bound) aims and build upon agreed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

Education & skills
Key Discussions

- Forest of Dean Youth Council
- T level awareness
- Cyber-security Newent Community School leads
- Engagement with GCC and Gfirst initiatives
- Inspiring the Forest Action Group

Transport & Infrastructure
Key Discussions

- Forest Community Hospital.
- Community Transport provision
- Bus services
- Chepstow Transport Study
- Biosphere Reserves
- Leadership Gloucestershire 2050 consultation
- New District Planning Round

Bridges & borders
Key Discussions

- Stroud District & Monmouthshire County Councils the squeezed areas
- Chepstow Transport Study and wider strategic transport involvement
- Let's Grow Future of Rural Businesses & Communities
- UoG CCRI ROBUST project
- Western Powerhouse?
- Severn Bridge and Open for Business Request

Digital connectivity
Key Discussions

- All they did was communicate with various experts including Fastershire and access on-line data and information
- Identified opportunities
- Understood weaknesses
- Proposed solutions.

Community Interest Company
Why?

- First year co-ordinating views, going forward implementing solutions through projects.
- Projects require funding and funding needs a legal body for due governance and risk management.
- Various forms discussed by working group of which a community interest company limited by guarantee is best fit

CIC

Key Activities

- Deliver a thriving economy in the Forest of Dean by connecting businesses, public sector, people, ideas and resources
- Create a vision to deliver sustainable growth in the District through research & collaboration into the rural economy
- Create data-based baselines to identify areas and opportunities for growth and leadership.
- Develop projects that provide effective responses in the District to the needs of individuals and organisations and to source funding to take them forward
- Enable the District to make positive choices on its economic future and to share those with the widest audience to inform county &national planning and policy making.

CIC
Roles

- Requires individuals to act as Company Directors for CIC. They are responsible for compliance to HMRC, employment and other laws.
- Proposed Directors
  - Chairs of the sub-groups, if they are willing and able to take on the legal duties of a Company Director.
  - The District Councillor holding the Business, Infrastructure and Economic portfolios (following due selection process)
  - The District Council Officer leading Business, Economy & Regeneration service delivery
  - Other individuals deemed appropriate by the Directors or Stakeholder Group eligible for a CIC eg Finance Director.

CIC
Operation

- Board will meet monthly to review progress by designated Project Managers, receive updates on bidding and other matters around financial management and policies.
- In its monthly role other critical friends will be invited to participate.
- It may act as a project steering group if required.

CIC
Issue of Remuneration

- There is no proposal to pay Company Directors
- There is a proposal to use a mix of paid and voluntary staff on projects as dictated by the time commitments of the projects and individual choice.
- FEP recognises that as the size and complexity of FEP grows as well as inherent risks that there will be a point where remuneration may be considered appropriate for the legal Company Directors. In all cases the Stakeholder Group will determine whether it is warranted and if so the payment offer.

CIC
Next Steps

- To circulate week commencing 1st April proposed Articles of Association, Memorandum of Association and Governance Framework to Stakeholder Group to receive feedback and comments by 12th April 2019
- To submit CIC application duly signed to Companies House week commencing 15th April 2019.
- To put in place the appropriate insurances, notifications, policies and web presence at the earliest opportunity.
- To confirm the first year operational budgets week commencing 8th April.

Proposed Projects

- Inspiring the Forest Proposal (Tracey Ashford Chair IF Action Group)
- How Fast; How Good? (David Trevelyan, Chair Digital Connectivity)
- Bridging the Gap (David Trevelyan, Chair Digital Connectivity)
- Smart Rural Leadership Strategy (David Trevelyan, Chair Digital Connectivity)
- Tech Nation Area Baseline (David Trevelyan, Chair Digital Connectivity)
- Economic Case for a Forest Biosphere Reserve (Andrew Callard for T&I)

Education & skills
IF... Inspiring the Forest

Education & skills
IF... Inspiring the Forest

- A Programme of events to run for 3 years:
    - What IF ….. A business delivers to a school.
    - Local IF Event: Day-long event hosted by each secondary school involving their local primary schools and wider school communities.
    - District IF Event: a day-long event targeting any student – Primary, Secondary and FE, and adults. Transport provided to a large-space venue. Space to be organised into business sector

Education & skills
IF... Inspiring the Forest

Businesses in each sector encouraged to work together to provide:
- Experience-based activities that reflect the core skills needed in the sector regardless of size of company.
- Information that informs and inspires about opportunities and pathways.
- Information on the size and nature of the sector in the District and where in the world it serves.

IF you want:
- More information
- To join a sector
- To sponsor

Use the form provided

Questions & Vote

Digital Connectivity

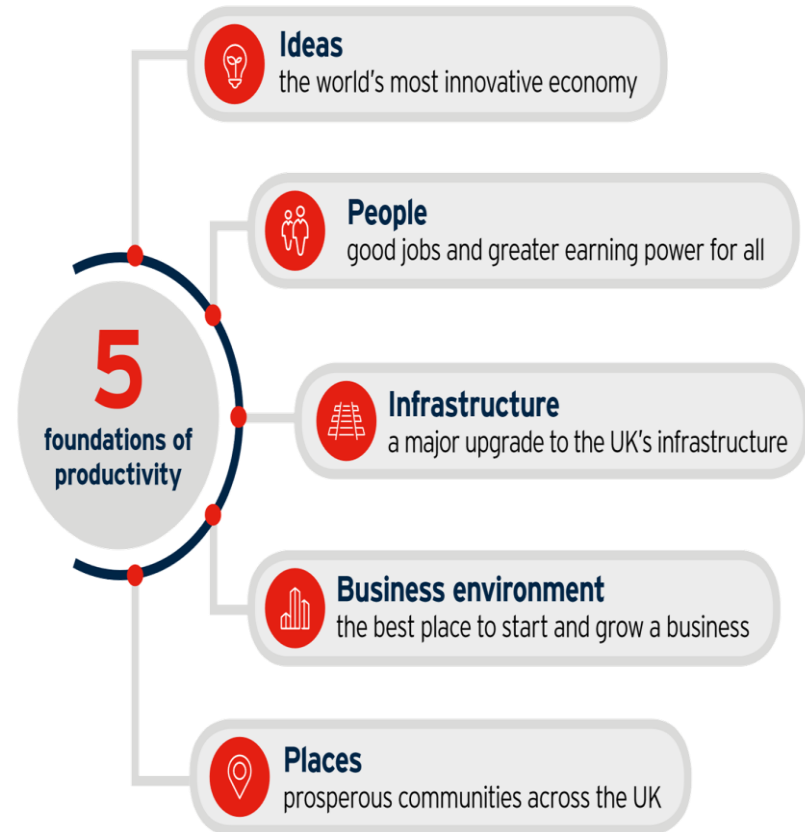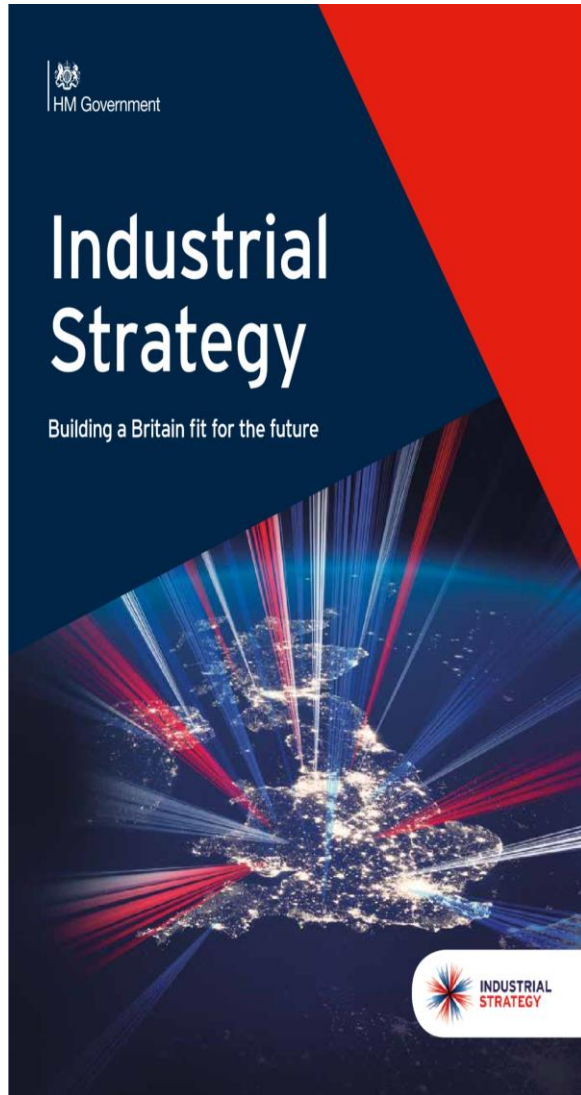# UK Industrial Strategy

Industrial Strategy
Building a Britain fit for the future

5 foundations of productivity

Ideas
the world's most innovative economy

People
good jobs and greater earning power for all

Infrastructure
a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure

Business environment
the best place to start and grow a business

Places
prosperous communities across the UK

DC Vision

- Making the Case for Change with Data and Evidence

- Help Gloucestershire provide a 21st Century Fibre Broadband Infrastructure

- Leveraging the Benefits of a Skilled, Innovative, Digitally Connected Economy

- Putting the Forest on the Map for Digital Technology

Project 1: How Fast, How Good

Creating Geotemporal Datasets

How Fast, How Good: Issues

- Lack of awareness of the infrastructure already in place.

- Lack of understanding of individual expectations of what 'fast' means.
  - Upload / Download
  - Contention
  - Latency

- Lack of ability to connect expectations to local infrastructure.

How Fast, How Good: Solutions Required

- Need for an accurate picture of speed and coverage for data

- Enable the efficient planning of projects to resolve the issues and provide practical solutions.

- Understand users expectations to avoid the one person's slow being another's superfast

How Fast, How Good: Proposal

Three Projects

A) Initial Collection of Fixed Installation Speed and User Information
  - Connection Data
  - User Information
  - Ongoing Involvement
  - Specific Information and Advice

B) Ongoing Monitoring and Measurement
  - Quality of Connection over Time
  - Impact of Recommendations

C) Collection of Mobile Data Speeds
  - Granular detail of connection speed
  - Ability to involve community on an ongoing basis

How Fast, How Good: Costs

- Project A
  - **£1,750** Tool, Advertising, Analysis, Travel & Misc

- Project B
  - **£2,420** Tool, Advertising, Analysis, Travel & Misc

- Project C
  - **£3,100** Tool, Advertising, Analysis, Travel & Misc

How Fast, How Good: £7,270

How Fast, How Good: Funding

- Mobile Networks Seed Funding

- Ideas and Pioneers Fund

- InnovateUK with business

- Company sponsorship

Project 2: Bridging the Gap

Expanding Superfast Broadband in Rural Communities

Bridging the Gap: Issues

- Not all premises in the Forest of Dean will benefit from roll out of Fastershire Gigabit Fibre Project.

Parish	Premises
West Dean CP	674
Cinderford CP	358
Ruspidge and Soudley CP	272
St. Briavels CP	158
Coleford CP	151
Additional 28 CP	*636*
Total Premises Left	**2249**

Remaining Premises Requiring Gigabit Connection after Fastershire

Bridging the Gap: Solutions Required

- Use of Gigabit Vouchers to make connections
- Options to deliver a variety of solutions to the end user
  - Traditional fixed installation fibre
  - A mix of fibre, wireless and repeater
- Deliver a Pilot: Work with the Brockweir Community to address connectivity issues.

Bridging the Gap: Proposal

- Creation of a knowledge base of available voucher schemes so that the most appropriate might be selected

- Discussion with premise owners wishing to upgrade their broadband service

- Writing and co-ordination of the voucher application process on a no win,no fee basis including the creation of clusters of premises to minimise costs of installation.

- Facilitation of suitably qualified contractors to complete the work efficiently to time and cost. This may include handling the customer facing activity if necessary charged to the contractor as a project manager.

- Enable a wide variety of compliant solutions to be offered eg Fibre to the home, Fibre to the tower, tower to the home (Wireless repeaters)

- Awareness of key groups such as Parish Councils, Public and Community, Education and Groups to promote the solution in the target parishes

- Use of How Good How Fast project to identify areas where there might be need to engage with potential premises covered by other funding solutions.

Bridging the Gap: Costs

- **£1,500** Awareness Programme

- **FOC** Labour Charge for Writing Bids

- **£400** Example Cost to FEP of £7500 project value
  - *Domestic £30 x10*
  - *Commercial £100 x1*

Bridging the Gap: Funding

- Ideas and Pioneers Fund

- Calor Rural Community Fund

- Smart Meter Funding

- LFFN Challenge Fund – Gigabit Voucher Scheme

FOREST
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Questions & Vote

Smart Rural Leadership

Setting the Standards, Creating Solutions

Smart Rural Leadership: Issues

- Whilst Smart Cities are increasingly well defined, Smart Rural is not.
- Limited Pockets of Development Nationally and Internationally
  - Finland: Research into access to frontline medical services
  - USA, Kansas: Pilot of use of technology to address rural isolation for retirees
  - Cumbria: Smart Tourism Research with the University of Lancashire

- A clear case for Fibre/5G based around smart rural has not been defined.
- Need for an overarching framework that addresses the varying needs of rural economies.

Smart Rural Leadership: Proposal

The objectives of the project are focused on developing and sharing knowledge and raising the profile of the Forest of Dean as a place to test and trial technology sensitively and pragmatically.

Example Outcomes
- Research Papers through partnership arrangements
- Case Studies arising from delivery of projects or in their preparation such as Overcoming Digital Connection Issues within the Forest of Dean
- Promotion undertaken by sub-group members
- Consultations feedback as it arises

Smart Rural Leadership : Smart Aims

- To become known as the rural area that is leading on the pragmatic applications of the smart economy...
  - To achieve this in Gloucestershire in 2020, regionally 2021, nationally 2022 and internationally 2023.

- To produce appropriate case studies and conference papers from all projects undertaken by FEP that relate to the Smart economy.
  - 3 case studies 2019

- To establish strong relationships with local university partners and research institutes...
  - 2 funded project partnerships pa from 2020

Smart Rural Leadership: Costs and Funding

- **Costs**
  - These will be based on projects and research
  - Where possible contribution to time of 10/hr (max £75/day)

- **Funding**
  - There are a range of funding routes of which collaborative research paper funding is the most relevant.
  - An alternative source is Government Rural Economic Development Funding and the funding associated with local and national Industrial Strategies.

Tech Nation

On the Map

Tech Nation: Issue

- There are no Gloucestershire Tech Clusters in Tech Nation Report…

- Despite
    - GCHQ in Cheltenham
    - Berkley Cyber Centre
    - Newent Community Schools partnership with GCHQ
    - GCHQ's technology partners based in Gloucestershire
    - World leading local manufacturers using Digital Tech
    - Ambitions from **Bristol**, Newport and **Cardiff** around Smart Cities and their Western Powerhouse

Belfast
Birmingham
Bournemouth
Brighton
Bristol
Cambridge
Cardiff
Dundee
Edinburgh
Exeter
Glasgow
Hull
Ipswich
Leeds
Leicester
Liverpool
London
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Norwich
Nottingham
Oxford
Plymouth
Reading
Sheffield
Southampton
Sunderland
Truro & Redruth
Worcester & Malvern

Tech Nation: Solutions Required

What	Why	How
Awareness	On the Map: The Tech Nation report has international recognition from major global tech businesses.	Report information into Tech Nation and gain entry with a Forest of Dean Cluster
Measurement	Tech Nation works on data from turnover to jobs through to GVA.	Use of the How Fast How Good framework to measure data and gather information
Skilled Workforce	Creating a Tech Cluster, then growing a Tech cluster will require a new, innovative workforce.	Engage with Schools and Education Showcase Tech Jobs and opportunities inside and outside the area.
Connectivity	Tech Clusters need World leading connectivity. Fastershire is delivering substantial improvement.	Fill gaps in connectivity, and access government funding to maximise the benefit to the district.
Tech Cluster	Creating an attractive, engaging centre of likeminded, collaborative and skilled businesses.	Identify the tech cluster and focus on providing the supported needed.

Tech Nation: Proposal

- The objectives of the project are to gain access to the Annual Tech Nation Report.
  - Gain Entry to the report by 2023
  - Ongoing Monitoring and Measurement processes to track Tech Nations Information
  - Tech Nations Report KPI growth

Tech Nation: Costs

- **£2,000** Cost of Travel and Engagement

- **£4,000 - £10,000 / Year** Cost of Creating and Administrating Survey
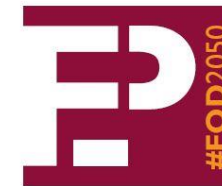
ECBR Proposal

- What is the Economic Case for a Forest Biosphere Reserve
- 2 presentations one to FoDDC and one to Transport & Infrastructure
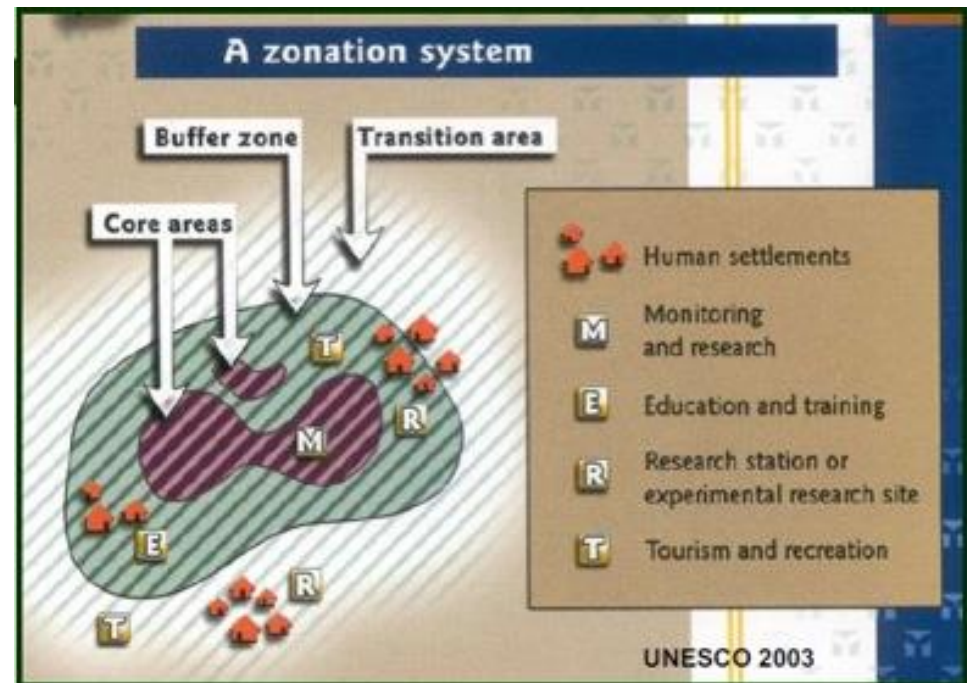- No clear economic model

ECBR
What

- Core Zones
- Buffer Zones
- Area of Cooperation

- ONS need and CSR
- Report Dec 2019

Now Time to Shout

- For Projects
- For FEP
- For The District
- For The County

- **We are being heard**