

Futures Business Voice

Terms of reference (agreed on 29 January 2014)

The Futures Business Voice is set up by Marsh Farm Futures (MFF) in partnership with Luton Borough Council, WENTA, Nat West Bank, SEMLEP and the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce. We are working towards providing the local businesses with an opportunity to identify key issues affecting their business and barriers to growth.

The Purpose:

- To inspire entrepreneurship, identify the business needs and solutions to support business growth and sustainability.

The Objectives

- To improve chances of employability and help strengthen the local economy.
- To represent the interests of the local business community and identify key issues affecting them.
- To improve individual and collective business confidence.

The Futures Business Voice will achieve this by:

- Encouraging collaboration between the local businesses and the business support organisations.
- Providing an opportunity for motivational sessions by inviting different guest speakers related to the business world at the forum meetings.
- Signposting new start-up businesses to business support agencies
- Seeking sponsorships from businesses and funding to cover costs for refreshments, venue, speakers and events etc.

Structure

- An interim chair with business experience and vision will lead The Futures Business Voice initially.
- A small steering group (made up of the Interim Chair, two Vice Chairs, Secretary (MFF) plus two other members of local businesses is to be created to help establish Futures Business Voice.
- Formal constitution, structure, membership criteria and elections of officers would take place in due course or as directed by members.

- A Management Group will be established to co-ordinate the activities in due course.

Membership

- Membership of the forum shall be open up to all start-up and established businesses mainly within Luton, free of charge unless The Futures Business Voice decides otherwise.
- To become a member a membership form needs to be completed and sent to Marsh Farm Futures for approval.
- All members will receive notification of meetings events, activities and Steering meetings.

Review

The Futures Business Voice will review the relevance and value of the work and its terms of reference after every six months.

Meetings

- Meetings will be held on last Wednesday of every month at 6.30 to 8.00pm. MFF will provide support and secretariat.
- All meetings will be held at Futures House and facilitated by Marsh Farm Futures
- Initially the running costs will be met by Marsh Farm Futures.
- Business topics will be agreed by the Forum members will decide on priorities.

Code of Conduct

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