

Severn Bridge/cross border Summary



Issues

Severn Bridge/Cross border

- We don't know what or who we are so how do we showcase what we don't know
- What does the term cross border working actually mean to Forest businesses? Is it Cinderford working with Coleford, working with Hereford or Monmouth or does this include exporting?
- Getting people to do more for themselves we can learn from initiatives in the valleys where many projects are community lead
- Attracting more businesses into the area means more people, which impacts on higher housing prices, pushing those already here out of the market
- Industrial and businesses parks are in the wrong location for changes to removal of tolls. The focus has been close to M50 rather than the M5 corridor
- Competing against different cultures, rules and regulations across county borders not just country
- A Cardiff to Bristol super route and focus will alienate the Forest of Dean more unless we actively get involved
- Although we must start to be more outward looking and work across borders there will be some back lash from those wishing to remain as is and those who will perceive this as more competition

Actions

- What is the USP of the Forest of Dean? What should be the focus for the future? We need to understand who/which business sector we want to attract and if this is tourism let it be the focus.
- What data sets/analysis/report are already available?
- Are there any papers published as to what the world will look like in 2050. What is the vision of Government?
- The removal of tolls has been a focus from the Welsh perspective and not in conjunction with the work completed for Glos2050 and this piece of work did not consider the toll removal
- Need to move away from looking towards Gloucester and look more towards Hereford, how can we improve connections?
- As no one is represented currently from across the borders there is a need to map and invite a wider range of organisations to be members of the Sub-Group from across the borders
- GFirstLEP is working cross border with other LEPs, how do we as a district feed in to this piece of work and become involved?

- We need a strategy to maximise the removal of the tolls, in particular to encourage day trippers from Bristol (FoDDC are currently working with WVFDT on this)
- The Severn Bridge summit mentioned a focus on a cyber triangle. The Forest of Dean is right in the centre of the triangle, but did not receive a mention how do we capitalise on this
- The old Severn Bridge has been reported as being in a poor state of repair. Obtain the factual reports. If it is a problem what are the plans for the future? Closure will create even more isolation! Gloucestershire County Council has apparently got a report.
- In light of the new Severn Bridge being renamed the Prince of Wales bridge lobby for the old bridge to become the Forest of Dean bridge
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Infrastructure

- Transport links in and out around the whole district not just the bridge locations
- Will we need to travel to do business in 2050? As such should infrastructure be a priority?
- We need to better understand the short term impact on toll removal and the pinch point that is Chepstow. This will cause problems and deter day trippers and also workers from coming into the Forest
- With removal of the tolls there will be more day trippers coming in from Bristol so there will be a shift in transportation making the M50 redundant what are the plans for this?
- Infrastructure to remove pinch points is needed so that we don't disadvantage ourselves
- Removal of tolls will create more isolation with snagging in Chepstow a third bridge is needed
- The road infrastructure in the Welsh valleys are a good example plenty of dual carriageways to move vehicles

Actions

- What data is available / research completed about the impact on housing once the tolls are removed?
- Understand better what is included within land allocation plans to ensure that doctor surgeries etc. are accounted for