

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Businesses across Mid-Warwickshire are being asked to help advise government on skills and employment issues.

Members of the Mid-Warwickshire branch of the Chamber of Commerce are to form a working party to help advise ministers and policy makers on the issues facing business who are trying to recruit, retain or train staff.

The Chamber held a meeting at the Holiday Inn, Kenilworth to draw up the group who will feed into a paper being prepared for ministers and shadow ministers.

David Myskow, chair of the branch, said the area was a microcosm of the UK when it came to employment and that made it perfect sense to provide examples to policy makers.

“The branch and a selection of members – some of whom are HR professionals – will look into the competition for workers, the shortage of available staff, improving skills, retaining more students in the area and helping people back into the workplace.

“We heard from David Ayton-Hill of Warwickshire County Council that the area is a mixed bag when it comes down to employment. If you look at the overall figures, we come out more or less average, but within that there are some large variables,” said David.

“South and Mid Warwickshire have very high levels of employment but that figures changes when you move up through Coventry to the north of the county.

“We have a large culture and leisure tourism market – which raises questions over the impact of Brexit – two universities with a high student population, a large manufacturing and engineering sector and also agriculture.

“That means we have, in some areas, very little slack in the system and a real shortage of people, while in others there is a real shortage of skills along with issues of helping people back into work.

“Having that mix means other factors coming into play such as ensuring we have the right infrastructure to ensure people can travel to work across the area, and the issue of productivity so companies can get the most out of their workforce.

“Over the coming weeks, the working party will draw up the main issues so the Chamber can highlight not only the issues but also some potential solutions.

“The Chamber very much has the ear of politicians at a local, regional and national level and can ensure the voice of business is well and truly heard on this and many other matters.”

Pictured: David Myskow (fourth from the right) with members of the Chamber branch, who will feedback to Government on employment issues

