

#STRONGERHEREFORD

Notes from a meeting of the STRONGER TOWNS FUND – PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (PDG) held 12 April 2023, 8.30-9.40 am via MS Teams

Members:	Frank Myers (MBE) Abigail Appleton Paul Stevens	FM AA PS	Chair Principal, Hereford College of Arts (and Chair of Hereford Stronger Towns Board) Herefordshire BID
Attendees:	Christian Dangerfield	CD	Rose Regeneration, RR
Apologies:	Ivan Annibal Cllr Ellie Chowns Joni Hughes James Newby	IA EC JH JN	Rose Regeneration, RR Cabinet Member, Environment and Economy, HC Portfolio Manager, Capital Development, HC President & CEO, NMITE
Guests:	Richard Deane Nic Millington	RD NM	Digital Culture Hub Project Digital Culture Hub Project
Notetaker:	Jan Bailey	JB	Herefordshire Business Board

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	Welcome The Chair welcomed RD and NM to the meeting.	
2.	Notes of last PDG Meeting The notes from the PDG meeting held on 29 March were agreed as an accurate record.	
3.	Project Update – Digital Culture Hub 3.1 RD provided an overview of the current position with regard to the Digital Culture Hub project, including a financial report detailing likely capital and revenue expenditure and sources of match funding. 3.2 RD updated the PDG on a recent meeting with BEIS officials (which was one of a number of meetings requested by the Department during a recent visit to Hereford) at which it was confirmed that a Project Adjustment Request would not be needed in light of these changes to funding arrangements as the Project Outcomes remain unchanged. 3.3 RD explained to members the reason for agreeing a price for the purchase of Packer’s House that was above its open market valuation. This is primarily to do with the premises being the most suitable location for this (and the Powerhouse) project and the fact that the vendor doesn’t particularly want to sell the property. He advised that a completion date of mid-May was targeted and that the mortgage offer is time-limited. 3.4 NM advised of positive conversations recently held with the Arts Council who have indicated their long term support for the Digital Culture Hub project. 3.5 The Chair stressed the importance of all meetings and their outcomes being noted so that PDG/Board members and the Accountable Body are kept aware of all developments and any advice given, eg by BEIS.	

	<p>3.6 RD/NM will compile a summary report that outlines the discussions they held with the BEIS representatives and the conversations had with the Arts Council. The report will also include details of any changes, eg to facilities, that have resulted from the move from the original planned premises at Maylord Orchards to Packer's House. This document will be provided to CD in advance of Friday's Board meeting, for reference by RR in their presentation to Board members.</p> <p>3.7 AA commented that it would be useful to have a summary of any changes to match funding plans for this and all other projects within the #StrongerHereford portfolio.</p>	RD/NM/CD
4,	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>4.1 PDG discussed the importance of receiving regular updates from all projects as they progress through the delivery stage. The Greening of the City project was identified as one such project. CD will contact Roger Allonby to request an update on its grant scheme, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number and amounts of grant(s) awarded so far, including a brief outline of each awardee • Details of any unsuccessful requests for grant funding and the reason(s) for their rejection • The grant fund that remains • Any plans for the expenditure of the remaining grant (if applicable) <p>4.2 AA referred to the funding report template previously discussed at PDG. Members expressed some reservations with the format, which AA will discuss with IA/JH.</p> <p>4.3 CD advised of some recent developments affecting the River Wye project. Further details to be outlined and discussed at next week's PDG.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>AA</p>
5.	<p>Dates of next meeting</p> <p>Next Board Meeting – Friday 14 April 2023, 8.30 – 10.00, remote, then first Friday of each month.</p> <p>Next PDG Meeting – Wednesday 19 April 2023 – 8.30 – 9.30 am (remote)</p>	