

# #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

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

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed RD and NM to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Notes of last PDG Meeting</b></p> <p>The notes from the PDG meeting held on 29 March were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Project Update – Digital Culture Hub</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>	

