

STRONGER HEREFORD

Notes from a meeting of the STRONGER HEREFORD – PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (PDG) MEETING held on 9 January 2025 from 8.15 – 9am via MS Teams

Members:	Frank Myers MBE Abigail Appleton MBE	FM AA	Chair Principal, Hereford College of Arts (and Chair of Hereford Stronger Towns Board)
	James Newby Paul Stevens	JN PS	President & CEO, NMITE Hereford City BID
Attendees:	Ian Annibal Christian Dangerfield Joni Hughes	IA CD JH	Rose Regeneration (RR) Rose Regeneration (RR) Portfolio Manager, Capital Development, HC
Apologies: /Absences	None		
Notetaker:	Jan Bailey	JB	Herefordshire Business Board

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	New Declarations of Interest None	
2.	Notes of previous meetings The notes of the PDG meeting held on 2 October 2024 were approved as a correct record.	
3.	Congratulations	
3.1	The Chair congratulated AA on her recent MBE, announced in this year's New Year's Honours list.	
4.	Funding Overview	
4.1	IA provided an update on the current financial situation, focusing particularly on the Wyeside, Southside, Electric Buses and Encore projects.	
4.2	Following movement of funds agreed at Board, IA advised that the programme would be left with circa £150-£200,000 as a contingency to support project objectives. Members agreed that this was a sensible and satisfactory position to be in.	
5.	Wyeside Project	
5.1	Members discussed new developments at the Wyeside project relating to there being a new project leader in place and his hope that the crane purchased by the project could be installed before the project is closed. This would depend upon planning permission being granted, which had previously been denied.	
5.2	IA advised that the additional sum required to do this work was relatively small and would not affect previously made Board decisions to transfer unspent funds from Wyeside to other projects – notably the Castle Green and Encore projects.	

5.3	It was agreed that no view on this matter could be reached until further information is available. CD will discuss with both Steve Taylor and Ivan Powell and report back.	CD
6.	Museum and Library Projects	
6.1	CD provided an update on a recent meeting he had held with the Museum project team. He advised that the construction tender had been reissued and had generated more interest than previously. CD said that the project leads are optimistic about the outcome of the tender process and are expecting a decision to be made in February. CD recommended the project leads are then asked to provide an update to Board.	RR
6.2	CD advised that the Museum project leads are currently projecting a potential deficit but are awaiting the outcome of the tender process. In addition, CD reported that the team had had some success in recent grant applications. JH advised that once the tender price had been confirmed, this would have to return to Cabinet for approval.	
6.3	CD referred to the large contingency being carried by the Library project, which still hadn't been allocated and warranted further discussion with the Board. AA agreed saying that the team had been invited to tomorrow's Board but were unable to attend. They would therefore be asked to attend a future Board to provide an update.	RR
6.4	IA raised concerns regarding the future of Herefordshire Council and its associated projects following recent speculation that Herefordshire would become subsumed within a larger regional council. The Chair noted this concern.	
7.	Belmont Wanderers (Southside Project)	
7.1	CD provided an update on recent discussions with the Belmont Wanderers Project Lead, which were very positive. A recent tender process had elicited several interested parties, with a decision expected next week. In addition, an application to the Clive Richards Foundation is progressing well.	
8.	NMITE Future of Work Project	
8.1	JN provided an update on negotiations with contractors. He said final decisions would be made within the next two-three weeks, following which time decisions would be made on any value engineering required to achieve the project objectives within available funding.	
9.	Castle Green Project	
9.1	AA advised that a new Financial Agreement had been drawn up for the Castle Green project (additional funding). It was agreed that RR would circulate this document to Board members in advance of tomorrow's Board meeting with a request for any material concerns on the document to be sent to RR within 3-4 working days.	RR
10.	Digital Culture Hub	
10.1	CD advised of a request for additional funding received from the Project Lead (Nic Millington). Members agreed that they could not make decisions on such requests at such short notice and in any case they felt it is too early to make any decisions on how any contingency money could be allocated.	
11.	Matched Funding	
11.1	Members discussed matched funding. They agreed that Board members must be able to demonstrate they are discharging their responsibilities relating to the achievement of matched funding targets but may not be fully aware of the current situation. IA advised	

	that reporting on these targets is part of regular monitoring reports to Government. RR to provide more information on matched funding targets and the position to date by project.	RR
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>	
13.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>PDG – To be confirmed</p> <p>Board – Friday 10 January, 8.30 – 10.00 am.</p>	