

STRONGER HEREFORD

Notes from a meeting of the STRONGER HEREFORD – PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (PDG) MEETING held on 23 April 2025 from 8.30 – 9.30 am via MS Teams

Members:	Frank Myers MBE	FM	Chair
	Abigail Appleton MBE	AA	Principal, Hereford College of Arts (and Chair of Hereford Stronger Towns Board)
	Paul Stevens	PS	Hereford City BID
Attendees:	Ivan Annibal	IA	Rose Regeneration (RR)
	Christian Dangerfield	CD	Rose Regeneration (RR)
Apologies:	James Newby	JN	President & CEO, NMITE

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	Programme Cash Position	
1.1	The Chair, CD and IA discussed the programme's current cash position, highlighting the need for a clear understanding of project expenditures and processes to authorise further spending. They emphasised the importance of knowing the current status of all projects to make informed decisions.	
1.2	The Chair mentioned that a meeting had been held with Rachael Sanders (RS) but a follow up meeting was needed to address outstanding issues.	RR
2.	Project Monitoring and Financial Accountability	
2.1	IA explained the current process of monitoring project expenditure and the role of the secretariat in intervening with risk-related projects. He mentioned that the Accountable Body should be responsible for scrutinising individual claims and ensuring eligibility.	
2.2	IA said that the new proposal for monitoring and financial accountability aims to address the issue of scrutinising individual claims and ensuring eligibility, which was previously done by Joni Hughes.	
3.	Growing Local and Belmont Wanderers Financial Issues	
3.1	The Chair and IA highlighted financial discrepancies between Growing Local and Belmont Wanderers, emphasising the need to understand the separation of expenditures and the allocation of funds. They highlighted the importance of having a clear picture of project expenditures and future spending.	
3.2	The Chair stressed the importance of understanding what parts of the project are still to be delivered and ensuring that there is money reserved for future spending. IA agreed and mentioned the need to keep a close eye on the projects to avoid any deficit position.	
3.3	CD and IA raised the issue of Belmont Wanderers' cash flow management. They discussed the need to monitor the club's revenue and expenditure closely.	

4.	Southside and Library Projects	
4.1	CD and IA highlighted complications to do with the Southside and Library projects. They highlighted the need for a thorough review of each project's financial situation and progress and emphasised the importance of addressing structural challenges and ensuring transparency.	
4.2	CD raised the issue of the contingency fee in the library project, which remains unresolved.	
5.	Wyeside Funding Agreement	
5.1	The Chair, CD and AA discussed the funding agreement for this project and the need to clarify the project's financial status. They emphasised the importance of negotiating a close-down plan and understanding the project's deliverables.	
6.	Castle Green Legal Action	
6.1	The Chair and CD discussed the potential costs from pursuing legal action in relation to the funds which have been paid to the main contractor as deposits on work not completed prior to appointment of a receiver and in relation to alleged professional negligence of the Quantity Surveyor. They considered the costs and risks involved in pursuing the claim and suggested exploring the possibility of legal expenses insurance to mitigate the financial burden.	
7.	Legacy Projects and Funding	
7.1	Attendees discussed the potential for legacy projects and the challenges of funding them with capital rather than revenue monies. They emphasised the need to carefully consider the rules and the need to seek government approval for any additional revenue spending.	
7.2	IA explained that the programme's revenue is currently running at 5%, and any additional revenue spending would require government approval.	
7.3	CD mentioned a number of potential legacy projects. IA emphasised the need to present a careful case for these projects to take into account Government restrictions around capital versus revenue spending.	
8.	Enhanced Service Provision	
	The Chair, AA and IA discussed the enhanced service provision proposal and the need to meet with RS to finalise the details. They emphasised the importance of agreeing on the process and ensuring that all stakeholders are informed.	
9.	PDG Meeting Invitations	
	A process was agreed for sending invitations and agendas to Board members for future PDG meetings to ensure clarity and encourage participation.	
10.	Date of Next Meeting	
	The next PDG meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 April at 8.30-9.30 am via MS Teams.	