

Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group
Minutes of a Meeting Held on Wednesday, 14th December, 2011

Present:-

Chris Bull	Herefordshire Public Services (HPS)
Charles Hill	West Mercia Police
John Hodges	Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service (on behalf of Mark Yates)
Dane Broomfield	DEFRA Group (on behalf of David Throup)
Liz Smith	West Mercia Probation Trust
Lynda Wilcox	HALC
Ray Stone	Herefordshire Business Board
Jake Bharier	Third Sector Board

In Attendance:-

Jane Jones	Herefordshire Partnership
Philippa Lydford	Herefordshire Partnership
Nick Webster	Herefordshire Public Services (HPS)
Jenny Lewis	Herefordshire Public Services (HPS)
Nina Bridges	Herefordshire Public Services (HPS)

Apologies:-

Dave Throup	DEFRA Group
Mark Yates	Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service
Dr Andy Watts	Clinical Commissioning Group

1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies

Chris Bull welcomed everyone to the meeting and they introduced themselves. Apologies as noted above.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising, November meeting

Agreed as a true record.

3. Community Safety Core Support – Nina Bridges

Nina spoke to the circulated report, highlighting challenges through reductions in grant and partner funding, the need for an action orientated approach and the planned consultation on proposals for the 2012/13 financial year.

The group acknowledged the one year approach, referring to likely funding changes with the introduction of the Police & Crime Commission. A focus of resources on actions was endorsed. The Police have committed £10k for 2012/13.

The link between this group and the Police & Crime Commission was questioned and it was agreed to invite a representative for Herefordshire to this group in due time, to discuss engagement.

The recommendation was agreed.

4. Herefordshire Compact – Nina Bridges

Nina spoke to the circulated report. Alterations had been made following consultation. Changes in response to feedback include; the title working well together, the image on the front page will be altered, refining plain English, what success would look like and how we measure. The current Forward could be changed to introduction and names removed, to avoid particular organisation association.

Group members suggested that the forward should mention HPEG, with explanation of what it is. There was support for a local picture and the addition of a short 1 or 2 page version. It was felt this was a much improved document. In marketing and the launch, examples of where this has made a difference should be included. It was acknowledged that generally things work well locally, with the only area of difficulty sometimes around money inequality, between those who have it and those that don't, requiring effective engagement.

The recommendations were agreed, with the forward changed to HPEG and brief description.

5. **Enterprise Zone (EZ) Presentation - Ray Stone**

Ray ran through the presentation recently shared with Communities and Local Government. The site total size has increased. Opportunities to minimise environmental impact have been investigated.

What the project aims to achieve

This project will provide new employment opportunities and enable some existing businesses to grow in Herefordshire. This will compliment the city centre development, new housing and road infrastructure, along with encouraging young families to the area, with a positive impact on local schools and colleges. This will raise the profile of Herefordshire and the overall standard of the current Rotherwas site. There is already interest in the site, leading to potential new jobs, with approximately 40 expressions of interest so far. There are options for good waste management. Business rates can be re-invested locally.

The group visited the South and North Magazine areas.

Actions for the Work plan

The group made suggestions and offers of support as follows:

Lynda – communications, positive messages update to Town & Parish Councils on development i.e. hot tip of the week. River transport could also support existing businesses i.e. local pub in Hampton Bishop. Neighbourhood development could be supported, to keep communities on board. The local parish area are looking into a development plan. Nick & Ray offered to be involved in their development of this and at local meetings.

Charles – Business crime support through re-launch of business watch. Inspector Neil Whitchurch could directly support and CSO Kevin Powell. The Local Policing Team could introduce themselves to Ray and Nick. The Police team were invited to attend a planned Chamber of Commerce event of the Business Park Forum, in Rotherwas on 24th January. With fibre optics installations, there could be an option to install automatic number plate recognition (A.N.P.R) capability. An opportunity to look at work placements for re-offenders. A crime profile could be built for this area. In January and February there is a Police Partnership Initiative, around rural crime, incorporating a smart water presentation. Linked to the new cycleway to the site, consider alcohol interventions and health links. Herefordshire Diamond Day, next year is an opportunity to showcase the county and the relatively low crime levels here.

Jake – support could be provided around learning and community. There is need for a long term vision, linked to impact in the community, education, environment etc. HPEG could develop a longer term vision i.e. 40 years.

John – Fire & Rescue can support building control, fire and safety links and responsibilities. Nick mentioned building control and including Fire & Rescue in process set-up, so that all the relevant people and links are in place early. Ray suggested support in developing a disaster plan for the site. Neil Piggot, is the local fire officer who could provide a link into the project.

Liz – mentioned probation having an interest in employment (good quality) opportunities as a key factor in avoiding re-offending. It is difficult to identifying employers with which they can build relationships. Ray mentioned a recent Cattle Market event involving McAlpines with local businesses, saying that the same approach could be used for the Enterprise Zone, including apprenticeships. Liz will link to these events and discussions.

Dane – suggested that the EZ team investigate use of the river as transport for people commuting, being mindful of environmental impacts. There is an opportunity to develop a joint group on complimentary work linked to the Herefordshire Nature Improvement Area (an application is in for a 3 year project) with wildlife management work, supporting high security businesses, acting as a buffer. Look to branding if the bid is successful and work in a supportive way for Herefordshire maximising both aspirations. There was mention of work

with Welsh Water and other companies including an algae project that could treat sewage, lowering river phosphate levels. Links could be made with the energy plant, water course development and Core Strategy development in the County. Links to Hampton Bishop's aerobic digester have already been made.

Outcomes

The group considered other complimentary areas for the EZ development and business investment, including; providing a good place to live, a quality workforce, good banking services, solicitors etc. A good environment will help maintain a motivated workforce and attractive site. Target communications and publicity when specifics are known, such as, when new jobs are confirmed. The Enterprise Zone is not in a vacuum but will complement all other activity in the county. Impacts could be felt around employment, income levels and child poverty levels through contributions in the EZ development.

Strategic links

The ambitions of the Enterprise Zone should be considered against a paired down Sustainable Community Strategy, reflecting a significant impact around Economic Development. It was confirmed that the requirement for a Community Strategy was now a local decision. There was question over where the focus for vulnerable people sits, whether the Community or Health and Well-being Strategy/HPEG or Health and Well-being Board. It was suggested that this be determined through definition. The new Community Strategy should be a short statement of our "joint priorities" which complements needs as identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and State of Herefordshire Report. There is a core priority around;

The economy and growth, linked to the Enterprise Zone

Vulnerable people linked to health and well-being

Community Safety, in people's experience of living here, including the wider environment, and

Development of localities and localism.

Date of Next Meeting

Friday, 6th January, 2012 – 9 am.

Hereford Room, Plough Lane