

Local Economy Policy Development Advisory Group
8 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Councillors: Chris Brown (Chairman), Matthew Allen, John Blackall, Gordon Lindsay, Mike Morgan, Jack Saheid and Belinda Walters

Apologies: Councillors: Jonathan Chowen, Roy Cornell, Billy Greening and Colin Minto

6 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 30 June 2021 were received.

7 **INFORMAL UPDATE ON STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Members received an update on the current staffing within Economic development including the phased return of the Head of Service.

8 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - STRATEGIC OVERVIEW**

Since the last PDAG the Interim Head of Economic Development met with the Economic Development team and undertook an informal review of the department, in particularly looking at the department's activities and how they align with the local economic needs and Member objectives in the post-Covid world.

The Interim Head of Economic Development provided the department's feedback looking at mission, how the department works with other partners to deliver economic development objectives, and highlighted that the Council has relationships across many other departments with businesses (such as planning, waste, environmental health) and that there is an opportunity to portray a business friendly agenda across all services.

A mission statement for the department has been proposed "*To make Horsham District an easy Place to Start, Build and Run a business*" which received unanimous support from members.

It was agreed that a discussion document would be prepared for PDAG's consideration, with recommendations for next steps.

9 **FOCUS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

Members received an update on the current status of the ARG:

The Council has allocated £1.2m in grants before the end of July as was required by Government. A further £1.28m has been sent by Government which needs to be spent by the end of March 2022.

10 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMY PORTFOLIO**

There are no items on the current Forward Plan for the Local Economy Portfolio.

The meeting closed at 7.16 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN