

HERTFORDSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009

REPORT: HERTS FORWARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 6 NOVEMBER 2009

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Purpose of Report

To inform members of the Partnership Board that Hertfordshire Forward Conference will take place on 6 November 2009. It will focus on the Hertfordshire Economy and board members are asked to comment on the proposed content of the day.

1. Background

1.1 Herts Forward's 2009 conference will have as its theme, the Hertfordshire Economy. The new Partnership has been asked to develop the conference programme and identify suitable speakers. Under the overarching theme 'Supporting Hertfordshire through the recession' the conference will look at the global, national and regional context and the current issues and future challenges for the Herts economy. The conference also provides an opportunity to present Board's new economic vision and begin to develop the economic strategy for Hertfordshire.

2. Outline Programme

2.1 The Conference provides an excellent opportunity to launch the work of the new Economic Partnership. Appendix 1 sets out a suggested programme for the Board's comments.

2.2 The Conference will provide the opportunity to present 'a state of the Hertfordshire economy' snapshot and identify the current issues and future challenges facing the county. It will enable the Board to test out its new vision and ask those present to help shape future priorities and actions.

2.3 It will be critical to ensure good attendance from business and everyone with a stake in the Hertfordshire economy. East of England International and Herts Chamber of Commerce and Industry have offered to help market the event and identify possible speakers.

3. Conclusion

The Partnership Board is asked to comment on the suggested content, and ensure the date is in their diary.

APPENDIX 1 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

HERTS FORWARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

9.30	Registration and Coffee
10.00	Welcome and role of the Economic Partnership Robert Gordon, Chair of Herts Forward and Economic Partnership
10.10	How did we get here and where do we go from here? Speaker: National figure from City, Journalist
10.30	Developing Skills and Competitiveness Speaker: Regional figure
11.00	Presentation: State of Herts economy and future challenges
11.30	Workshop 1 Setting the priorities for Hertfordshire's future success
12.30	Lunch
13.15	What Business really really wants Speaker: Key Local Business figure
13.45	Helping families cope Speaker: National CAB/CVS speaker
2.30	Workshop 2 How do we ensure everyone benefits in economic success?
3.15	Saving the High Street Speaker: Association of Town Centre Management, or High Street retailer
4.00	Closing Remarks