

GROUP UPDATE FROM CLLR ROGER PHILLIPS HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2011

THE MARCHES REDUNDANT BUILDING GRANT (RBG) SCHEME

- The Marches Redundant Building Grant Scheme will be launched in the New Year and will run until 31st March 2014
- Scheme will cover Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin and will be administered by Herefordshire Council on behalf of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership
- £1.5m is available to award to eligible applicants towards the conversion or refurbishment of redundant buildings to bring them back into productive economic use
- Maximum grant of £50,000 (30% of eligible costs) and minimum grant of £3,000
- The scheme expects to support up to 52 businesses and to create 330 new jobs and safeguard 165 jobs by 2019
- Eligible applicants will include private businesses, charities, social enterprises and private/public partnerships
- Scheme criteria will be similar to the previous RBG scheme but grant cannot be awarded for speculative developments e.g. barn conversions for offices for letting
- Project costs which pre-date the grant offer will not be eligible
- We will be meeting with our partners on 29th November to discuss detailed criteria for the scheme and to set up a Steering Group which will make decisions on grant applications
- To register interest in the scheme please contact
Dorothy Coleman – Rural Grants Manager 01432 383616 dmc@herefordshire.gov.uk or Caroline Cattle – Rural Grants Manager 01432 260662 ccattle@herefordshire.gov.uk or email rbscheme@herefordshire.gov.uk - We will then send the details to you when the scheme is launched

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FUND

Key messages:

- Funding secured from Europe of £1.1 million to run the fund jointly with Shropshire. It will provide a pot of £500k for Herefordshire businesses to apply into (not including Telford and Wrekin*) and runs until December 2013.
- Grants for start-ups and businesses up to 9 months old of £1,500, and over 9 months up to £5,000 available
- The businesses need to cover 50% of the investment themselves, up to the maximum amounts, e.g. if a piece of equipment cost £3,000 the business could apply for £1,500 and need to put £1,500 in itself
- Grants can cover capital expenditure, such as machinery, improvements to premises and equipment with a lifespan of at least one year.

- The European funding that is supporting the fund is primarily for creating the conditions for growth and a dynamic business base. For this reason, the scheme is for producers such as manufacturers and food processors, and businesses that provide services to other businesses.
- Over the three years that it will be running, the Fund aims to support at least 65 individuals to start up a new business and help improve the performance of 80 existing businesses, to help create up to 100 new jobs in Herefordshire.
- More information on eligibility and how to apply, go to Herefordshire Council website Business Grants section.
- Telford and Wrekin did not meet the criteria for receiving this European funding

We are taking a report to Cabinet in December on some **options for Cultural services**. We have to redesign some of our services in a way that continues the valued service but takes out the costs and puts them in a better position to develop in the future. I am having meeting with many of the voluntary groups to ensure they are getting the message that we want to continue with the service but in a different format. Included in this are our Museums, (Hereford, Old House, Ledbury and Ross and the Friar Street building which houses are collections) Records Office and Archives, Arts team, Sport activities as well as aspects of other portfolios including youth service and Music service.

[LEDBURY MASTERS HOUSE](#)

We have submitted a bid to the lottery to support our redevelopment of this building. Managing the politics of the Town are as big a challenge as the scheme itself.