Crawley Economic Recovery Taskforce (CERT) Group and Town Deal Board Wednesday, 22 July 2020

Confidential Working Draft

Meeting Notes

<u>ITEM</u>

1. Welcome

Chris Maidment (CM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from:

Catherine Scott
Patrick Warner, substituted by Nick Hill
John Redfern, substituted by Vicky Beard
Paul Scrivens, substituted by Gary Peters
Thomas Easton, substituted by Nicole Rudland
Adam Joolia, substituted by Ian Ross

CM extended a special welcome to Abi Cunliffe-Hall who has replaced Cath Goodall at MHCLG and will be working with the CERT & Town Deal Board from now on.

Peter Smith (PS) introduced t agenda, highlighting the main purpose

Peter Lamb (PL) expressed the need to be realistic in that the proposals, on their own, will not create jobs and support from central government has, to date, been limited with no clear solution provided.

AB acknowledged that, through targeted support, the Hubs will give local people the best possible chance of securing employment, where jobs are available.

The in-meeting chat suggested developing a central place for Crawley Businesses to post job vacancies and link existing jobs boards. LoveLocalJobs would be happy to work with partners on this including the DWP and Crawley College. To be discussed at the next skills sub-

UC claimant count saw a slight reduction from 7.2% (May) to 7.1% (June) but the overall figures remain significantly above regional and national levels.

Responding to a question about the imbalance of funding that Crawley has received, CS confirmed that the CERT & Town Deal Board has a role to play in lobbying Government for additional support.

PL highlighted that the Government is not unaware of the problem as this has been raised before however the response was far from positive. This is a national issue and not just related to Crawley, although it is accepted that the town has been particularly hard hit.

It was agreed that, whilst the situation is unfair, the CERT & Town Deal Board must do all it can to get as much of the support available to Crawley, as possible.

Ana Christie (AC) highlighted the need to ensure that the Recovery Plan also considers the future, additional impact of leaving the EU, particularly with regard to supporting business with employment costs and the additional cost of importing and exporting, from December 2020.