

Appendix D

Questions for Cllr Chowney and Neil Dart on Seachange, HBC and associated economic partnerships

Background

- Please describe any past, present or future interests or roles in the Seachange partnership or in its previous incarnations.

Monitoring

- How does HBC effectively monitor the work of Seachange?
- To what extent do the directors and or local authority representatives on the Seachange board cascade performance information back to:
 - (a) their respective organisations (boroughs and districts) and
 - (b) the public (- who's interests local authorities serve)?
- It is understood that measures such as lower unemployment figures and newly registered businesses are indicators of value added to the public as a consequence of Seachange activity...How do these stack up against local business failure rates, underemployment and unfilled vacancies?

Narrowing the Gap

- When new businesses arrive in Hastings as a consequence of the work of Seachange and partners, how far can they be encouraged and or incentivised to recruit locally and from particularly challenged wards?
- Where does the balance of the town's regeneration efforts lie between improving the life chances of the town's most deprived residents and attracting new businesses, visitors and residents?
- How far do the Council's regeneration initiatives (a) complement the work of Seachange and (b) work to provide opportunities for the town's most challenged wards?

Regeneration partnership working

- The good work of Seachange and partners in bringing businesses to the town is acknowledged, to what extent is it HBC's job to:
 - (a) retain/support local businesses (eg. SAGA, Jerwood)
 - (b) ensure local people are work ready as employment opportunities arise
 - (c) address skills shortages
- To what extent do the unprecedented financial challenges facing the Council impact upon the town's regeneration efforts?
- What regeneration activity is realistic for both Seachange and the Council in a prolonged period of austerity?
- What is your perspective of the profile and influence of both Seachange and HBC within the South East LEP?