



REVIEW: 20TH QUARTERLY FORUM

The 20th Quarterly meeting took place on 21st October at the Octagon, Walker Street, Hull. The main speakers were Paula Gouldthorpe, Partnership Manager at Business Link Yorkshire; Paul Litten, Senior Commercial Executive at InterBulk Group plc; Peter Shipp, Chairman of East Yorkshire Motor Services and Mike Ibbotson, Transport Policy Manager at Hull City Council. The meeting was chaired by Richard Brough of UK Port Services and member of the Forum Steering Group.



Forum Update

The meeting began at 4.30pm with the Forum Update, presented by Ben Delaney. He began by introducing the new name, the ONE HULL Business Forum, which although a minor change, symbolised the partnership nature of the Forum's work and its close relationship with the Local Strategic Partnership, ONE HULL. He highlighted the new logo, which features the ONE HULL 'arrow', replacing the 'cog' which had been the logo of the Forum since it was established in 2003. Ben also spoke about the Forum's new 'Connect' website which was being developed in order to create further opportunities for the private sector to engage with the community and there was also a brief update on the recent study into Humber Bridge tolls which had highlighted the impact of the tolls on the region.

Paula Gouldthorpe, Partnership Manager, Business Link Yorkshire

Paula gave a presentation on the recent changes at Business Link Yorkshire and explained the wide range of business support services it now offers including business start up support, advice on sales and marketing and contact centre which can provide market research and access to a team of advisers. Further information on Business Link Yorkshire can be found on their website: www.businesslink.gov.uk/yorkshire

Paul Litten, Senior Commercial Executive, InterBulk Group plc

Paul began his presentation by introducing his company Interbulk Group plc, one of the UK's largest transport and logistics companies. He stressed the need to improve Castle Street in order to allow better transportation of containers and traffic from



the ports as congestion and delays were serious barriers to the growth of the sector. In addition to improving Castle Street, Paul highlighted the need for better rail links to the ports which would enable more freight to be taken off the roads and more reliable movement of goods. He stressed that Hull had a leading ports and logistics industry which contributed greatly to the local economy but this was under threat if investment was not made in the necessary transport infrastructure. Information on InterBulk Group plc can be found at: <http://www.interbulkgroup.com/>

Peter Shipp, Chairman, East Yorkshire Motor Services Ltd



Peter Shipp gave an informative presentation on the history of EYMS and its contribution to the public transport sector in Hull since it was founded in 1926. He described many of the difficulties facing the transport sector including the cost of fuel but he also highlighted the environmental benefits of bus transport as well as its safety record in comparison with other modes of transportation. He indicated the level of investment being made in upgrading the fleet

with 31 new buses coming into service in 2008 and 20 in 2009 at a cost of £167,000 each. www.eyms.co.uk

Panel discussion

Following the presentations, Mike Ibbotson, Transport Policy Manager at Hull City Council joined Paul Litten and Peter Shipp on the stage to take questions from the audience in a question and answer session. Responding to a question from the Chair on Hulls Transport Plan, Mike Ibbotson took the chance to explain that work on Castle Street had been delayed for many years due to changing Government priorities and rising costs. He also added that work was ongoing to introduce two further park and ride sites in Hull in the east and north of the city which would reduce the number of cars and therefore congestion in the city centre.

Paul Litten answered a question on competitiveness of Hulls port sector by indicating Hull risked losing investment and business if it didn't improve the key routes to the ports, particularly Hedon Road and Castle Street. He went on to say that from a business perspective congestion added to the already rising costs of transport and urgently needed to be addressed if the ports sector was continue to grow.

Responding to a question about the Council offering free parking on the weekends, Peter Shipp said that encouraging cars to enter the city centre was not actually beneficial as it would increase congestion and delays for cars and buses alike.

The next meeting of the ONE HULL Business Forum will be on Tuesday 27th January 2009.

www.hullbusinessforum.com