

MINUTES: Business Advisory Group

Thursday 14th January

34/38 Beverley Road, Hull



PRESENT

Barry Schofield	Tutty's Office Interiors (Chair)
Peter Latham-Warde	PLW Consultancy
Jeff Clarkson	Clarkson Business Strategy
John Roberts	Destinova Consulting
Paula Litten	Pro-Fusion Partnerships
Valerie Monaghan	University of Hull Business School
Nick Pontone	ONE HULL Business Forum
Ben Delaney	ONE HULL Business Forum

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

354. Barry Schofield welcomed Valerie Monaghan to the meeting and noted apologies from Darren Glew, Ken Baldwin, Christine Ware, Tony Anson, Peter Duffield, Tim Evison, John Britton, Andy Lawrence, Sue Dobbs and Sheena Kurring.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

355. The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

356. It was agreed that the Group would monitor the issue of apprenticeships particularly the pledges made by the Esteem consortium for Hull's Building Schools for the Future project to take on 200 apprentices.

Agenda Item 4: The University of Hull's 'World of Work' project

357. Valerie Monaghan, the Hull University Business School Career Skills and Placements Manager, gave an update on the work of the University's 'World of Work' office and the support available to local businesses. She added that the World of Work office was designed to be a one stop shop to provide local businesses with an access point to engage with the University on skills and placement projects. Many students working on placements were MBA level and from a variety of backgrounds such as marketing or logistics so were able to offer valuable skills to companies.

358. Nick Pontone said it would be beneficial to the University to speak with one voice when communicating with local businesses rather than different departments and projects competing for employer engagement as this could be confusing for businesses.
359. Barry Schofield asked what size of businesses the University were working with on the placement projects. Valerie Monaghan replied that it was roughly a 50:50 split between SMEs and large companies. She added that the demand from students looking for placements was increasing but there was a small decrease in the numbers securing places.
360. John Roberts reflected on his positive experiences of working with MBA and placement students in the past particularly when working with overseas companies. Jeff Clarkson said he had signed up to be a mentor with the 'Works for You' project.

Additional agenda item: Hull City Council Budget Consultation

361. Nick Pontone gave an overview of the measures proposed in the Council's budget which included a freeze on council tax and confirmation of the expansion of Park and Ride service. A discussion was had regarding the future funding of Hull Forward and city centre regeneration projects. It was noted that with 46% of Council services procured locally any cuts in Council budgets would have an impact on local businesses. It was noted that there would be substantial pressures on local government spending regardless of which political party was in Government and this would have an impact on Hull's regeneration and support for business.
362. The proposed budget was welcomed by the Group although it was noted that it was not a detailed breakdown of spending commitments. It was agreed to monitor future Council spending announcements and make representations when necessary.

Agenda Item 6: Any other business

363. Technology and digital developments were suggested as future agenda items. It was suggested that the Group could benefit from understanding how Hull compared to other areas regarding digital infrastructure.

Agenda Item 7: Dates of future meetings

364. Thursday 11th March 2010, 2pm