

MINUTES: Business Advisory Group

Thursday 1st July 2010

34/38 Beverley Road, Hull



PRESENT

Barry Schofield	Tutty's Office Interiors (Chair)
Uche Akali	Hallmark Solicitors
Jeff Clarkson	Clarkson Business Strategy
Peter Latham-Warde	PLW Consultancy
Nick Miller	James Legal
Tony Anson	Gelder and Kitchen
John Roberts	Destinova Consulting
Sue Dobbs	Premier Class Education Services
Martin Budd	Hull City Council
Ben Delaney	ONE HULL Business Forum

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

402. Apologies were received from Darren Glew, Christine Ware, Alex Burgess, Mark Willet, Tim Evison, Paul Fielder, Paula Litten and Andy Lawrence.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

403. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th May 2010 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

404. Barry Schofield circulated press articles regarding the 'Half past the weekend' project and the Esteem Consortium's expo at the Hull Truck Theatre and commented that BAG had discussed both these issues in recent meetings.

Agenda Item 4: ONE HULL Environment and Climate Change Strategy

405. The Chair welcomed Martin Budd, Hull City Council's Environment and Climate Change Strategic Advisor, and invited him to provide an update on the Strategy.
406. Martin Budd said the environmental agenda was a priority for both the new Government as well as Hull City Council. He said the ONE HULL strategy was based on three principles of reducing emissions, adapting to climate change and using natural resources more sustainably. There had been a rise in the number of extreme weather events and this was likely to continue which would inevitably have an impact on businesses. Martin Budd added there would be increasing opportunities for businesses

to take advantage of emerging industries particularly those resulting from the wind turbine sector.

407. Martin Budd explained some of the ways businesses could save money by making environmental friendly choices and added that Hull City Council was expecting to save around £60,000 from installing a variety of energy saving measures in its buildings. He added that local procurement was also a way of reducing carbon emissions; reducing the number of food miles in the local supply chain would have a significant impact on energy consumption.
408. A discussion was had regarding incentives for businesses to reduce their energy use including a reduction in rates. It was also agreed that a more direct approach would be the best as businesses would appreciate an individual assessment of their environmental impact. It was also noted that evidence from businesses who have already taken steps to reduce their emissions or energy consumption would be useful when convincing other businesses that action was worthwhile. The benefits of environmental accreditations were also discussed.

Agenda Item 5: IDeA Worklessness Peer Review

409. Ben Delaney gave a presentation on the Peer Review and the Worklessness Action Plan. He explained the role of the Audit Commission and the details of the assessment including the reasons for Hull being given a red flag. He added that one of the main issues in the Review was how businesses were being engaged in the effort to tackle worklessness. It was noted that the Review mentioned the Business Forum and its role in engaging businesses in the worklessness agenda but specifically stated there was greater need for effective engagement with businesses, particularly around them employing more local unemployed people.
410. There was a wide ranging discussion about how the Business Forum could fulfil its obligations as stated in the Action Plan and encourage businesses to contribute to the worklessness issue in the city.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

411. There was no other business

Agenda Item 6: Dates of next meeting

412. Thursday 16th September