

MINUTES: Business Advisory Group

Thursday 25th November 2010

34/38 Beverley Road, Hull



PRESENT

Barry Schofield	Tutty's Office Interiors (Chair)
Paul Fielder	Lime Property
John Roberts	Destinova Consulting
Graham Hall	Hull City Council
Antony Towle	ONE HULL Business Forum
Hannah Crookes	ONE HULL Business Forum
Nick Pontone	ONE HULL Business Forum

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

413. Apologies were received from Christine Ware, Tony Anson, Peter Latham-Warde, John Britton, Paula Litten, Govind Manocha, Andy Lawrence, Jeff Clarkson, Tim Evison and Alex Burgess.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

414. i) The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st July 2010 were agreed as a true and correct record.
- ii) Nick Pontone provided a brief update on the consultation event held with the Humberside Police Authority which was held on the 16th of September 2010. The Police were set a target of a 20% reduction in business crime; current figures suggest the Police are achieving 5% and 10% in the city centre.
415. John Roberts raised the issue that no feedback had been received from the Police Authority from the questionnaire issued at the event. It was agreed the Forum should raise this issue with the Police Authority.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

416. There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 4: Hull's Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-26)

417. The Chair welcomed Graham Hall, Assistant Head of Street Scene at Hull City Council, and invited him to provide an update on the proposed new Local Transport Plan (LTP).
418. Graham Hall presented an overview of the current LTP, which would cease at the end of March 2011. The LTP covers issues such as parking, public transport and winter

maintenance. Previous LTPs have covered a period of 5 years, but the new LTP would cover a period of 15 years.

419. Graham Hall explained that the budget review earlier in the year meant there was a 25% reduction in their budget, which ultimately has had an impact on the LTP. The Council is currently unsure as to what the level of funding would be for the Transport Department, although an indicative budget for the next 3 years would be released in mid December.
420. **Roads:** Graham Hall highlighted that in relation to many UK cities, Hull's congestion was considered as being less severe but the infrastructure was fragile and thus could be affected by minor disruption or road closures.
421. **A63 Castle Street:** An in depth discussion took place around the A63, Castle Street. It was reiterated that this road was the responsibility of the Highways Agency and not Hull City Council. It was noted that the main cause of congestion problems around Castle Street were due to the roundabouts rather than pedestrian crossings.
422. Graham Hall was unable to comment fully on the planned Castle Street improvement works as this major trunk road was the responsibility of the Highways agency. However he was able to say that a delay with moving the plans forward could have a serious impact on the city. The extra capacity the road improvements bring would ease pressure on the new development schemes planned for the East of the city. A question was raised as to whether Hull City Council should bid for funding to help improve Castle Street, though as it was a Highways Agency issue, the local authority would not be making bids for funding.
423. **Ferensway:** Concern was expressed over the number of accidents and deaths that have occurred along Ferensway. Possible options were discussed but it was noted that even if the amount of barriers increased there would still be high risk of accidents due to people vaulting across the barriers.
424. **Parking:** Graham Hall stated that parking in the city was at an acceptable level as there is sufficient parking with most car parks being under utilised. In addition, Graham Hall commented that car park pricing had been stable for two years and pricing was in line with other Yorkshire cities.
425. The Business Advisory Group had previously recommended halving the cost of pricing for the George Street multi-storey car park in order to utilise the car park further. Graham Hall commented that this would not be possible as the car park was near to capacity. Graham Hall suggested that the Pryme Street multi-storey could potentially be used for subsidised parking rates as it was currently about 30% utilised. The group agreed that this should be followed up as a matter of course.
426. The issue of resident parking permits in the city centre was raised and whether the same rates could be offered to city centre businesses. It was suggested through increasing the offer of parking permits across to businesses, it would make more people visit the city centre as it would appear to be busy.
427. It was noted that the current parking policy would not be amended in the new LTP3.

428. **Sustainable transport:** It was noted that sustainable transport methods should be promoted more, particularly cycling and walking as this would also coincide with improving health and wellbeing.
429. Concern was expressed over public transport reliability and punctuality, however in comparison to other areas it was highlighted that generally public transport services in Hull were very good.
430. **Work Place Travel Plans:** It was noted that this was an option that was being looked into and could be a method of reducing the commute into Hull.
431. Nick Pontone queried as to whether there were any future measures planned to assess the level of congestion in the city. Graham Hall stated measurements were ongoing, although current statistics demonstrated that congestion has decreased and the number of vehicles using the road had remained static but traffic is moving freer.
432. In addition, it was noted that the business community could assist in the ring fencing of transport budgets; particularly as the current cuts across the local authority transport saw a reduction that would have a severe impact on its services and plans. It was stressed that business consultation was statutory and thus the forum could be used to assist with this.

Agenda Item 5: BAG Forward Plan and Meeting Schedule For 2011

433. As there would be six meetings of the Business Advisory group taking place in 2011, it was suggested that six topics should be agreed to be discussed over the year. Members should be asked in advance of the meeting to raise questions that could be forwarded to the guest speaker.
434. It was agreed that Catherine Lea from Hull Daily Mail should be invited to future meetings in order to improve press coverage.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

435. It was noted that attendance had been reducing over time. This was in turn raising concern as to whether the Business Advisory group would continue. It was agreed for Hannah Crookes to collate attendance records over the past two years.
436. In relation to this, it was agreed the forum should work at attracting new businesses to the BAG to enable it to provide a higher level of feedback on issues affecting businesses, as well as to assist in increasing attendance. It was also noted that a wider range of businesses should be attracted to the BAG.
437. The current terms of reference of the Business Advisory Group stated that the group should 'actively support the work of the ONE HULL Earning Strategic Delivery Partnership and its 'Employment and Skills' and 'Enterprise' Boards' This however had

not been apparent, thus it was agreed the forum should write to the Chair of the Earning SDP to ascertain as to the reasoning why.

438. It was suggested that minutes of Business Advisory Group meetings should be circulated further in advance of the following meeting so there would be more opportunity to follow up on action points.
439. Paul Fielder suggested that action points/plans should be followed up with the guest speaker at future meetings to find out if they were utilised, if so what the outcome was. This was agreed by the group.

Agenda Item 7: Dates of next meeting

440. Wednesday 12th January 2011 at 2.30pm