

**Business Advisory Group**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**Smailes Goldie, Regent's Court, Princes St, Hull**

## **Minutes**



### **PRESENT**

Barry Schofield (in the Chair)	Peter M Tutty Partnership
Nick Miller	Graham & Rosen Solicitors
Paula Litten	Pro-fusion Partnership Limited
Peter Duffield	Smailes Goldie
Tony Cosgrove	Nortech
Glen Little	Smailes Goldie Consulting
Graham Boanas	Power Plus
Jeff Clarkson	Clarkson Business Strategy
Francesca Devine	Devine Law
Julie Fisk	Fisk Printers Ltd
John Sharp	IRC Division of Strucsteel Group Holdings Ltd

### Guest:

John Holmes	Hull Citybuild
-------------	----------------

### In Attendance:

Nick Pontone	Hull Business Forum
Ben Delaney	Hull Business Forum

### **Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

171. Apologies were received from Pam Cavanagh and Debby Burman.

### **Agenda Item 2: Minutes**

172. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were agreed as a true and correct record.

### **Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising**

173. BID / BAG City Centre 'Mini Manifesto' – The Chair stated that the presentation by the City Centre BID manager Ken Baldwin at the previous meeting was excellent and he felt the 'Mini Manifesto' produced as a result was very good.

174. Nick Pontone said in response that the development of the Manifesto was an ongoing process and feedback had already been received from other Forum members since it had been published on the Forum website. Any further activity regarding the Manifesto would be reported back to the Group.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Hull Citybuild and Hull Forward**

175. The Chair welcomed John Holmes, Chief Executive of Hull Citybuild and CEO designate of Hull Forward, who then gave his presentation on the progress of various regeneration projects within Hull and the work being done on the launch of Hull Forward from April 2008.
176. He said that the new City Development Company, Hull Forward, would now be classified as an 'Economic Development Company' and would have a city wide remit rather than a limited city centre focus and would look at both economic regeneration as well as improving the physical infrastructure of the city.
177. John Holmes stated that the funding for Hull Forward was still being discussed between Hull City Council, Yorkshire Forward and English Partnerships. It was hoped that Hull Forward will become operational in April or May 2008.
178. Several questions were put to John Holmes regarding the loss of a bustling trading centre in the fruit market, the use and management of the marina and the level of engagement with the business community by Hull Forward. He replied that the new facilities on Priory Park would be suitable for fruit market traders as they would have modern facilities with plenty of space which would be a good replacement for their current home. John Holmes indicated that the marina itself could be better managed and that this would be looked at although with more people coming to live and work around the marina this would improve the area as a destination for visitors. John Holmes also acknowledged that Citybuild hadn't always worked as closely with the business community as it could have done in the past but this would change with Hull Forward.
179. The Chair raised the issue of land available for business use. John Holmes agreed that the shortage of space was a concern and that work would be done to look into the problem and the potential of purchasing land in the future to be allocated for business development.
180. Nick Pontone offered Hull Business Forum's support in gauging the views of businesses which could be used by Hull Forward in their planning and policy decisions. The Forum could also help Hull Forward communicate with the local business community.
181. The Chair asked what could be done regarding local procurement on the regeneration projects as this would be beneficial to the local economy. John Holmes said that European law was problematic in this area but St Stephens provided employment for many local people and the Boom development is managed by Pure Urban, a consortium of local building companies.

182. The Chair thanked John Holmes for his presentation and for answering questions. John Holmes offered to come back to the group on a regular basis and then left the meeting.
183. It was agreed that John Holmes would be invited back to a future Business Advisory Group meeting once Hull Forward had been established to provide an update on the issues discussed, in particular the land and office space available for businesses, local procurement and the sector action plans once developed for the key clusters.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Local Area Agreement for Hull**

184. Nick Pontone said that work on the LAA was continuing and that Hull would choose 35 indicators out of a possible 198 set nationally to specifically target local priorities. Most of the targets for the economy related to the number of VAT registrations, earnings, skills and employment rather than business development. Nick Pontone said that if any Business Advisory Group members were interested in the process they would be welcome to contact him for further briefing.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Forum Progress Report and Action Tracker**

185. The report was circulated and noted.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Any other business**

186. Nick Pontone said that if any members would like to hear from any specific speakers at the next meeting they should contact him.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Date of Next Meeting**

187. The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm