

Business Advisory Group
Wednesday 12th March 2008
Holiday Inn, Hull Marina



Minutes

PRESENT

Barry Schofield (in the Chair)
Nick Miller
Paula Litten
Glen Little

Peter M Tutty Partnership
Graham & Rosen Solicitors
Pro-fusion Partnership Limited
Smailes Goldie Consulting

Guest:

Keith Griffiths
Roger Gray

Hull City Council
Hull City Council

In Attendance:

Nick Pontone
Ben Delaney

Hull Business Forum
Hull Business Forum

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

188. Apologies were received from Graham Boanas, Simon Hall, Pam Cavanagh, Jeff Clarkson and Peter Duffield.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

189. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 2008 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

190. There were no matters arising. The Chair introduced the guest speakers.

Agenda Item 4: Hull Development Framework & Employment Land Review

191. Roger Gray and Keith Griffiths gave a presentation which explained that the principle role of the HDF is to identify appropriate land supply and devise policy to manage release of that land. He said the result of the Employment Land Review would be a clear long term plan allowing Hull to use its land capacity most effectively. The presentation focused on how best to develop on Hull's strengths located in key 'clusters' such as Renewables, Healthcare and Logistics as well as attract a bigger and better office market to the city.

192. Roger Gray said there was a large amount of land available in Hull but it was not easily accessible to businesses and was spread out over the city in small parcels, ruling out the development of another site such as the one on Sutton Fields.
193. Business Advisory Group members said, referring to a recent article in the Hull Daily Mail, that the banning of cars from Hull City Centre would cause serious damage to the local business community and should not be recommended.
194. Also raised was the issue of residential developments in the city centre. It was said that whilst the expansion of the city centre residential market had many positive implications it obviously restricted the opportunities for city centre office developments. Keith Griffiths replied that there was a good amount of office space in the city centre but acknowledged that much of it was in need of renovation to keep up with market demands.
195. It was felt that the current focus of the council was on attracting and supporting SME's and large national and international companies to Hull; very little support was available for established medium sized companies who were looking to expand but due to restrictions such as office space were unable to. Keith Griffiths said that the business community could be consulted on issues such as planning through the Hull Business Forum.

Agenda Item 5: BID / Business Advisory Group City Centre Mini Manifesto

196. Nick Pontone explained the progress which has been made on the Mini Manifesto. A letter had been sent to Leader of Hull City Council Carl Minns expressing the Forum's view that the proposed Park and Ride expansion plans were a good idea for the city and would help congestion. The letter also asked for clarification on the current funding for the scheme. Correspondence had been received from Rev James Forrester of Holy Trinity Church who expressed interest in the Groups work and in the Mini Manifesto. The Forum had also written to Janet Reuben, Chief Executive of Visit Hull and East Yorkshire regarding the city's tourism strategy. Letters would be sent to the relevant bodies in charge of street cleaning and lamppost banners and the results would be presented to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Forum Progress Report and Action Tracker

197. The report was circulated and Nick Pontone said that if anybody had questions on it they should contact him.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

198. Possible speakers for future meetings were discussed and it was agreed that John Holmes from Citybuild would be asked as would Councillor John Robinson who is now responsible for relationships with the business sector and strategic planning issues. Representatives from Igloo and Business Link Humber would also be asked to speak.

199. The Chair noted the poor turnout at the meeting and said that given the important issues discussed it was important that the meetings were better attended in future. New members for the Business Advisory Group would be sought and those who had not been attending would be removed from the membership.

Agenda Item 8: Date of Next Meeting

200. The next meeting of the Business Advisory Group will be held on Thursday 1st May 2008 at 12.00 noon.