

MINUTES: Business Advisory Group

Thursday 15th January, 2009

34/38 Beverley Road, Hull



PRESENT

Barry Schofield (in the Chair)	Tuttys Office Interiors
Graham Boanas	PowerPlus
John Roberts	Destinova Consulting
Ken Baldwin	Hull BID
Andy Lawrence	StaintonWard Ltd
John Britton	BCG Bridgepoint
Nick Miller	Graham & Rosen
Paul Fielder	Lime Property
Paula Litten	Pro-Fusion Partnerships
Tim Evison	Eon Media
Peter Latham-Warde	PLW Consultancy
Darren Glew	Eltherington Aluminium
David Martin	Building Schools for the Future
Ben Delaney	ONE HULL Business Forum

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

272. Apologies were received from Colin Booth, Jeff Clarkson and Peter Duffield.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

273. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd November were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

274. i) Planning Sub-Committee The Chair said that the Planning Sub-Committee had been due to meet to discuss the issues raised in the previous Advisory Group meeting but due to diary commitments from Members the meeting had been postponed to a later date. It would be rearranged.

Agenda Item 4: Building Schools for the Future

275. The Chair introduced David Martin, Project Director for Hull's Building Schools for the Future project.

276. David Martin gave a presentation on Building Schools for the Future (BSF). He said BSF was a national programme of investment aimed at improving schools across the county. As part of this programme Hull would receive £400M and the programme had been rebranded for Hull to 'Building Our Future'. BSF would not be limited to physical rebuilding of school buildings but would lead to physical, social and economic regeneration of the city. It was acknowledged

that a number of pupils travel out of the city to attend schools in the East Riding whilst very few travelled into the city from outside. David Martin said one of the aims of BSF was to improve the education in the city and the 'outflow' trend could be reversed.

277. David Martin said there had been a thorough consultation process to ensure the investment would meet the needs of the future and he spoke about the importance of ICT in the programme and the impact this would have on the new schools. He added that the new school sites would also host other services and facilities which would enable local communities to engage with schools through a variety of services such as adult education and he hoped that building work on all 23 schools would be completed by 2015.
278. David Martin said Hull currently had the largest BSF project in the country and there would be a number of new Academy's in the city which would be sponsored by the Church of England, the University of Hull and Hull College. National sports organisations would also be asked to support some of the new schools, particularly those who have sport as their speciality. It was also confirmed that there were two remaining bidders to deliver the BSF programme in Hull; Balfour Beatty and Esteem (Morgan Sindall Investments Ltd, Robertson's Capital Projects Ltd, Sewell Group plc). The threat of flooding to the new schools would be addressed in the building designs.
279. Paula Litten asked David Martin what was being done to ensure that local companies were benefiting from the investment BSF would bring to the city. David Martin said that whilst there were legal complications in the natural procurement process regarding the use of local labour the Council were preparing a guidance document on the issue and the two remaining bidders were aware of the city's desire for BSF to deliver significant jobs and training opportunities locally.
280. The Chair asked if the new school sites would occupy extra land which could otherwise be used for other purposes. David Martin said that some schools would be demolished whilst others would take up additional land but overall there wouldn't be a huge increase in overall land use nor would there be a reduction in the amount of green space available in the city.
281. Peter Latham-Warde asked if there had been any evidence of the 'BSF effect' elsewhere in the country. David Martin responded by saying that in places where BSF had been completed there had been positive feedback and attainment results had improved although it was still quite early on to get a national picture of the full effect.
282. Graham Boanas welcomed the investment in Hull's schools but said that other wider factors such as discipline and respect for teachers were just as important as new buildings. BSF therefore had to be part of a broader approach to improving the educational performance of the city.
283. The Chair asked David Martin if there were proposals in place to allow teachers to spend time with businesses to enable them to gain a better understanding of how businesses work. David Martin replied that projects such as those were a good idea and more could be done to develop them. Paula Litten said she had been involved with enterprise in schools and it was important for business and enterprise to play a bigger role in education.
284. Andy Lawrence asked what could be done to encourage parents to support their child's education. David Martin said this was an issue in Hull but he hoped the new facilities would enable parents to take more interest in education as they would allow further adult education services to be made available.

285. Paula Litten raised the possibility of schools having more than one head teacher or a business person available to work alongside the head teacher in an advisory capacity. David Martin said he wanted to explore ways for education and business sectors to work closely together in the future.

Agenda Item 5: 2009 Programme of BAG & Enterprise Network Events

286. Due to time constraints this item would be discussed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Dates of Next Meeting

287. The next meeting of the Business Advisory Group will be held on Thursday 12th March 3.00pm.