



Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

Hull Business Forum played a leading role in developing Hull's bid for Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) funding.

LEGI is a national scheme which local authorities can competitively bid for, to promote enterprise (culture, start-ups, existing businesses and investment) in the most deprived areas. This is the second round of funding and Hull's bid was produced by partners, including ONE HULL, Hull City Council and Goodwin Development Trust. The Forum managed the Strategic Group which developed the bid and the views of members from the November 2005 survey and focus groups were incorporated into the submission.

The bid for c.£12m over the next three years will be focused on target neighbourhoods such as Preston Road, Thornton and North Bransholme with new support for neighbourhood business forums, youth enterprise activity, start-up support and funding to help existing businesses in these areas.

The outcome of the bid will be known in December. For more information, please contact Nick Pontone at n.pontone@hullbusinessforum.com



ONE HULL Jobs and Prosperity Partnership

The first two meetings of the newly formed ONE HULL Jobs and Prosperity Partnership have been held this quarter.

Jobs and Prosperity is the main economic partnership for Hull and includes private, public and voluntary/community sector partners. The new partnership has much stronger business input than previous similar groups. It is chaired by Richard Brough of Brough Marine Ltd who is a Forum steering group member, Council member of Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Learning & Skills Council Humber-side. Other private sector members appointed via the Business Forum are David Barratt from SPS Security, Debby Burman from Corporate Communications, Peter Duffield from Smailes Goldie and Noel Waters from Smith & Nephew Medical Ltd. They join public sector partners such as the City Council, Citybuild, Jobcentre Plus and LSC.

The first key task of the Partnership is to produce a Delivery Plan for the key targets and outcomes set out in Hull's new Community Strategy (see below).

For more information on the Partnership, please contact Nick Pontone on 324976 or n.pontone@hullbusinessforum.com

HBF Business Advisory Group

The Forum has established a new Business Advisory Group to give businesses a stronger voice in local decision making processes.

Under the Chairmanship of Barry Schofield, a partner at Peter Tutty Partnership, the Advisory Group will be able to look in detail at strategies and issues which impact on the local business community. Its membership is open to full members of the Business Forum.

The first task of the group is to provide private sector input into the emerging Jobs and Prosperity Delivery Plan of the ONE HULL Local Strategic Partnership. The Plan has four high level targets to 2011:

- Increase Hull's employment rate (requiring 9,000 more local people into jobs).
- Increase Hull's enterprise rate (doubling the city's rate of business start-ups).
- Increase Hull earnings (improving average earnings by equivalent of £100 p/week).
- Increase Hull's skills base (by ensuring more local jobs with higher level skills).

Minutes will be on our website shortly. If you're interested in participating, please contact Hannah Crookes on 324976 or at h.crookes@hullbusinessforum.com





City centre businesses back the BID

Businesses in Hull city centre have voted decisively to back the Business Improvement District (BID) concept.

81% of city centre businesses voted to support the BID, which will levy an additional 1% on business rates on 1,500 non-residential premises in the city centre raising c.£500K per year. It is the biggest BID area in the country and the first in Yorkshire.

City centre BID Manager, Ken Baldwin, presented to the Forum in January to outline the proposals, which included improved safety & security and better events & promotion. Our Forum survey gave a pointer to the eventual referendum result with 97% of businesses supporting the concept in principle.

The result is highly significant in demonstrating the commitment that a majority of Hull businesses are prepared to make to improve the trading environment. The concept puts business at the centre of the proposals, giving the go ahead in a referendum and now leading the delivery of the BID. The BID initially lasts for five years.

For more information, please visit the Forum website or www.thinkbid.co.uk or contact Ken Baldwin at k.baldwin@citycentrehull.com

13th Quarterly Forum, 30th January 2007

The agenda for the 13th Quarterly Hull Business Forum has been confirmed. It will take place at 4.30pm on Tuesday 30th January 2007 at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Willerby, Hull.

Our principal guest will be Cllr Andy Sloan, the high profile portfolio holder for economic regeneration at Hull City Council. Cllr Sloan is leading the reshaping of Hull's economic strategy (see his recent speech on the Forum's website) and is keen to work with local businesses. A question and answer session will follow his presentation.

We will also be joined once again by a number of very special guests, our 2006/7 Young Enterprise companies. Hull is searching for yet another national finalist following the successes of KH Smilers, Avian Enterprise and Tops Off in the past three years. Some of this years leading companies will again be exhibiting and making short presentations on their experiences on running a business. Some Young Enterprise companies are still seeking business volunteer advisors for this year. If you can help, please contact Nick Pontone at the Forum or attend the awareness session we're holding with Young Enterprise on 9th November at 4.30pm, 34-38 Beverley Road, Hull.

We will also receive a presentation on what we can do locally to combat climate change.

Forum round up

It's been a busy period for the Forum, particularly in ensuring businesses are strongly represented on the ONE HULL Local Strategic Partnership groups. Following an expressions of interest exercise with all Forum members, a series of appointments have been made to the ONE HULL partnerships such as Jobs & Prosperity, Education, Learning & Skills, Children & Young People etc. This system of representation across all LSP partnerships is unique to Hull. There are still some opportunities to get involved in the community cohesion and older & vulnerable people partnerships.

- **Inside Track:** our email newsletter is now sent to 630 contacts every two weeks.
- **Membership:** 550 local business have now signed up as members of the Forum.
- **Website:** the events diary is constantly updated as a comprehensive guide to business events held locally.
- **Factsheets:** we are publishing two factsheets per month, the latest being a series on legislation changes on diversity and cohesion issues, part of the ONE HULL strategy.
- **Representation:** we are also active in a range of local partnerships.

For more information on any aspect of the Forum's activity, to get involved, or to have your say, please do not hesitate to contact Nick Pontone or Hannah Crookes.

