MINUTES: Steering Group

Monday, 1st December 2008

34 / 38 Beverley Road, Hull

ONE HULL BUSINESS FORUM

PRESENT

Tony Cosgrove (Chair)
Paul Cowell
Paul Litten
Gordon Shields
Linda Ellis
John Sharp
Barry Schofield
Richard Brough
Sue Dobbs
Francesca Devine
Paul Burnley
Richard Tuplin
Steve Tomlinson
Nick Pontone
Ben Delaney

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

704. Apologies were received from Jonathan Leafe, Richard Brough and Ian Kelly. The Chair announced that Andrew Peterson had resigned from the Group as his role at KCOM had moved him from the area.

Agenda Item 2: Education & Employer Engagement

705. The Chair introduced Steve Tomlinson, Strategic Lead for Employer Engagement at Hull City Council who gave a presentation on his role and what he expected to achieve in the future. He said that the role was a new one for the Local Authority which had identified the need for better links between the education and business sector and he would be working with existing organisations such as the Education Business Partnership (EBP). He said that the 'uexplore' project had been purchased by the Council and would be used throughout local schools so that young people could engage with the job market. He also said that as he had only been in the post for a number of weeks he was looking forward to engaging with as many agencies and groups as possible regarding the 14-19 agenda which included the introduction of diplomas and part of this would include speaking with schools, assessing their relationship with businesses and identifying best practice.

706. Sue Dobbs suggested that it would be a good idea if a full description of Steve Tomlinson's role could be made available so if anybody had a question regarding education and employer links they would know who to talk to. Steve Tomlinson said he was happy to circulate his details.

707. Paul Litten said that it was important for schools to understand what they needed to do to ensure their students get jobs after education by meeting the needs of local businesses.

708. Gordon Shields added that businesses want young people who are motivated and aspirational and those are qualities that schools and colleges need to instil in their students.

709. John Sharp asked how European regulations would impact on social clauses which are aimed at using as much local labour as possible in local construction projects such as Building Schools for the Future. Paul Burnley replied that the Council Cabinet would be discussing a social clause policy in the New Year to ensure that such issues are addressed in future procurement decisions. However it was felt this would not overcome the national trend of a shift to larger contractors which made it difficult for smaller firms to lead on the big projects.

710. Barry Schofield asked who Steve Tomlinson reported to within the Council. He said that he reported directly to Richard Stevens in the Children and Young Peoples Services and ultimately to Nigel Richardson.

711. Nick Pontone commented that the 14-19 agenda was a very broad one and asked Steve Tomlinson what his priorities were. He replied that he wanted to work with schools to better understand the problems they have in engaging with business and to increase the understanding in schools about what businesses expect from the education sector.

712. Linda Ellis reported that in the past teachers were invited into companies to gain business experience and this had worked well.

713. Gordon Shields described his previous experience of teacher shadowing and said it transformed the way each other viewed their roles and sectors.

714. David Burnby said that there was so much going on in the education/business area that it was hard for businesses to know where to go first for information. Nick Pontone replied that the Forum had produced a guide to engaging with schools some years ago which was done in association with the EBP. Steve Tomlinson indicated that an updated publication was on his list of 'early wins'.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes

715. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st October 2008 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 4: Matters Arising

716. i) HBF Connect Nick Pontone presented an overview of the new HBF Connect website and explained how it would work. The Steering Group welcomed this initiative.

717. ii) Secondments with Hull City Council Nick Pontone said that following the last meeting in which Malcolm Relph had explained the idea behind City Council secondments, work was now ongoing to develop the proposals and draft agreements had been produced.

Agenda Item 5: Forum Meetings

718. i) Programme for 2009 Quarterly Forums Nick Pontone said that Carl Minns had been invited to make his 'State of the City' address at the Quarterly Forum in January. Young Enterprise Companies had also been invited. Members were invited to provide further suggestions for the 2009 programme.

719. ii) Hull & Humber Enterprise Network Ben Delaney gave an update on the last meeting of the Hull & Humber Enterprise Network which had been held at the University of Hull and had been the most successful to date. A review of the event was circulated.

Agenda Item 6: Links with Local Business Networks and Industry Clusters

720. Paul Cowell said that he chaired the ICT Alliance which promotes the IT sector in the city. He added that there used to be other clusters for the food, marine and engineering sectors which had declined mainly doe to lack of funding and activity from members. A discussion was had regarding the sustainability of cluster groups and the possibility of the Forum managing them. It was agreed the Forum could help promote the activities of such groups to the wider business community but it would not be practical to provide such groups with administrative support.

Agenda Item 7: Community Strategy Refresh

721. Nick Pontone said the Community Strategy was undergoing a refresh to better reflect the challenges facing the city which had changed since it was originally written in 2006 and would be better aligned with the targets in the second Local Area Agreement. The Earning Partnership would be contributing during the consultation process.

Agenda Item 8: Reports

722. i) ONE HULL Executive Group Richard Tuplin gave an update on the last meeting Executive Group. He said that it was a positive meeting and the views of the private sector were being listened to. WNF projects were also discussed.

723. ii) Earning Partnership Nick Pontone said that the last meeting of the Partnership had a full agenda and the main items of discussion were WNF / LAA targets and how these would be affected by the recession. An Employment Task Force would be set up to look at what agencies in the city could do to create employment opportunities.

724. iii) Business Advisory Group Barry Schofield said Councillor John Fareham was the guest speaker at the last meeting and a planning sub group would be set up to continue looking at the issues raised in the BAG meeting. Consultants from CBRE had met with some members of the Advisory Group to get their views on the Whitefriargate study.

Agenda Item 9: Managers Report

725. The Report was noted.

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

726. There was no other business.

Agenda Item 11: Dates of future meetings

727. Steering Group: Tuesday 27th January 2009 at 3.00pm
Monday 2nd March 2009 at 12 noon

Hull Business Forum: Tuesday 27th January 2008 at 4.30pm