

MINUTES: Steering Group

Monday 2nd March 2009

Village Hotel, Hull



PRESENT

Tony Cosgrove (Chair)
Sue Dobbs
John Sharp
Gordon Shields
Paul Burnley
Paul Cowell
Barry Schofield
Ian Kelly
Nick Pontone
Ben Delaney
David Blowers

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

749. Apologies were received from David Burnby, Paul Litten, Tony Anson, Jonathan Leafe and Martin Cuthbert.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

750. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2009 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

751. There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 4: Hull's Comprehensive Area Assessment

752. David Blowers gave a presentation on Hull's forthcoming Comprehensive Area Assessment which would assess how well local partners and services were working together to improve the quality of life for local people.

753. John Sharp asked if the process of developing and carrying out the Comprehensive Area Assessment was worth the time and expense involved. David Blowers replied that the process did need to be carried out to ensure that value for money and quality of service was being maintained for the public. He added that businesses would be consulted as part of the process.

754. Sue Dobbs asked how the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement would be used in the Assessment. David Blowers said that as these two documents contained the targets which Hull was working towards they would be used by the auditors to help measure progress.

755. Nick Pontone asked if there were any areas where Hull was expecting to be 'red flagged' as areas for improvement. David Blowers said that there were some areas with which Hull has had long standing problems and these would probably be highlighted in the Assessment.

756. The Forum offered their support for the work Hull needed to undertake to prepare for the CAA. The Chair then thanked David Blowers for his presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Social Clauses in Regeneration Programmes

757. Paul Burnley summarised the Social Clause report which had been circulated. He said Council procurement strategies would be amended to include the policy and partners across the city were being encouraged to engage with it. In addition to negotiating a good price for services, the policy would enable the Council to insist on additional benefits from suppliers. He added that Hull City Council already spent twice the national average locally but there was potential to increase this. It was noted that social clauses was different to a buy local policy but it did offer genuine opportunities to secure additional local benefit from major procurement exercises such as Building Schools for the Future.

758. Gordon Shields said Hull City Council was to be congratulated for introducing the policy and added that environmental considerations should also be reviewed when procuring services.

759. Ian Kelly also supported the policy and welcomed the leadership from the Council on the issue. The Steering Group endorsed this view and thanked Paul Burnley for the update.

Agenda Item 6: Business Forum Issues

760. i) Review of 21st Quarterly Forum Nick Pontone reviewed the January Forum and noted that Councillor John Robinson stood in for Councillor Carl Minns at short notice and gave an interesting presentation which was reported on the front page of the Hull Daily Mail's business section the following day.

761. Nick Pontone reported that a complaint had been received regarding the Question and Answer session. He summarised the proposed response and this was agreed.

762. ii) Programme for Quarterly Forum meetings in 2009 Nick Pontone said there was still room on the agendas for the July and October meetings and asked for any agenda items to be sent to him. Nigel Richardson, Director of Children and Young Peoples services would be the main guest speaker for the April forum which would have a theme around young people.

763. iii) Steering Group / ONE HULL elections and selections Nick Pontone said there would be an election for 6 places on the Steering Group at the next Quarterly Forum and the existing representatives Francesca Devine, Sue Dobbs, Peter Duffield, Linda Ellis and Tony Anson were eligible to stand again should they wish.

Agenda Item 7: Reports

764. i) ONE HULL Executive Group Tony Cosgrove gave an update on the last meeting of the Group which had heard a presentation on the Holderness Road Action Plan. Investment in the Preston Road area and the Clipper Race were also discussed.

765. ii) Earning Partnership Nick Pontone said the Social Clause report, the recession response, performance reporting and LAA targets were discussed.

766. iii) Business Advisory Group Barry Schofield had received a letter from David Martin, Project Director of Building Schools for the Future programme following his presentation at the previous meeting. The City Centre Area Action Plan would be discussed at the next meeting and Nicola Yates, Deputy Chief Executive at Hull City Council, had also been invited to a future meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Managers Report

767. The Report was noted.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

768. Sue Dobbs asked where she could access relevant business support services regarding the growth and expansion of her business. Ian Kelly suggested Yorkshire Forward or Business Link offered mentoring services. It was also noted that the Forum's Enterprise Network was an opportunity to hear from leading local entrepreneurs on their experiences in business. David Kilburn of MKM Building Supplies had spoken at the most recent event.

Agenda Item 10: Dates of future meetings

769. Steering Group: Tuesday 28th April 2009 at 3pm
 Tuesday 19th May 2009 at 12 noon
- Business Forum: April 28th 2009 at 4.30pm