

PRESENT

Tony Cosgrove (Chair)
Paul Cowell
Paul Litten
Gordon Shields
Linda Ellis
John Sharp
Ian Kelly
Barry Schofield
Richard Brough
Francesca Devine
Andy Peterson
Paul Burnley
Nick Pontone
Ben Delaney

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

661. Apologies were received from Richard Tuplin, Jonathan Leafe and Sue Dobbs.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

662. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th July 2008 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

663. i) Service Level Agreement / Forum Funding Nick Pontone said that the Hull Business Forum's Service Level Agreement had been agreed which provided funding for the next three years. It provided a good degree of certainty which would enable better planning for future events and projects.

664. 'Progress in the City' – Statistics overview Ben Delaney introduced a report which presented key statistics on Hull's economy and comparative towns and cities. Richard Brough said it was good to have information on Hull's economic position as it would enable better tracking of progress on key targets such as employment rates.

Agenda Item 4: Proposed City Business Summit & 'Census'

665. i) Potential Agenda for City Summit in early 2009 Nick Pontone explained a potential project the Forum could develop in the near future which would be a conference or 'summit' aimed at attracting around 200 delegates to discuss the future of the city and its current problems. It would be larger event than the quarterly Forums and could include the leader of the Council's 'State of the City' address.

666. Paul Litten suggested that the event should also look at the image and perception of Hull as the Council and businesses need to know what people think of the city and what the barriers are to inward investment.

667. John Sharp commented that for any large scale conference to be of relevance it must include the East Riding as the economy of Hull cannot be looked at in isolation especially as a good proportion of those working in Hull live in the East Riding.

668. Paul Litten said that it would be good to hear from somebody who has been previously sceptical about Hull but who has now changed their mind and has decided to return to the city since it has started to improve.

669. Gordon Shields pointed out that in order for such an event to be a success it is important to identify at the outset what the purpose would be and what it would achieve. The results of the survey should also be used to focus the development of the summit.

670. Ian Kelly suggested that representatives from Hull could visit other areas of the country which have similar problems in order to share examples of best practice.

670. Nick Pontone responded that he hoped the proposed 'City Summit' would be largely business focused rather than regeneration focused but acknowledged that Urban Regeneration Companies and Business Improvement Districts did already share best practices ideas through exchange visits.

671. It was agreed that a City Business Summit would be explored further.

672. ii) Census Questions A list of possible census questions was circulated and Nick Pontone said that they would be locally focused as much as possible rather than asking for views on national Government policy.

673. Tony Cosgrove said that presentation was key to the success of the survey. If it was too long the response would be poor.

674. Paul Burnley advised coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Link to avoid replication of effort as they often carry out surveys with their members.

675. Richard Brough suggested questions on the perception of Hull would be beneficial as it would highlight the perceived barriers to inward investment.

676. The idea of a 'City Census' was agreed and developments would be presented at future meetings.

Agenda Item 5: Hull Business Forum 'Connect' Website.

677. Nick Pontone said that the Forum regularly receives requests from a variety of sectors and organisations looking for private sector involvement and a new website would be the best way to make these opportunities available to the wider business community. The website would create stronger links between the public, private and voluntary sectors and this would be beneficial to the city.

678. The Group agreed that it was a good idea and it would be developed further.

Agenda Item 6: Open Forum

679. Nick Pontone explained that the Open Forum was a chance for members to suggest any issues on which they would like the Forum to make representations or bring up any subjects which they felt appropriate to discuss.

680. John Sharp said that it was important for the Regional Assembly to be disbanded so it could not be formed into a limited company. If it were to become a limited company it would enable them to use public funds without the transparency which would be appropriate as a publically funded organisation.

681. It was agreed that apprenticeships would be a topic for a future meeting as more information on the regulations regarding their employment would be useful.

682. It was also agreed that education and skills could be one of the main themes for the proposed city summit as the needs of employers in regards to recruiting skilled young people was an important long term issue.

Agenda Item 7: Reports

683. i) ONE HULL Executive Group Tony Cosgrove updated the Group on the last meeting of the ONE HULL Executive. They had discussed Working Neighbourhood Funding and how it would be used to deliver LAA2 targets. Activity on the Multi Area Agreement was also progressing as was the development of the VCS Forum which had been put out to tender.

684. ii) Jobs and Prosperity Richard Brough said the groups was now known as the Earning Partnership and had several new members including 4 from the private sector. The main focus of the groups future work would be the Local Area Agreement targets

685. iii) Business Advisory Group Barry Schofield said that the City Centre Mini Manifesto was ongoing and recent issues discussed included Park and Ride and Working Neighbourhood Fund projects which had been introduced by Bob Ferraby from Hull City Council, at the previous meeting. It was confirmed that the speaker from Igloo would be rearranged for early 2009 to update on Fruit Market process.

Agenda Item 8: Manager's Report

686. The Managers Report was noted.

Agenda Item 9: Dates for 2009 meetings and Forward Work Programme

687. The Dates and Forward Work Programme were agreed and noted.

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

688. There was no other business

Agenda Item 11: Dates of Future Meetings

689. Steering Group: Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 3.00pm
Monday 1 December 2008 at 12 noon

Hull Business Forum: Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 4.30pm