

MINUTES: Steering Group
Monday 7th December 2009
34/38 Beverley Road, Hull.



PRESENT

Tony Cosgrove (Chair)
Gordon Shields
Barry Schofield
John Britton
John Sharp
Paul Cowell
Richard Brough
Patsy Kays
Dr Barbara Allan
Paul Burnley
Ben Delaney

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

850. Apologies were received from Jonathan Leafe, Paul Litten, Ian Kelly, Linda Ellis, Francesca Devine and Richard Tuplin.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

851. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2009 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

852. There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 4: The University of Hull 'Works for You' project

853. Dr Barbara Allan gave a short explanation of the 'Works for You' project. She said the aim of the project was to help people with higher-level skills whose career development had been affected by the economic downturn. The project matched recently unemployed people with a mentor in a relevant business sector who would use their experience and skills to give the mentee one-to-one guidance and support. She added that mentees would also receive one-to-one coaching from a Business School adviser and the project was targeting managers in key regional industries such as logistics, manufacturing and engineering.

854. Dr Allan also spoke about the University's 'World of Work' project which worked to place 3rd year students within a company for a year's placement. She said there were around 100 students prepared to go to out to businesses. Dr Allan added that more businesses

were needed for both projects. Richard Brough welcomed the project and said graduate retention was a significant challenge for the city. It was agreed to publicise the schemes via the Business Forum website. The Chair thanked Dr Allan for her presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Local Economic Assessment

855. Patsy Kays, Group Manager European and Regional Economic Programmes at Hull City Council gave an update on the Local Economic Assessment. She said the Government's Sub-National Review of Economic Development had given clear indication about the Government's intent to devolve power to a local level and strengthen the local authority role which included a duty to produce a statutory economic assessment. As Hull's functional economic area includes much of the East Riding, Hull City Council and East Riding Council had agreed to work together on the Local Economic Assessment.
856. Richard Brough said it was good the 'travel to work' area was being used for the LEA as Hull's economic impact reached far outside its actual boundary.
857. John Sharp said if Regional Development Agencies were to be abolished the LEA would prepare local authorities for handling more devolved powers.
858. Gordon Shields said there had been an absence of European and Yorkshire Forward money for business support. Hull and the East Riding had been given very little except that which had been allocated to Business Link.
859. Patsy Kays said a joint economic strategy would be agreed following the Local Economic Assessment and this process would continue should there be a Conservative Government after the next election.
860. The Chair thanked Patsy Kays for her presentation and offered the support of the Forum in the preparation of the assessment.

Agenda Item 6: Election of ONE HULL Business Forum Chair

861. Tony Cosgrove was re-elected as Business Forum Chair for 2010.

Agenda Item 7: Manager's Report

862. Ben Delaney introduced the Manager's Report.
863. A discussion was had regarding the lower turnout at the last Quarterly Forum and it was suggested that parking could be a problem particularly if Members had to pay for it. Alternative venues to be looked at included Malmo Park and John Sharp suggested a later start time might attract more people to events as would a licensed bar to promote networking opportunities. Richard Brough said a better link between the work of the Earning Partnership and the Quarterly Forums would be good so more Members were aware of its work.
864. The restructuring of the Earning Partnership had been ongoing and Richard Brough indicated he would stand down as Chair in the future once this process had been completed and an appropriate private sector Chair had been identified.

865. Ben Delaney would circulate the venues and speakers for the previous ten meetings to enable Steering Group members to compare good turnouts against lower turnouts and the reasons for the variation.
866. The low attendance of business representatives at the Hull Partnership was discussed. It was felt that the remit of the Partnership was the key issue that needed to be resolved to secure the ongoing interest of private sector members.
867. The Steering Group endorsed Gerard Jones as the Forum's representative on the Equality and Cohesion Standing Advisory Group.
868. Barry Schofield suggested that an event focused on helping businesses with Pre Qualification Questionnaires would be useful. Paul Burnley added that Business Link Yorkshire organised a number of events on procurement, bid writing and tendering. John Britton said he knew of local companies who had been successful in bidding, and engaging with them could be useful in encouraging and advising others.

Agenda Item 9: Any other business

870. There was no other business.

Agenda Item 10: Dates of future meetings

871. Steering Group: Tuesday 26th January 2010, 3.00pm
25th Quarterly Forum: Tuesday 26th January 2010, 4.30pm