

MINUTES: Steering Group
Tuesday 8th September 2009
34/38 Beverley Road, Hull



PRESENT

David Burnby (Chair)
Paul Cowell
Gordon Shields
John Britton
Paul Burnley
Richard Kendall
Ben Delaney

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

824. Apologies were received from Tony Cosgrove, John Sharp, Jonathan Leafe, Paul Litten, Ian Kelly, Richard Brough, Linda Ellis, Fran Devine, and Nick Pontone.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

825. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2009 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

826. There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 4: The Glover Report on Public Sector Procurement

827. John Britton gave a presentation on the Glover Report and spoke about its key recommendations to improve SME participation in public procurement. He said that by 2010, contract opportunities valued over £20,000 should be advertised online and be accessible through a single, free, easy to search online portal. It was noted that many businesses were frustrated by the fees needed to be paid to access contracts from outside of the immediate area as well having to pay for alerts when suitable contracts were posted on the *supply2.gov.uk* website. John Britton explained that although the Office of Government Commerce was responsible for the procurement issues there was a private company managing the website. He also said universal Pre Qualification Questionnaires would be beneficial to small companies making repeat bids as would non branded accreditations and the acceptance of previous private sector working in tenders. He added it would also be useful to see the publication of contract awardees.

828. David Burnby suggested the Forum could look at the issue of procurement. Gordon Shields said it could be done at a regional level through the Chambers of Commerce. Ben Delaney added that the next Quarterly Forum would hear from Hull's 2012 Development Manager who would speak about the potential local benefit from London's Olympic contracts.

Agenda Item 5: Business Forum Dates 2010

829. Topics, dates and venues for 2010 programme of Forum events were discussed. Paul Cowell added that health in the workplace was a relevant issue and it was noted that an occupational health service for SME's was being looked at.
830. John Britton said environmental issues were going to be increasingly important and the Forum should be making businesses aware of changes. He added the Humber Environmental Network was a very good network of events.
831. David Burnby said a business debate with prospective parliamentary candidates before the next election would be interesting to members. It was agreed that it would be discussed with the Chamber of Commerce to jointly host the event.

Agenda Item 6: Business Forum Meetings

832. Ben Delaney explained the agenda for the next Quarterly Forum and said it would include Colin Brown, Chief Executive of the Deep.

Agenda Item 7: Reports

833. Ben Delaney gave reports on the last BAG meeting which had met with Dr David Calvert, the Commercial Manager at the Environmental Technologies Centre of Industrial Collaboration and had discussed environmental awareness in businesses. The next BAG meeting would hear a presentation from John Holmes of Hull Forward.
834. Ben Delaney circulated a report on the Learning Lunch series which had been considered a successful series and there were plans to continue the events next year.

Agenda Item 8: Annual Business Survey Questions

835. The proposed questions for the Business Forum's Annual Business Survey were circulated and noted. The Steering Group would monitor progress of the project.

Agenda Item 9: 2018 World Cup Bid

836. David Burnby gave a brief update on Hull's 2018 World Cup Bid. He said the team leading the bid had received positive feedback so far but some weaknesses had included lack of hotels to host visitors. A representative from the Clipper team had commented on how good the city had been at hosting the launch of the yacht race.

Agenda Item 10: Any other business

837. There was no other business

Agenda Item 11: Dates of future meetings

838. Steering Group: Tuesday 20th October 2009 at 3.00pm
Monday 7th December 2009 at 12 noon
- Hull Business Forum: Tuesday 20th October 2009 at 4.30pm