MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING
Tuesday 15th July 2008, 3.00pm – 4.15pm
The Albemarle Music Centre, Ferensway, Hull

hull business forum

PRESENT

Tony Cosgrove (Chair)
Francesca Devine
David Burnby
Paul Burnley
Sue Dobbs
Jonathan Leafe
John Sharp
Linda Ellis
Barry Schofield
Nick Pontone
Ben Delaney

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

643. Apologies were received from Peter Duffield and Paul Cowell.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

644. It was noted that Linda Ellis had passed apologies for the previous meeting although this was not recorded in the minutes. With this amendment noted the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2008 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

645. Barry Schofield asked for a clarification on point 635 of previous minutes which referred to an 'annual business census' as a possible future Forum project. It was proposed that the Forum might conduct a major annual survey on local business issues.

646. John Sharp suggested that the outcome of the 'census' could be circulated to schools in the city as this would allow students to understand the range of career options available to them in the city.

647. Barry Schofield suggested that the finding of any major pieces of work such as a city wide 'census' could be given national coverage through the Northcliffe Media group which owns the Hull Daily Mail.

648. Barry Schofield asked for a definition of a Task and Finish Group as discussed in paragraph 639 in the previous minutes. Nick Pontone replied that it was a temporary group set up to address a specific issue. He explained that the change from 'Jobs and Prosperity Partnership' to 'Earning Partnership' was necessary as their role had changed slightly. It would now be accountable for the meeting of targets contained in the new Local Area Agreement and could commission projects funded by the Working Neighborhoods Fund.

649. A discussion of Hull's progress followed. David Burnby said that if would be useful to have statistics for cities of similar economic status to Hull to gauge the success of any projects. It was agreed that these would be produced for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Quarterly Business Forum Meeting

650. Nick Pontone explained that there had been a significant level of interest in the ONE HULL Partnership, Forum Steering Group, Earning Partnership and Business Advisory Group. He said there would be no contested elections during the forthcoming Quarterly Forum as there had been enough interest in the different groups to ensure that all positions were filled.

651. New nominations for Steering Group and Business Advisory Group membership were noted. David Burnby suggested profiling members of the Advisory Group to ensure that a good cross section of sizes was represented. It was agreed that the results of this would be produced for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Refresh of the Business Forum Constitution

652. Nick Pontone said that the Constitution was still relevant and accurate but some requirements such as holding a titled AGM and elections had evolved over the past few years. It was agreed that flexibility was an essential part of any set of rules as long as the performance of the organisation was not affected.

Agenda Item 6: ONE HULL Business Forum Branding and Communications

653. Nick Pontone had met with the ONE HULL Manger who was happy for the Forum to be renamed as the ONE HULL Business Forum and the Forum's position within the LSP was illustrated on the LSP organisation diagram. The website and literature would change once the Service Level Agreement was signed.

654. Jonathan Leafe had produced an example of what a new Forum brochure could look like. It was agreed to circulate this to the Steering Group for comment.

Agenda Item 7: Reports

655. i) ONE HULL Executive Group Tony Cosgrove had attended the previous meeting which had been chaired by Kim Ryley and had discussed an older people strategy for the city as well as the Local and Multi Area Agreements.

656. ii) Jobs & Prosperity / Earning Nick Pontone said the Geographic Investment Programme had been discussed which was the plan for growing and developing Hull's economic infrastructure between the Council and Yorkshire Forward.

657. iii) Business Advisory Group Barry Schofield summarised the previous meeting which had included presentations from Councillor John Robinson and Janet Reuben of Visit Hull and East Yorkshire.

Agenda Item 8: Managers Report

658. The report was noted.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

659. Barry Schofield enquired about the number of 'hits' the Forum website had received. Exact figures weren't available but this would be investigated for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 10: Dates of Future Meetings

660. Steering Group: Tuesday 2 September 2008 at 12noon
Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 3.00pm
Hull Business Forum: Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 4.30pm