

MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING
Tuesday 29th January 2008, 3pm
The Octagon, Walker Street, Hull



PRESENT

David Burnby (Chair)
Barry Schofield
Malcolm Relph
Peter Duffield
Francesca Devine
Linda Ellis
Tony Anson
Paul Cowell
John Sharp
Peter Duffield

Nick Pontone
Ben Delaney

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

572. Apologies were received from Sue Taylor-Cuthbert, Sue Dobbs, Tony Cosgrove, Noel Waters, Ian Kelly and Richard Brough.
573. Nick Pontone said that Richard Tuplin, Chairman of the East Yorkshire branch of the Institute of Directors, had agreed to join the Hull Business Forum Steering Group and would attend from the next meeting. He said this would be a positive move which would enable closer cooperation between the two organisations.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

574. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd December 2007 were agreed as a true and correct record.
575. Malcolm Relph said that the invitation to Andy Sloan as agreed in paragraph 571 of previous minutes was now no longer relevant as Councillor Sloan had resigned. It was agreed that the new list of Cabinet members be circulated to Forum members for their information.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

576. Barry Schofield referred to paragraph 566 in the previous minutes which raised the issue of communication between the Business Advisory Group, the Jobs & Prosperity board and the Steering Group. Nick Pontone replied that the current procedures for communicating the work of each group were adequate.

Agenda Item 4: Hull Business Forum Meeting

577. i) Preparation for 17th Quarterly Forum David Burnby explained the format for the 17th Quarterly Forum meeting which would be taking place after the Steering Group meeting. Councillor Minns would make his speech and the audience would then be able to ask questions. The Young Enterprise companies would then make short presentations on their work.

578. ii) 2008 Forum Programme Nick Pontone explained that a programme of events for 2008 had not been published due to the uncertainty over future funding for the Forum and the need to keep events topical. However, possible future speakers could include John Meehan, editor of the Hull Daily Mail and Kim Riley, Chief executive of Hull City Council. John Sharp suggested a Forum meeting on the issue of European regulation and its effects on Hull businesses which could be attended by local MEPs.

Agenda Item 5: Hull Business Forum Funding and Review

589. The letter from Sylvia Yates to Nick Pontone was circulated which stated that a review of the Forum's activities would take place after which the decision about future funding would be made.

590. Nick Pontone said that the amount Working Neighbourhood Funding for Hull had been announced as £11M, £13M and £13M over three years and this could be one source of future funding for the Forum.

Agenda Item 6: Reports

591. i) ONE HULL Governance Nick Pontone explained that there had been a restructuring of the LSP committees. Mark Willet and Tony Cosgrove were elected to ONE HULL Executive Board.

592. ii) Jobs & Prosperity Nick Pontone reported that the Jobs and Prosperity board had met the week before on the 15th January 2008 and the work on the 198 targets and the Local Area Agreement was ongoing. He said that the renewable and healthcare sector groups had met **were...**

593. iii) Business Advisory Group The minutes of the last Business Advisory Group had been circulated.

Agenda Item 7: Managers Report

594. The manager report was circulated as was an update on the Hull City Council budget for 2008/9. Nick Pontone had attended a meeting with the Council and other business representatives. He said that the meeting had highlighted several points including Council spending plans would now be set for three years which would make planning easier and the Council's budget balances for the first time in five years. £26m worth of costs have been taken out of the budget in recent times to achieve this balance. Nick Pontone concluded that Hull City Council seems to be making good progress in improving their financial position.

Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business

595. A question was raised about the possibility of a logo change for the Forum. Nick Pontone acknowledged that there was a possibility of changing the current 'cog' logo and this could be an item for discussion at the next meeting.
596. Jonathan Leafe suggested that it would be a good time to redefine the role and responsibilities of the Hull Business Forum and present them in a very simple format enabling the business community to better understand the work of the Forum.

Agenda Item 9: Date of next meeting

597. Steering Group: Monday 3rd March, 12 noon
- Hull Business Forum: Tuesday 29th April, 4.30pm