

MINUTES: Steering Group
Tuesday 18th May 2010
34/38 Beverley Road, Hull



PRESENT

Tony Cosgrove (Chair)
Barry Schofield
John Sharp
John Britton
Nick Pontone
Ben Delaney

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

927. Apologies were received from Francesca Devine, Gordon Shields, Ian Kelly and Richard Tuplin.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

928. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2010 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

929. John Sharp asked if there was any update on the Forums finances for next year. Nick Pontone replied that local spending commitments, including WNF, would become clearer after the budget and spending review later in the year.

930. Barry Schofield asked for an explanation of the Centre for Cities. Nick Pontone replied that it was a well regarded think tank which specialised in the economic performance cities and the role they play in the national economy.

Agenda Item 4: Impact of Local and General Elections

931. Nick Pontone gave an update on the potential changes which could result from the elections. He said transport schemes would be affected with fewer schemes going ahead, the backdated ports rates would be frozen, Government Offices and regional ministers could be scrapped and some of the roads budget would be allocated to increase capacity in the rail network. Hull City Council still had a Liberal Democrat majority and the Comprehensive Area Assessment would be abolished.

Agenda Item 5: Review and actions from April Quarterly Forum

932. A discussion was had regarding the previous Quarterly Forum including the speakers, topics covered and room layout. It was noted that Richard Tuplin's presentation was very well received by the audience and attending media.

933. It was suggested that the Business Forum could campaign for the creation of an Enterprise Zone in Hull which could be possible if Council's were given full control over business rates.
934. Tony Cosgrove said he had tried to contact the Yorkshire & Humber Apprenticeship Training Agency after seeing their promotional material at the meeting but couldn't get a response from them.
935. The Horncastle Building at Hull College was suggested as a venue for future events.

Agenda Item 6: Agenda for future Quarterly Forum meetings

936. Nick Pontone said Dermot Finch, John Holmes and John Duffill were the guest speakers at the next Quarterly Forum. A discussion was had regarding the order of speakers and it was agreed that John Duffill would speak first and provide a factual update on Hull's unemployment challenge followed by Dermot Finch and then John Holmes. It was agreed to provide a clear briefing for the speakers so they were aware of what issues to cover. The new Director of Regeneration would be asked to speak at the 28th Quarterly Forum once the position had been filled. It was also suggested that if a new regional minister were appointed he could speak.

Agenda Item 7: Members Questionnaire

937. Nick Pontone gave an update on the proposed survey of Members. The Forum would be undertaking a survey of its members on the key issues facing local businesses which would support the work of the Earning Partnership and its sub-boards. The surveys could take place on a quarterly basis with the support of the FSB, IoD and Chamber of Commerce. A discussion was had about several potential questions and it was agreed that it must be kept short to get the maximum response.

Agenda Item 8: Reports

938. Barry Schofield said the last Business Advisory Group meeting discussed the marketing of the city centre and proposed new developments such as the Yum Food Festival which were being organised by the Business Improvement District.

Agenda Item 9: Any other business

939. Barry Schofield asked what future topics could be the subject of a Learning Lunch. It was suggested that the University of Hull could be asked to explain their range of business services.
940. It was noted that the Council would soon be launching a 'business hotline' which would be announced in the near future.

Agenda Item 10: Date of future meetings

941. Steering Group: Tuesday 29th June
27th Quarterly Forum: Tuesday 13th July