



**Hull City Centre (BID) Ltd
Board Meeting
Viking FM, Commercial Road, Hull
Tuesday 4th December 2007**

PRESENT

Mike Killoran (in the Chair)	Princes Quay
Ian Kelly	Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Andy Sloan	Hull City Council
Denise Anderton	Cityventure
Victoria Jackson	Kingston Recruitment
Jo Barnes	Hull Citybuild
Mark Jones	Hull City Council
Steve Tradewell	Tru-Budget Accomodation
Dave Green	Alan Fruitiers
Steve Allbones	Viking FM
Steve Trynka	Rollits
Amanda Austin	Prospect Centre

In attendance:

Chief Superintendent Keith Hunter	Humberside Police
Insp Andy Foster	Humberside Police
Tracey Harsley	Hull Citysafe
Ken Baldwin	Hull City Centre BID
Sarah Jackson	Hull City Centre BID
Ian Bough	Hull City Centre BID
Kevin Priestley	Hull City Council
Nick Pontone (Company Secretary)	Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce

Apologies for absence

No apologies were noted.

Partnership and Policing

Acting Divisional Commander, Chief Supt Keith Hunter

Chief Supt Keith Hunter, the Acting Divisional Commander for Hull gave a presentation to the Board on his priorities for policing and community safety issues in the city. He highlighted his commitment and that of Humberside Police in playing their role in creating a more successful city.

Chief Supt Hunter highlighted that the force had made a number of changes to policing in the division in April 2006 and he set out a range of achievements including a 32.5% cut in crime in the city including significant reductions in robbery, vehicle crime and burglary. Violent crime however remained a key challenge. During this time the city had moved to the top performing of the 44 'high crime' areas in the country designated by Government. Chief Supt Hunter reported on the Police 'Respect Agenda' which was about changing attitudes and behaviours with a 'zero tolerance' approach to anti-social behaviour and crime.

In relation to the number of Police officers in the city centre, Chief Supt Hunter highlighted that the Police operated a layered system with an officer supported by PCSOs on top of investigative and response units. He announced plans to strengthen this by introducing an additional officer and 5 PCSOs dedicated to the BID area working under Insp Foster.

The Board discussed a range of issues including perceptions of the Police presence in the city centre; impact of television series featuring Humberside Police on the image of the city and the relative priorities of the Police including speeding. Chief Supt Hunter reported that the Police would be actively considering whether to accept external funding for additional PCSOs which was an option the BID could consider.

The Chair thanked Chief Supt Hunter for his presentation and highlighted that the BID was keen to continue to work positively with the Police to develop a safer and more prosperous city centre.

Tracy Harsley, Hull Citysafe

Tracy Harsley, the Head of Hull Citysafe, gave a detailed presentation to the Board on the work of the organisation, which was the statutory Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) for the city. She explained that the CRDP was established as a result of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act to bring together the Police, Council's and other partners to tackle community safety issues. The CDRP was now the Community Safety Partnership of the ONE HULL LSP, and the delivery team of 150 multi-agency staff were known as Citysafe.

Tracy Harsley explained the structure of the partnership and indicated that there had been some discussions about whether to establish a business crime partnership. She highlighted that further consideration on how best to progress this would be welcome. It was also noted that the partnership had wide ranging responsibilities and activities ranging from drug and alcohol issues to trading standards and CCTV.

Ken Baldwin asked about the staffing levels for CCTV and Tracy Harsley indicated the overall head count was 18 of which there were currently 3 vacancies which had been advertised. It was also asked whether the 'talking camera' technology would be brought to Hull but Tracy Harsley indicated that whilst the partnership had considered this option there were a number of risks which meant it was not something they were progressing at this stage. Ian Bough asked about the balance to be struck when locating drug treatment centres in the city centre which could increase the risk of acquisitive crime. Tracy Harsley commented that it was a difficult balance to strike and good access was an important factor in determining locations of such facilities. The Board noted the current option being considered for the location of a treatment centre.

The Board discussed a number of other issues including the ways in which the partnership could evaluate the impact it had made on the falling crime figures; the budget and funding profile of Citysafe and the future relationship with the BID. Insp Foster stated that the BID was the lead delivery partner for business crime in the city centre. Business representation on the partnership was discussed and the Board agreed that Ken Baldwin should sit on the partnerships delivery board.

The Chairman thanked Tracy Harsley for her attendance and presentation.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th October 2007 were agreed as a true and correct record.

Matters arising

Banners – Kevin Priestley reported that there was significant flexibility in relation to the minimum blocks for banners. He indicated the original planning permission of community messages remained the position in relation to the use of the banners. Ken Baldwin

highlighted that at a recent meeting on marketing strategy with the Council and others, which included discussions about what would replace the Wilberforce banners, that this was still to be decided. Cllr Sloan clarified that the position had always been that only community messages and no commercial banners or sponsorship of any kind was allowed on the banners. The Chairman asked for a paper for the next meeting clearly setting out what the banners could and could not be used for so that the Board fully understood the position.

Evening economy – Steve Tradewell asked that CCTV and the radio system issue be kept on the Board agenda. He indicated that the poster sites were expected to come in line in April 2008. Ian Bough reported that the evening bus service between the Princes Avenue area and the city centre run by EYMS had started the previous weekend on a 3-month trial basis. The BID would need to evaluate early in the new year as there was a minimum 56 days notice which needed to be given to the Council to terminate the service. It was noted that the BID was underwriting the service and £150 per night was needed for it to break even. The early signs were that the service had been positively received. Cllr Sloan highlighted his concerns that the service was competing with commercial Stagecoach services during the earlier evening period and taxis later on. It was noted that the buses ran until 3am when other services had stopped and taxi provision was poor. Ken Baldwin highlighted that the service was a 3-month pilot and if it proved successful enough to roll out then a tendering exercise would be needed to determine the providers.

Interchange – it was noted that the toilets were now open and display Boards were awaited. It was thought to be too early to assess the impact of the £1 per day parking on Sundays in Council multi-story car parks. The Board heard that the 20p city centre shuttle bus had not been well promoted. Cllr Sloan suggested that the BID could promote the service. He also confirmed that there would not be a temporary park and ride service for Christmas. Ken Baldwin asked whether Priory Park P&R could be kept open on late night shopping so it was viable for shop workers to use.

Bus gate – the Board discussed the issue of the possible removal of the temporary bus gate at Princes Dock Street which the Saville Street traders in particular felt strongly that it was damaging their trade and wanted it to be removed as had been promised at the time it was introduced during the period of the temporary bus station at Albion Square. Cllr Sloan asked how strong the evidence was from Saville Street traders that it was having a negative impact on business given the 'state of trade' note in the minutes of the BID Retail Committee which suggested that business was up. Ken Baldwin indicated that this was not a true reflection of the position and stressed that the traders felt it was impacting on business. He suggested a meeting between the traders and Cllr Minns and Cllr Sloan. Dave Green highlighted that some other independent traders were suffering from tough trading conditions as well. Cllr Sloan highlighted that the consultation process needed to be completed before a final decision could be made.

Maps – the Chair asked if there was a timetable for the introduction of maps. Kevin Priestley highlighted that a planning meeting would be held shortly and the locations for dispensers was broadly agreed. He expected there to be a planning application in February 2008 and introduction in March 2008. Ken Baldwin commented that he had circulated the draft designs of the maps to partners although few comments had been received.

Farmers Markets – Ken Baldwin reported that some of the farmers had expressed concerns and so a new marketing push had been undertaken to promote the market in an effort to ensure they stayed at Trinity Square. To help meet their concerns Ken Baldwin indicated that a proposed deal would mean the Farmers Market could be held on other approved locations up to 4 times per year in addition to their existing commitments at Trinity Square. This would for example include an additional market to tie into the Food Festival or perhaps other events. The Board reiterated their view that they wanted to keep the Farmers Market and use it as a catalyst to develop further activity in Trinity Square as the preferred location. Dave Green emphasised the importance of developing the market in Trinity Square to open up that part of the city centre.

St Stephens – Ken Baldwin indicated that it would be premature to fully assess the impacts of St Stephens opening on the wider city centre. However, it was indicated that counters showed less footfall through October and early November although the past week had started to pick up again. He highlighted that it was crucially important to support independent retailers to compliment the high street chains elsewhere in the city offer to have a strong and balanced retail offer. The Board discussed when the food offering at St Stephens would open and whether there would be a further 'hard' launch. There was not expected to be any further major launch activity although there was ongoing press and TV promotion.

Castle Street update – Cllr Sloan reported that the Regional Transport Board had agreed to support the 'landbridge' scheme which was being backed by the city's lobby as costs for the full cut and cover tunnel became prohibitive. He reported that a consultation would be held in Autumn 2008 with entry in the roads programme expected in early 2009 if Ministers agreed. A potential start date was 2011/12 with a three year construction phase anticipated.

Hull City Centre BID Business Plan 2007/8

The Board discussed the draft BID business plan for 2007/8 which had been circulated. Ian Bough highlighted the budgets were now much clearer after a years activity and levy payments. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the figures included the levies from St Stephens. Ken Baldwin reported that only committed contributions had been included and more may come in during the year. It was also highlighted that the BIDs financial year ran from October to September and was not concurrent with the Council's year end in March. It was also recognised that the Business Plan was effectively live from October 2007. Ian Kelly commented that the draft had emerged following the discussions and contributions from the Board Away Day and other Board meetings.

The Board had a long discussion about the safety and security budget in view of the earlier discussions with Chief Supt Hunter regarding PCSOs. It was noted that there was a three year agreement, with break clauses, to support Ambassadors who were felt to be doing a good job in the city centre and whose role was very different to PCSOs. A range of views were expressed about the most effective ways to invest BID levies and it was agreed to discuss this issue fully at the next ordinary Board meeting at which the Board would be provided with a clear baseline of Police resources and information on the performance of the Ambassadors to ensure the Board's deliberations would be properly informed by evidence.

The Board also discussed their ways of working and it was suggested that an additional board meeting be held to discuss corporate governance arrangements. The Chair therefore indicated that an additional Board meeting should be arranged and Steve Trynka agreed to draft a 'Corporate Governance paper'.

Manager's Report

In relation to the issue with regards to radio systems Dave Green requested a meeting between the BID and the Retail Crime Partnership (RCP). The status of the RCP in relation to the BID was discussed. Insp Foster highlighted that the BID was the key business crime partner for the Police on the city centre and good relationships were being built up on issues such as data sharing. He commented that the role of the RCP had evolved and it would seem to be appropriate to meet and review the future. Cllr Sloan emphasised the importance of working together effectively and building on successful activities where they existed. It was agreed to arrange a meeting between the RCP, BID and Police. It was also suggested that the BID appoint a Board member with a portfolio to lead on Community Safety to deal with the issues discussed during the meeting and report back regularly to the Board. It was agreed to discuss this at the Directors meeting to discuss corporate governance.

The minutes of the BID Retail Forum were noted. The Chair commented that the attendance had been low and he asked that levy payers be encouraged to attend and contribute at the next meeting on 11 December 2007.

Hull City Council City Centre Report

Kevin Priestley updated the Board on issues including map dispensers, anti-vandalism towers and ground power units.

Press Log

The press log was tabled, circulated and noted.

Any Other Business

Transport Commission – Cllr Sloan updated the Board on the Transport Commission for the city which had provoked a lively and constructive debate amongst various partners. He reported that feedback had been requested on some key questions and a skeleton vision was being developed which prioritised issues such as freeing up arterial routes and tackling congestion as well as promoting public transport. It was expected that the outcomes would need to go through Scrutiny with a timescale of February / March 2008. Victoria Jackson asked if planning permission was needed to add some signage at bus stops to promote the 20p shuttle service. Ken Baldwin and Kevin Priestley would look into this issue.

Mission Statement – Ken Baldwin suggested that the BID should have a mission statement and he would circulate a draft to the Board.

Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary Board meeting would be held on Tuesday 22nd January 2008 at 10.00am at 34-38 Beverley Road, Hull. An additional 'Corporate Governance' board meeting would be arranged prior to this.

The Chair thanked Viking for hosting the Board and then closed the meeting.