

MINUTES

MEETING NAME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Date: Friday 18th January
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber

Attendees: Michael Foote, Segensworth Business Forum
Councillor T Cartwright
Tony Mundy, Fareham Borough Council
Carl Groves, Fareham College
Russell Mogridge, Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce
Clive Wright, Fareham Town Centre Management
Mike Stoneman, Learning and Skills Council
John Pendry, Elite Engineering Limited
Kate Busby, Fareham Borough Council - Note taker

Apologies: Chris Ward, Federation of Small Businesses
Hazel Warwick, PHA
Maureen Frost, Portsmouth & SE Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Peter Hudson, Business Link

Guests Councillor S Woodward, PUSH Chairman
Peter Dean, Hampshire Economic Partnership

ACTION

3. **Minutes of meeting held on 30 November 2007**
The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November were agreed.
4. **Partnership for Urban South Hampshire**
Presentation of PUSH business plan issues by Councillor Woodward
(Powerpoint file to be circulated with minutes).
5. **Hampshire Economic Partnership**
Presentation of HEP operations by Peter Dean
(Powerpoint file to be circulated with minutes).
6. **Review and prioritisation of key issues for Fareham**
The list of key issues previously identified was reconsidered and it was suggested and agreed that the group could take and achieve actions and progress in the "Skills and Education" area, to improve the match between our workforce and the jobs likely to be available.
Other initiatives already in place in and around Fareham, such as "Train to Gain - Fareham College", "14-19 Partnership - Learning and Skills Council" amongst others were noted.
It was felt that there is a need to improve links between schools and employers. The role of the Education Business Partnership was referred to.

A need for the complexity of available training to be broken with improved and more effective educational initiative communication was agreed.

It was also agreed that infrastructure is a key element for improving economic prosperity, but that achievable tasks / actions are hard to identify for this group.

It was agreed that the group should focus on actions in the "Education and skills" area, but that this would not preclude any other actions that may be possible to assist with other key issues.

- 7. LSC Consultation on Fareham College and St Vincent College merger**
Councillor Cartwright declared an interest in this item as he is member of the Strategic Advisory Group involved with the merger proposal.

Executive Report

Mike Stoneman explained the background to the merger, which has been proposed to address education provision shortfalls in both geographical areas.

At the present time Fareham College are supporting the merger, but St Vincent have withdrawn their support and are opposed to the merger.

The LSC are convinced that the proposal to reconfigure post 16 education in the area is the best option for improving the provision of education in the Fareham / Gosport area and that a merger would place the new institution in a positive position for attracting capital investment and competing with (much) larger colleges in adjoining areas.

The Economic Development Partnership has been asked to respond on behalf of the networkfareham LSP. General support for the LSC proposals was expressed at the meeting. The Chairman will draft a response in consultation with EDP members to enable a response to be made to the LSC before the 1st February deadline. The response will be reported to the networkfareham Board on 4th March.

- 8. Programme of future meetings**
Date of February meeting to be confirmed (poss 15th Feb) after canvassing availability of members.
Note: The agreed programme of quarterly meetings is for the second Friday of the month preceding the Board meetings - 2008 dates on 9 May, 8 Aug, 14 Nov.
- 9. Any Other Business**
There were no items for discussion.