**HEYHA MEETING**

8.00 am

Thursday 19th May 2022

Attendees

Joseph Conrad

Ben Peck

Penny Lamming

Rebecca Cusick

Andrew Smith

Jonathan Oldroyd

Simon Wright

Serena Walters

Maurizio De Martino

Paul Vinsen

David Cook

Guest Speakers

James Newman OBE, Chair Hull & East Riding LEP

Ruth Cooke Communications Director, Hull Truck Theatre

Meredith Trowsdale Senior Visitor Economy Officer with responsibilities for Leisure and Business Tourism

**Welcome to the Humber View Hull by Joseph Conrad General Manager**

Joseph began by welcoming everyone to the Humber View. The hotel was previously the Hallmark and it reopened last June after being closed because of the pandemic. Business was felt to have been harmed by the closure. It has been a positive time since reopening with the new name and being part of the Best Western marketing group. They are currently refurbishing the conference rooms and hopefully some bedrooms. Their main business is commercial however they did 50 weddings last year which helps with weekend leisure occupancy. They had 18 rooms off market currently which they hoped to get back soon.

**Market Report**

David then moved on to the market report allowing members to discuss current levels of business

and any problems they were experiencing with particular reference to supplies bearing in mind the current war in Ukraine. Overall the midweek commercial business was strong and the leisure business patchy. The hotel stock in Hull is reduced as the Royal is closed to normal business and the Holiday Inn is only letting the Marina side of the hotel-50 rooms are not on market . Meetings and Conference business is gradually returning particularly at the University. October is looking extremely busy with a Rugby event taking place in Hull . At most hotels weddings were back to pre pandemic levels. Some hotels were experiencing problems with cooking oil supplies and the Village with salad items .The casino was interesting attracting more gaming customers ,however, restaurant covers have been down since April. Marcin was leaving the Holiday Inn at the end of the month . His replacement will be Dan Reed who is now at the Crowne Plaza in Stratford

**James Newman OBE , Chair of the Hull & East Riding LEP**

This is a new Local Enterprise Partnership which is just on the North Bank the previous LEP covered both sides of the river. James introduced himself and explained that he was Yorkshire born and bred

and lived in Sutton on Derwent . He had a foothold in hospitality as his wife ran 3 high end holiday cottages . People are still reluctant to travel abroad there was high demand and no requirement to discount . He explained that he had a finance background and previously since 2010 he had been Chair of the Sheffield LEP. He is Chair of Finance Yorkshire which manage a 70 million fund for SMEs .

The Board of the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP has 6 from the private sector and the 2 local authority leaders. It was a small team but also included an SME champion, a Rural Champion , and Charities representative .They are funded by the Government with a budget of £375,000 with a 50,000 contribution from the 2 local authorities.

He explained it aims were to represent the private sector, deliver programmes and create a regional strategy. It is also tasked with finding a devolution deal with the Government for the area . The best solution was for the 2 local authorities to work together to find a local Mayor as historically in places like Manchester it has produced millions of pounds of funding . Currently the local authorities are not going down this path.

At the moment they deliver government programmes and support local businesses in gaining access to finance. On the skills side they liaise with the University and FE Colleges to ensure that courses meet the needs of Industry. They also run a careers hub programme encouraging school leavers to train for Industries that are finding it difficult to find recruits with the right skills profile. ( There was some discussion in the group regarding the historic and current lack of skills for our Industry.

They also work with VHEY to capitalise on the natural visitor attractions of the area – in particular Coast and Countryside. There is a shortage of the right kind of visitor accommodation in some areas.

They are also working with Hull and Goole to develop their natural assets. They are keen to support specialist retail – such as Humber Street and to improve road and rail links which he feels are holding the area back.

The area is key for renewables – Off Shore Wind, Hydrogen and Carbon Capture .The port of Hull is one of only 7 Freeports in the Country and he is keen that this is exploited . When the growth fund provided by European Funding ends they will manage the UK/SPF fund with the Local Authorities.

David expressed thanks to James for coming along to our meeting

**Ruth Cooke Communications Director Hull Truck Theatre**

After closure because of Covid they reopened last Spring having successfully applied for a grant from the Government . They had a successful socially distanced season with a very successful Open Air production of Romeo and Juliet- supported by Wykeland. The Railway Children production at Christmas was also successful , however , productions were then affected by Omicron. Now at last they are getting back to normal which is brilliant as it their 50 th Anniversary Year.

To celebrate they have planned 7 home produced productions which kicked off with “ 71 Coltman Street” by Richard Bean charting the beginnings of Hull Truck in the 60’s .

Tonight it is the first performance of Teechers/Leavers 22 which has been brought up to date by the original playwright John Godber .

In the Summer there is a community production of a Midsummers Night Dream with a cast of 50 . A recent production of a play by Michael Morpurgo with a subject of the First World War had not been successful. Ruth felt that people wanted to have a fun time at the Theatre – however there was still a requirement to balance with Cultural requirements of the Arts Council

There was a discussion regarding the Hull Theatre Goers demographic – 40% East Riding 40% Hull then the rest from other areas. It as thought that South Bank theatre goers would have a better showing as the travel time was not excessive.

Ruth gave out some new brochures for forthcoming productions. Next year’s Christmas production

Is the Christmas Carol an old favourite.

David thanked her for her presentation.

**Financial Report Maurizio de Martino Treasurer**

Current balance £2889

3 subscriptions have been received The Royal , The Mercure and the Beverley Arms

Members were prompted to pay their subscriptions as they were now overdue

**Next Meeting**

16th June – Double Tree by Hilton 6-8pm Roof Top Bar and Terrace .

Dates for further meetings will be communicated shortly

David thanked Joseph for the lovely refreshments and hosting the meeting

Paul V 19.02.22