

FENLAND BUSINESS FORUM

1. Terms of Reference

The Fenland Business Forum is an informal partnership of Fenland's business community, Fenland business support services and Fenland District Council, working together to facilitate a frank and positive dialogue between all parties in the interests of maintaining and developing a sustainable business environment throughout Fenland District.

2. The purpose of the Fenland Business Forum is:

- To provide an environment in which the business community, the District Council and other organisations can work in partnership to maintain and enhance the District's prosperity and to tackle key headline challenges of :
 - Workforce Development and Skills
 - Innovation & Sustainability – Green Business Development
 - Enterprise & Competitiveness
 - Planning & Infrastructure for Business
- To represent the interests of the whole business community in Fenland for their mutual benefit; to foster economic growth and widen job opportunities.
- To promote the District of Fenland as an excellent location in which to do business and invest.
- To ensure an effective, integral link with the Fenland business community and all agencies supporting it.

3. The Forum achieves this by:

- Encouraging collaboration between the public and private business support organisations and also among business themselves.
- Providing an authoritative voice for the Fenland business community and to lobby on issues of concern to the membership.
- Acting as a consultative body providing dialogue between the business community, business support organisations and the District Council.
- Engaging local businesses in the wider community through fostering links with education and skills agencies and groups outside the mainstream of economic activity.
- Promoting the principles of 'sustainable development' by protecting the environment, conserving natural resources and minimising waste.

4. How the Forum operates

4.1 Membership

- Membership of the Association shall be open to all businesses, persons or other bodies operating in Fenland.
- To become a member a membership form needs to be completed and sent to the secretariat.
- A management group will be established from the membership to co-ordinate the activities of the business forum.
- All members will receive notes of the management meetings

4.2 Management Group

- The principal voice of the Fenland Business Forum is via the Management Group.
- The Management Group will determine who shall represent the Business Forum on other local and sub-regional partnerships.
- The Management group membership comprises:
 - Chair and Vice-Chair of Steering Group
 - Private sector members
 - Representative of Fenland District Council
 - Representative of business support organisations
 - Other members may be invited to join by agreement of the group.
- The Chair of the Management Group will be appointed from within the Management Group for a maximum term of two years. A Vice-Chairman will be appointed from within the group, who deputises for the Chairman when required.
- The Chair must be a representative of the business community and sit on the forum representing a business interest.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed by election by the Management Group. Where there are more than two candidates the vote will require 85% participation of the Management Group by ballot with a candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected
- The role of secretariat will be provided from within the Management Group membership.
- The management group will meet at least three times a year

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