

**Hospitality Sector Council**  
**27 October 2021**  
**Note of meeting**

MS Teams

**1. Attendees**

**Co-Chairs:**

Paul Scully, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets;  
Karen Jones (sector leader)

**Members:**

Alex Rayner (Starbucks); Andy Hornby (Restaurant Group); Emma McClarkin (British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA)); James Calder (Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA)); Jane O’Riordan (Caravan, Flight Club, Turtle Bay); Kate Nicholls (UK Hospitality); Nick Summers (The Nationwide Caterers Association (NCASS)); Nick MacKenzie (Greene King); Rich McGinnis (Circus); Rob Pitcher (Revolution); Simon Emeny (Fullers); Steve Alton (British Institute of Innkeeping (BII)); Tim Doubleday (Burger King); Will Beckett (Hawksmoor); Paula Lindenberg (Ab InBev); Robin Hutson (Limewood Hotels)

**Officials in attendance:** officials from BEIS, Defra and DCMS

**Apologies:** Colin Hill (Nandos); Emma Simmonds (Deliveroo); Nisha Katona (Mowgli); Alastair Storey (WSH Ltd)

**2. Summary of actions:**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>
BEIS to create tracker to report working group progress to HSC.	Secretariat.
HSC members to nominate names for the SME Forum to the working group Chair, Will Beckett.	Members.
Karen Jones and BEIS to consider most appropriate forum to take forward skills and jobs agenda including potentially using the sector-led Hospitality and Tourism Skills Board and/or setting up a smaller working group.	Karen Jones and BEIS.
Working group Chair and BEIS to revise proposal of Community and High Streets working group to reflect feedback from Council members.	Working group Chair and BEIS.

### **3. Note of discussion**

#### **a) Welcome and actions from last meeting**

Karen Jones welcomed members and introduced the meeting. All actions from the previous meeting had either been completed or would be covered under later agenda items. She said skills and labour shortages and supply chain challenges would be considered under the short-term Recovery group.

#### **b) Government update**

Minister Paul Scully provided an update, during which he:

- thanked members for joining the meeting;
- mentioned his recent visit to Bootle, and then to Hugh Baird's catering and hospitality school;
- commented he was not aware of any plans to implement Plan B under the Autumn/Winter Plan, and said the strong preference is for people to be vaccinated and get booster jabs;
- commented that in relation to commercial rents the Government's key policy remains to preserve otherwise viable businesses and the millions of jobs they provide. In this context he said the Government will shortly introduce the Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill to support landlords and tenants in resolving disputes relating to rent owed because of business premises having been closed during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- gave a brief update on some of the day's Budget announcements.

#### **c) Strategy Themes and Working Groups**

##### **Proposal for overall approach and governance**

BEIS presented proposals for Council working groups and governance, to align with commitments in the Hospitality Strategy. The proposals for initial working groups are:

- Recovery group – to consider the more immediate issues for the recovery of the sector over a period of 3-6 months. This group would also gather items that could not be dealt with within this time frame and pass them through to the relevant working group.
- Environmental Sustainability – building on existing UK Hospitality Sustainability Committee.
- Jobs and Skills – pulling together what is needed and potential solutions within the Recovery group and then possibly working with existing sector-led Hospitality and Tourism Skills Board, or creating a new smaller working group.
- Community and High streets – new working group.
- SME Forum – new group to ensure independent and grass roots business voices are fed into the Council and working groups.

It was proposed that establishment of working groups would be phased in, with the following two set up in 2022:

- International Trade and Tourism.
- Innovation.

BEIS explained that a Programme Board consisting of the Chairs of the working groups plus the Co-Chair of the HSC and Chaired by BEIS, will feed into the Council. Its role will be to monitor progress against the Strategy themes and the work of the working groups. In this respect the secretariat will develop a tracker to report working group progress to the HSC.

Members agreed it is important to ensure the supply chain is represented in the working groups.

Members were invited to nominate to the Chair of the SME Forum, Will Beckett, names of people from small hospitality businesses to join the Forum.

### **Recovery group**

Kate Nicholls presented an overview of the proposal for this group.

It was suggested that the initial focus of this group should be the shortage of labour, and supply chain challenges. Other issues of focus for the group could be cost pressures and commercial rents.

Members agreed to ensure the Recovery group considers what the sector itself can do to help resolve some of the immediate challenges.

### **Jobs and Skills working group**

Karen Jones set out the options of linking with the current Hospitality and Tourism Skills Board, or setting up a separate jobs and skills working group. Kate Nicholls then outlined the work of the Hospitality and Tourism Skills Board.

The general view was that the Hospitality and Tourism Skills Board could be readily utilised, and using it would avoid duplication, although some members expressed concern over its size and therefore its ability to get things done.

It was agreed Karen Jones and BEIS would give further consideration to the best approach.

### **Environmental sustainability working group**

Tim Doubleday provided an overview of the UK Hospitality Sustainability Committee as an option for taking forward the environmental commitments under the Hospitality Strategy.

It was explained that the UK Hospitality Sustainability Committee was established about 2 years ago. The Committee is developing a 3-year strategy which will consider the broad range of sustainability issues, including net zero, water, biodiversity, waste etc.

It was suggested further work should be undertaken to bring suppliers into the work of the Sustainability Committee.

It was agreed the Sustainability Committee would be used to take forward the environmental commitments under the Hospitality Strategy, and further work would be required to ensure this was achieved.

#### **Community and High Streets working group**

There was some discussion about this working group. Members expressed some concern over the proposal covering too many things and whether the objectives for community and business resilience can be delivered in one working group.

It was agreed that BEIS would work with the Chair, Simon Emeny, to revise the proposal and its scope to reflect members concerns and revert to the Council for further consideration.

#### **d) Next steps and actions**

The secretariat will work with the working group chairs to support the development and set up of each working group. The secretariat will also work with Will Beckett to help identify suitable members for the SME Forum.

#### **e) AoB**

There was no other business.

#### **Date of next meeting**

The next quarterly Council meeting will be scheduled for end January 2022.