

**Hospitality Sector Council
31 January 2022
Summary of meeting**

MS Teams

1. Attendees

Co-Chairs:

Paul Scully, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets
Karen Jones, Hospitality Leader

Attendees:

Alastair Storey (WSH Ltd), Alex Rayner (Starbucks), Andy Hornby (Restaurant Group), Brian Perkins (AbInBev), Colin Hill (Nando's), 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 MacKenzie (Greene King), Nick Summers (The Nationwide Caterers Association (NCASS)), Nisha Katona (Mowgli), Rich McGinnis (Circus), Rob Pitcher (Revolution), Steve Alton (British Institute of Innkeeping (BII)), Tim Doubleday (CFO Burger King), Will Beckett (Hawksmoor)

Officials in attendance:

Officials from and BEIS, DCMS, DEFRA

Apologies: Emma Simmonds (Deliveroo), Robin Hutson (Limewood Hotels), Simon Emeny (Fullers)

2. Summary of actions

Action	Owner
Suggested nominations for members for the Sustainability Group to be sent to Tim Doubleday.	Members
Review the recovery group's report and provide feedback to Kate Nicholls.	Members

3. Note of discussion

a) Welcome and actions from last meeting

Karen Jones welcomed members and apologies were noted. Karen also introduced Brian Perkins as a new member of the Council, replacing Paula Lindenberg from AbInBev.

Working through the actions, Karen noted the jobs and skills workstream was being finalised and members will be updated soon on approach. All other actions were completed. Karen gave thanks to all working group chairs and noted output of the recovery group.

b) Government update

Minister Scully provided an update during which he:

- Noted the progress of the working groups and gave thanks to working group chairs.
- Gave recognition to the challenges faced by hospitality businesses as a result of Omicron and the necessary move to Plan B in December.
- Commented on the decision to return to Plan A and the prospect of moving the hospitality sector towards the path to recovery.
- Acknowledged that the hospitality sector plays an essential role within communities and on levelling up the country.
- Welcomed views on how messaging can be shared appropriately to the whole sector so the work of the Council is successful.
- Invited members to provide feedback on how businesses were impacted by Omicron and the outlook for the months ahead.
- Thanked working group chairs for their time and hard work over the last quarter.

c) Update on Working Groups

BEIS provided an overview on working group progress and commended the chairs for their positive work. Next steps include finalising the structure of the Jobs and Skills workstream and setting up the remaining international trade and innovation workstreams in the next quarter.

The working group chairs were invited to update the Council on their progress.

Recovery group

Kate Nicholls provided an update on the group's progress and presented the group's views on where the hospitality sector is currently positioned in their recovery.

A report produced by the Recovery group was presented to the Council showing a critical path analysis and Profit and Loss models for the sector, and recommended solutions for Government and the sector to consider.

Members of the Council welcomed the report and shared their views. It was agreed that they would provide more detailed feedback by email.

SME Advisory Group

Will Beckett outlined the work of the SME Advisory Group, which had met twice, in December and January. He shared the group's insights and experiences on particular issues – including job shortages, supply chain disruptions, the Omicron variant, forward planning, inflation and lack of awareness of Government schemes.

Sustainability Committee

Tim Doubleday outlined the work of the Sustainability Committee. Engagement with the group has been limited due to shifting priorities caused by the pandemic. The governance structure of the group was outlined, where it was agreed that the Sustainability Committee will have two sub-groups: the Zero-Carbon forum and the Waste Committee. Tim requested members to nominate individuals to join the Sustainability Committee and the Waste sub-group.

Local economies and communities working group

Emma McClarkin presented the development of the working group on behalf of the Chair, Simon Emeny. The group will focus on grassroots recovery, community outreach, de-regulation, licensing and planning issues.

The group consist of five sub-groups, which are: Local Strategies and Partnerships, Access to Funding, Regulatory Easements, Business Rates and Community Outreach.

d) Discussion

Karen invited members to share their views on the working group updates. Members discussed the impact of Omicron and how businesses are still in the recovery phase. Price inflation was also raised as a concern amongst members. It was also agreed that the perception of hospitality – making it a career choice – was essential. Employment issues were noted and the difficulty of investment. Other views included: international tourism being critical to the sector's recovery, especially in London but also in other areas of the UK; April was highlighted as a critical month for the industry's recovery due to additional costs that will have to be managed by the sector.

e) Next steps and actions

Members agreed to provide feedback to the Recovery group on their report, and to nominate individuals as members of the Sustainability Committee.

BEIS and members will continue to work on ideas and solutions on promoting the work of the Council to the whole sector. The Council will also co-create solutions on improving the public image of hospitality as a rewarding career path.

Date of next meeting

The next quarterly Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 25 April 2022.