

Hospitality Sector Council
22 February 2024 Meeting Minutes

1. Attendees

Co-Chairs:

Kevin Hollinrake, (Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business)

Karen Jones DBE, Pioneer Hospitality

Attendees:

Gareth Davies MP, (Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury)

Andy Slee (Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA)), Emma Heal (Lucky Saint), Jane O’Riordan (Caravan, Flight Club, Turtle Bay), Joe Carberry (Deliveroo), Kate Nicholls (UK Hospitality), Nick Summers (The Nationwide Caterers Association (NCASS)), Rob Pitcher (Revolution), Simon Emeny (Fullers), Steve Alton (British Institute of Innkeeping (BII)), Tim Doubleday (Burger King), Will Beckett (Hawksmoor)

Officials in attendance:

Officials from DBT, DCMS, HMT

Apologies

Alistair Storey (Baxter Storey), Andy Hornby (Restaurant Group), Brian Perkins (ABinbev), Emma McClarkin (British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA)), Nick MacKenzie (Greene King), Nisha Katona (Mowgli), Rich McGinnis (Circus), Sarah Warby (Nando’s), Shamil Thakrar (Dishoom)

2. Summary of actions

Action	Owner
Members interested in attending the Hospitality Innovation Accelerator event to register via the link before 8 March.	Members
Provide recommendations for workflow productivity innovators for the Hospitality Innovation Accelerator event.	Members
Promote the Hospitality Innovation Day Event on social media.	Members
Invite DLUHC minister to attend the next HSC meeting.	Secretariat

3. Note of discussion

a) Welcome

Karen Jones welcomed members and gave apologies for those that were unable to attend.

Karen Jones welcomed new member and Chair of the SME forum Emma Heal. Karen Jones announced that two new members are expected to join the Council.

Karen Jones also welcomed new DBT officials, who introduced themselves to the Council.

Karen Jones provided an update on the actions from the previous meeting in November.

b) Update from Working Groups

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

Innovation

Jane O’Riordan discussed the upcoming Hospitality Innovation Day event, scheduled for May 22nd, 2024. The day will focus on addressing labour productivity and workflow management issues.

The group has received over 200 applications for the event so far and has been busy onboarding providers and planning the running of the event.

Jane O’Riordan had the following asks from members:

- Interested members to register for the event via the link.
- Provide recommendations for workflow productivity innovators.
- Promote the Hospitality Innovation Day Event on social media.

Sustainability

Tim Doubleday discussed new legislation being proposed around deforestation, unsustainable products in supply chains, recycling, and food waste.

The Biodiversity sub-group has been working with Natural England and Defra to better understand and communicate the new biodiversity net gain legislation.

The Zero Carbon Forum have signed up more members and are looking at ways to associate more with SME’s and ensure the work they do is accessible to a broader group. The group has also begun delivering board training masterclasses.

Tim Doubleday discussed the upcoming sustainability conference for the sector taking place on the 5th March and invited members to join the next Sustainability Committee meeting on the 14th May.

Resilience

Kate Nicholls provided an update from the resilience group, which is continuing to work on providing data and pushing forward existing work around deregulation, costs of doing business, access to finance, and energy.

The group is also continuing work around regeneration, working with DBT and DCMS on visitor economies and high streets, and regeneration work in Sefton as well as the Northeast.

Jobs & Skills

Kate Nicholls provided an update on the work of the Hospitality and Tourism Skills Board, including the work of Hospitality Rising, skills mapping from entry level to level 7, and the Hospitality Wellbeing and Development Promise, to which 750 companies have now signed up to.

Kate Nicholls also discussed initial results from the national SWAPs pilot with DWP, which has seen high success in completion rates and job outcomes.

FBI Forum

Will Beckett reiterated the purpose of the group, which acts as an advisory group, and has been formed to be representative of the hospitality sector with a wide range of small business owners as members.

Members have shared concerns around rising costs that have diminished profits – specifically related to energy prices, labour costs and food costs.

c) Exchequer Secretary Gareth Davies

Karen Jones welcomed Minister Hollinrake and Exchequer Secretary Gareth Davies.

Karen Jones highlighted the importance of the hospitality sector for communities and high streets and for providing job opportunities. She raised concerns of the impact that failures in the sector would have on the economy and ecosystem. Karen Jones discussed how a temporary reduction in VAT would benefit the sector, allowing it to repair balance sheets, invest, and grow sustainably.

Working group chairs echoed the need for such support for the sector, while also sharing more tailored asks. This included grants and schemes that would drive investment in innovation and sustainability, funding to help onboard people into hospitality roles, and the need for deregulation across the sector.

Minister Davies thanked the Council for the invitation and recognised the importance of the hospitality sector. He gave an overview of the state of the UK economy, which is still recovering from global shocks that led to high inflation, low growth, and higher debt. He explained the government is being proactive to stimulate growth and considering available options without exacerbating the current situation.

Minister Davies also cited previous government support for the sector, demonstrating efforts to support the industry where possible. He reassured members that HMT are alive to the issues affecting the sector and would look closely at some of the group's suggestions.

Closing remarks and AOB - Karen Jones

Karen Jones and Minister Hollinrake thanked members for their time.

Date of next meeting

The next quarterly Council meeting is scheduled for 16th May 2024.