

Notes from the Engineering and Manufacturing Employers Forum held of 25th May 2010 at Bournemouth and Poole College.

Purpose of the Forum.

The general feeling is that together we are stronger, We now have a voice locally and we can make use of that voice when speaking to Government and other agencies. I would also like to see a lot of networking and knowledge sharing coming from these events and we deliberately left time on the agenda for people to make contacts. As one wise Managing Director told me not long ago – “ We are all in Engineering and Manufacturing together and we should be helping each other out”. Just getting to be in the same room as others who share the same day to day issues has a lot of value.

But I stress – this is your forum and please let us know if it is not doing what you need/want from it.

Can I thank all of you that were able to attend and give up your time to make this forum work.

Action points from the previous forum.

- Involve local schools.
- Involve other selective agencies

Duncan Kerr – Borough of Poole.

Duncan Kerr gave a very informative presentation on what the Borough of Poole is doing to help Engineering and Manufacturing locally. I have attached the slides. It is reassuring to know that the Borough of Poole not only recognises the value of Engineering and Manufacturing but is actively seeking to engage with Engineering and Manufacturing. Duncan is keen to visit as many Employers locally as possible.

Contact details:

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Borough of Poole.
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Apprenticeships – Charlie Ryall – Hamworthy Combustion Engineering Limited.

Charlie Ryall gave a first class presentation on her experience as an Engineering Apprentice. Charlie represented, Hamworthy Combustion Engineering Limited, The College and the Apprenticeship scheme in general extremely well. I would like to thank Charlie and Hamworthy combustion Engineering Limited greatly. One of the key economic factors is the skills gap/shortage and Charlie presentation linked in well to this.

The Skills gap/Skills Shortage.

A lively and passionate discussion was held around how we tackle this. It was extremely useful to have some local schools present. I would like to thank those that were present for attending at what is no doubt an extremely hectic time of year (exams). Agreement was reached that in order to move forward, Engineering and Manufacturing locally must enthuse young people into consider Engineering and Manufacturing as a career option. This is best done at around 13 years old. Most of the Directors/Managers in the room started on the shop floor and are now business leaders! I would like to acknowledge some excellent good practise that is carried out by some employers in attending careers fairs, putting on tours of premises etc.

Agreement was reached that more of this needs to be offered to local schools and that the best format was to invite a group of pupils, teachers and key to making this work – Parents/guardians to visit local companies, have a look around and speak to people in the industry. This would give pupils/teachers/parents a better insight to the industry and an understanding of the many and exciting career options Engineering and Manufacturing has to offer.

Action Point – If you as an employer would be willing to show around a group of pupils/parents and teachers your company. Please let me know and I will pass the details onto the local schools.

In addition to this – it was also felt that having a group of employers who are willing to offer Apprenticeship in Engineering meet with young people and parents wanting to find out about Engineering and Manufacturing would be of benefit. This is something that could be facilitated by The College and take place on the college site. We are going to try and offer this – however with timing etc – this will be around November time. **Again if your organisation is interested in supporting this – please let me know.**

NB – Can I thank the person who said *“Every Employer – no matter how big or small, should be taking at least one Apprentice”* – Naturally I’d agree.

CNC Programming and Machine Shop practise training.

The question was asked – can we offer this outside of normal work hours for Adults. The answer is yes we can – Subject to numbers. For example this year we offered a CNC Part Programming certificate as a one year course on a Monday evening. The Machine shop Practice course was offered as a 10 week course on Wednesday evenings. We will offer these again in September and the courses will run subject to minimum numbers. Can I thank the person who raised this – its exactly the feedback we need.

Other feed back we have had is to offer more electronics options – again good feedback that we have taken on board. Thank you.

MAS-SW

MAS SW (Manufacturing Advisory Service South West) operate a very good programme called PAC (aimed at Productivity) which is match funded. If you would like more information about this very useful programme and I recommend it, Nigel Jones of MAS-SW can be contacted on 0845 5082623 or email nigel.jones@swmas.co.uk This could save your organisation money.

Bournemouth University – Knowledge Transfer Partnerships.

Norman Stock of Bournemouth University – mentioned the Knowledge transfer partnership - This will give you a graduate, who is mentored and supported by the University and has a brief to look at an area of research for your business or business area. Norman can be contacted on 01202 965575 or email nstock@bournemouth.ac.uk

Business Link.

Matt. Mellor of Business Link is able to offer an independent brokerage on training solutions and source training (and funding). Matt is the business link expert for Manufacturing and Engineering. Matt can be contact on Tel: 01202 391490 or email: matthew.mellor@businesslinkwessex.co.uk

Dorset Business.

Dorset business is the brand name for the Dorset chamber of commerce. Dorset Business are keen to find out more about the large Engineering and Manufacturing industry in the local area and how they can best support this. For more information on Dorset Business please contact Kim Chaplin: TEL: 01202 714806 or email kim.chaplin@dorsetbusiness.net

Date of next meeting.

To be confirmed – but we are looking at mid October and The Borough of Poole have offered their premise (subject to dates).