

## **PLASTICS AND RUBBER INDUSTRY FORUM (PRIF): FORWARD PLAN DISCUSSION PAPER**

PRIF needs to add value and to produce tangible results and outcomes. As a Forum it therefore needs to identify what issues are unique to both the plastics and rubber sectors in the UK market and how globalisation impacts on the market. It also needs to consider:

- What is uniquely deliverable by PRIF?
- What are those deliverables?
- What links to other stakeholders are appropriate?
- What resources, including membership, are required?
- What is the timetable?
- How will PRIF know if it has delivered?

### **Objectives**

- To produce a framework of key issues that PRIF should be addressing, **set against identified measured outcomes.**
- PRIF members, in liaison with industry, form discrete sub-groups to identify and take lead on specific current issues effecting their sectors and deliver tangible results and outcomes.
- To make an impact by working closely with both other parts of the DTI (e.g. automotive, construction, retail sector teams) and OGDs (DEFRA, DfES) through engaging and influencing on the identified issues.
- As part of the process, it would also be the aim to produce outputs that could be reported to Ministers.

### **Current Issues identified/ Sub-Groups**

This list is not exhaustive. Some objectives will produce short-term outcomes; others will need to be considered over the medium/long term. New issues will of course arise that the Group will need to address. The composition of sub group will be formed from a broad of cross section of the industry. Contact details for the Chairman of each sub group attached at Annex A.

### **Energy Sub Group (Peter Davis BPF/David Tyson PIFA)**

#### **Aims**

- Security of supply, lower more predictable energy prices
- Government leadership on more Energy from Waste provision
- More nuclear power and renewables
- Withdrawal of the Climate Change Levy

- Faster planning approval for energy production and storage, and waste facilities
- A properly functioning European energy market

### **Environment/Waste Sub Group (Peter Davis BPF)**

#### **Aims**

- To argue for a more flexible Waste Hierarchy
- To comply with legislation on waste plastics and rubber but ensure the implementation is not too costly or burdensome
- To voluntarily increase recycling of used materials
- To increase public, governmental, media retailer awareness of the benefits of plastic packaging
- To increase public, government, local authority and media awareness of used plastics as a resource either to be recycled or to have energy recovered
- To campaign against discrimination against plastics for bogus environmental reasons through taxation and regulation
- To lobby for the Government to give a lead for more Energy from Waste capacity
- To promote the benefits of Energy from Waste

### **Education and Skills/Training Sub Group – Ray Clarke (PTL)**

#### **Aims**

- Identify appropriate arrangements for the positioning of the polymer sector in relation to the proposed National Skills Academy, working with Cogent and the Polymer Leadership Council to define and implement strategy.
- Identify and implement a strategy to increase the numbers of apprentices recruited by the sector, improving provision and focusing on industry needs in relation to the content of apprenticeship programmes.
- Develop recommendations in relation to public funding of the delivery of training and educational programmes in the sector, working with Cogent to influence LSC policy.
- Develop a proposal for the educational needs of the re-cycling sector.
- Develop a delivery strategy in response to the industry Sector Skills Agreement.

### **Innovation Sub Group (Ray Clarke PTL)**

#### **Aims**

- Develop a proposal for a framework to support innovation in the UK polymer industry.

- Identify links between the polymer sector and key influencers in the micro and nano-technology sector.
- Identify how RDA cluster activity can be better used to inform opportunities for innovation in the polymer industry.
- Identify the process by which knowledge transfer can be facilitated from Universities.

**Sector Competitiveness Analysis (SCA) of the UK Plastics Processing Sector (David Tyson PIFA/Peter Davis BPF)**

**Aims**

- produce an action plan drawing on the key conclusions and recommendations of as stated in the executive summary of this report
- to ensure that this action plan produces an achievable strategy that industry, supported by government, can improve productivity and the competitiveness of the sector.

**PRIF  
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