Advisory Board Meeting November 2014

Birmingham Business School is immensely proud to play a part in supporting economic growth in the Greater Birmingham region and contributing towards intellectual debate and policy agendas in this area. We hosted BBC Newsnight’s Evan Davis here last month to talk on how to counter London’s dominance in the UK. Following immediately on from this, Lord Michael Heseltine agreed to expand upon his widely acclaimed Government report No Stone Unturned for this year’s Annual Birmingham Business School Advisory Board Guest Lecture. His talk, entitled Changing the role of Whitehall, provided our students and guests with the historical context of municipal power-sharing in terms of local government authorities in the UK, which he traced from the 1950’s to present day. His final message was a positive one:

“The process of devolution is now seriously underway. The creation of the Local Enterprise Partnerships was the first step. They are now in a position to be able to bid for public funds of up to £2 billion a year over a five year period. This is a massive change in the way we redistribute money outside of London. But it is the Scottish referendum which has ended the debate; there is no question now that devolution of more powers to Scotland has wetted the appetite of the English political class who will insist on a much greater role for local economies and rightly so. The process is unstoppable and the opportunity dramatic.”

Lord Michael Heseltine CH

The Advisory Board meeting the following day cited Birmingham Business School’s contribution to the regional business community. Lord Digby Jones, Chairman of the Board, made reference to the success of the Birmingham Means Business Event (which he opened) where over forty Birmingham Business School academics showcased their research to over 50 interested businesses in the region. Lord Karan Bilimoria, Vice Chairman of the Board and University of Birmingham Chancellor, went on to cite the Ethnic Minority Business Conference which he opened on behalf of the School. He complimented the two-way conversation taking place between the academics and the businesses present, commenting that the impact of the School’s enterprise research was clearly evident.

The main focus of the meeting was the launch of the School’s new brand envisioned to signify Birmingham Business School’s commitment to pursuing academia and enterprise in alignment, and the firm belief that business is at the heart of society. Professor Simon Collinson, Dean of the Business School, thanked the Board for their input during the rebranding process and unveiled Birmingham Business School’s new brand imagery which was well received by the Board.