

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills, and  
Community Policy Performance Board (PPB)

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Enterprise, Communities and  
Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Combined Authority – Inward Investment and  
Economic Development Activities

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update and advise Members on recent Inward Investment and Economic activities and events taking place in the Liverpool City Region.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) Members note Halton's participation in wider Inward Investment and Economic Development activities in the Liverpool City Region.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In the past Members of this PPB have received reports which have set out the interrelationship between Halton's economy and the Liverpool City Region economy. Previous reports have outlined that in many instances, there is mutual benefit in working together on a wide range of Inward Investment and Economic Development activities. This report provides further detail on activities that are taking place, or are taking place during the last quarter. Further details will be provided at the meeting.

**3.2 The Manufacturer Live**

- 3.3 A major coup for the Liverpool City Region, has been the announcement that The Manufacturer Live will be hosted in Liverpool from 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Comprising a series of interlocking events, which will form Digital Manufacturing Week, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) will have the opportunity to meet over 4,000 of the UK's high-growth manufacturers, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), industrial accelerators, hardware start-ups, finance and fourth

industrial revolution (4IR) solution providers. A number of high profile flagship events are taking place in the City Region and Halton will be hosting study visits and will also be supporting the events.

### **German British Forum Conference**

- 3.4 Linked to The Manufacturer Live, a prestigious event organised by the German British Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership will tackle 'Digitalisation and the Future of Work'. This conference debated the challenges of recruitment and training for businesses in the age of digitalisation and automation. It considered how jobs would change in the future and how this can be communicated to the education sector. This event was particularly relevant to Halton's digital cluster at Sci-Tech Daresbury, but also focused on manufacturing, engineering and logistics, which are again, important to Halton's economy.

### **What Brexit Means For the Manufacturing Community**

- 3.5 On 26<sup>th</sup> October, The Alstom Technology Centre hosted an event organised the Manufacturing Growth Fund and Lombard to provide an opportunity for local manufacturing firms to voice their concerns and questions regarding the future of the industry once the UK leaves the European Union. The event helped companies to understand how they can stabilise, compete and grow, regardless of the unknown post-Brexit settlement. It offered companies solutions based on marketing strategies and the adoption of industry 4.0 technologies.

### **Employer Skills Survey and Skills Strategy**

- 3.6 The Liverpool City Region has recently surveyed employers in the City Region to better understand their current and future skills needs. This information will then be used to inform the development of the Skills Strategy, which is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Halton has been involved through attendance at workshops which are shaping the development of the skills strategy.

The initial findings from the Skills Survey produced at the end of September, are contained in appendix 1. The context for the development of a Skills Strategy for the City Region was produced in October and this is contained in appendix 2.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no further policy implications arising from this report.

## **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

Many of the events and activities are focused on identifying future skills and workforce requirements in the City Region.

### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

All the events and activities outlined will have a positive impact on Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

N/A

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

N/A

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no significant risks related to the actions contained within this report.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 No equality and diversity issues have been identified.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.