

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

DATE: 25th June 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Enterprise, Communities and
Resources

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: International Business Festival & Skills Show

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise PPB Members on the forthcoming International Business Festival and to advise on Halton's involvement in the Festival. The report also refers to the Liverpool City Skills Show on 18th June which is being hosted as part of the Festival.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) Members note progress being made to ensure that the event is successful.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 First established in 2014, the International Business Festival is held every two years. Previous festivals have attracted over 50,000 attendees and facilitated an estimated £500 million worth of business deals. The programme and further details can be found at: <https://www.internationalbusinessfestival.com/>

3.2 It is claimed that The International Business Festival (IBF) is the world's largest business festival. The festival gives businesses the space, support and expertise to make connections and realise their potential. The event is designed to deliver business growth through encouraging sharing knowledge insight and ideas, enabling the creation of new, lucrative connections, with investors, buyers and partners.

3.3 This year's event takes place on nine days over three weeks, between 12 - 28th June. There is a focus on a different growth industry theme for each day. This year, there will be 50 major events and over 200 speakers. In addition, 100 world-leading companies, institutions, and trade and investment bodies will showcase their products and services.

Budget constraints mean that there are very few high profile speakers. The line-up features mostly business leaders, academics, senior government officials and representatives of investment agencies.

- 3.4 Public opening hours each day are 08:00 – 18:30. Other events include an international marketplace, a festival incubator, an innovation hub and brokered business meetings, covering topics such as help finding finance, investing in new technology and helping businesses find the new contacts and suppliers they need.
- 3.5 The Festival attracts international industry professionals ranging from small SMEs to global market leaders. CEOs, MD's, Sole Traders, decision makers.
- 3.6 A number of international delegations are visiting and will allow access to international investors and buyers. There will be a huge focus on UK-China trade, with up to 200 Chinese delegates from areas including Qingdao, Shanghai, Kunming, Tianjin and Shaanxi will join thousands of attendees from across the globe at the event, Invitation to Amazing Shanghai event
- 3.7 Staff from HBC Regeneration and Business Growth Teams have been involved in the planning, design and delivery of promotional materials and feature on the staffing rota for the LCR stand. This physical presence aims to showcase the best of the area and attract investment enquiries.
- 3.8 The Liverpool City Region Skills Show is being coordinated by the Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Hub. Members will be aware that the Hub is hosted by Halton. The Skills Show is a free one day event which brings together the residents of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral with local employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities under one roof.
- 3.9 It is open to Liverpool City Region residents aged 15 upwards, parents, carers, teachers and careers professionals, the Liverpool City Region Skills Show is a unique opportunity to discover a wide range of career and apprenticeship opportunities through hands-on activities, interactions with employers and career related seminars.
- 3.10 At the time of writing, 11 Halton schools are participating in the event. Initially, take up from our schools was low, as transport was considered to be a barrier to participation. However, with the input of the Portfolio for Economic Development, Halton Transport, and the Combined Authority, free travel will be provided for Halton students and teachers on the day.
- 3.11 Further details can be found at :

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no further policy implications

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no further implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Skills Show provides the platform for providing young people with options and ideas in respect of their future career paths. It links job opportunities, further education and training to the curriculum and lessons taught in schools providing practical examples of how their learning and support them in finding employment in the future.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

As above

6.3 A Healthy Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no risks identified.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues arising from the report.

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

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.