

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning and Skills and Community PPB

**DATE:** 12 November 2012

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Global Entrepreneurship Week in Halton

**WARDS:** All

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

**The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the activities and events taking place in Halton during Global Entrepreneurship Week (12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012).**

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

(1) The activities and events are noted and publicised

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Global Entrepreneurship Week is taking place across 115 countries between 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November. It is the world's largest campaign to promote entrepreneurship. In the UK, the campaign is hosted by Youth Business International, a global network of initiatives that help young entrepreneurs to start their own businesses. The theme for 2012 is '*Pass it on*'.
- 3.2 Global Entrepreneurship Week UK is being used to pass on the practical help and support needed by early start-ups and individuals who are considering taking the plunge of self-employment. The aim for Halton is to create a collaborative, local and practical week of activities and events, which enables people to learn more about the wealth of support that is available to entrepreneurs.
- 3.3 To achieve the desired results organisations will be working in partnership to 'pass on' skills, contacts, knowledge, confidence and resources to Halton residents. We want to encourage local residents that are thinking about starting a business, or are in the early stages of running a business, to attend an event which can help with their entrepreneurial journey.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Halton Borough Council offers a direct Enterprise support service to local residents through 'Enterprising Halton'. In addition, Halton is a partner in the Blue Orchid ERDF 'Start Up Cheshire' project, which offers both pre and post business start-up support. Halton has offered £25k match funding for the first year of the Blue Orchid contract, which commenced April 2012. Global Entrepreneurship Week will be used to raise the profile of this investment for Halton residents.

5.2 Enterprise/entrepreneurship is a key element of the DWP Work Programme delivery model. The Employment, Learning & Skills Division manages 75% of the Work Programme delivery in Halton. Global Entrepreneurship Week is therefore a great opportunity for Work Programme Advisors to promote business start up to their clients, directing them to the range of activities and events that partners across the borough have planned for this week.

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

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

Enterprising Halton has a programme of activities operating throughout the year. Embedded into this is to work with local schools in promoting the concept of self-employment/enterprise to young people. HBC and its partners will use Global Entrepreneurship Week to increase young people's knowledge of what is involved in setting up their own businesses.

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

The report recognises the roles that HBC's Enterprising Halton service and partner organisations have in raising awareness of the services available to help local residents start up their own business or become self-employed. Gaining employment within an existing business is often seen as the only option to jobseekers. However, the value of self-employment should not be underestimated and Global Entrepreneurship Week should be used to raise awareness and increase knowledge of enterprise/self-employment as a realistic option for Halton residents. Raising skills levels and reducing unemployment are key priorities for Halton Borough Council.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

It is recognised that being in meaningful employment brings a range of benefits to an individual. These include improved health and mental well-being.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

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

Enterprising Halton has a very good track record of supporting local people into self-employment. In 2011/12, 96 new business starts were created through the project and during the most recent quarter in 2012/13 (Q2), Enterprising Halton has supported 18 new business start-ups and 38 customers completed the Kick Start pre start training course. Many business starts flourish in the borough and it is key to their success that suitable infrastructure is available. This includes ensuring that the growing businesses have access to appropriate business premises and business support. Global Entrepreneurship Week is there to support both individuals considering self-employment and new businesses who may be ready to move to the next level.

### **6.6 Corporate Effectiveness and Business Efficiency**

Pre 2011/12, there was limited support for enterprise within the borough. However, a recent mapping exercise undertaken by Halton Borough Council demonstrates the growth in support for business start-ups. What is evident, however, is that the support available is delivered through a multi-agency approach – that is, duplication is avoided and identified gaps in provision are filled. Funding remains time bound and making the funding go further is achieved through good partnership arrangements, particularly through the Halton Employment Partnership.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

Reductions in funding could impact on the number of business being created in Halton post March 2013. Therefore, it is a major boost to continue to work in partnership to access and

secure other rounds of funding to continue to encourage and support new businesses to start up in the area.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

HBC Enterprise Officers ensure equality of access for all residents wanting to receive flexible one to one business advice in Halton. Enterprise Officers are targeting and supporting customers to increase the number of business start-ups from minority groups i.e. BME, females and individuals with a health condition or disability.

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

None