

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018  
title: LANCASHIRE BUSINESS EXPO 2018  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: CRAIG MATTHEWS

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To receive information on the Lancashire Business Expo 2018.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions - In addition to Ribble Valley Borough Council striving to meet its three ambitions, it also recognises the importance of securing a diverse, sustainable economic base for the Borough.
- Community Objectives – The issues highlighted in this report contribute to the objectives of a strong and sustainable economy in the Borough.
- Corporate Priorities - Delivery of services to all.
- Other Considerations – None.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Business events provide important opportunities for businesses to come together to meet each other and obtain information and learn about the various strands of business support available to help address a broad range of business requirements in order to help them thrive and succeed. There is a calendar of such events that take place across Lancashire and the North West to enable businesses to participate in these, either targeted towards sector specific areas or supporting a much broader business base.

2.2 These are provided through a varied range of organisations and in recent years a number of business networking organisations have established themselves across the County. An organisation called Shout Network is one such provider of these activities and host events at venues across Lancashire for businesses to meet, collaborate and build relationships that benefit their business.

## 3 INFORMATION

3.1 The Lancashire Business Expo was held at the Guild Hall in Preston on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. It is an annual business to business exhibition, organised by Shout Network with the support of a number of organisations in Lancashire including BOOST, UCLan, Preston Guild Hall, the NHS Health Academy and Zebra Marketing and PR. Information can be found at [www.lancashirebusinessexpo.com](http://www.lancashirebusinessexpo.com).

3.2 Ribble Valley Borough Council exhibited at the event, where representatives of the Councils' Regeneration Department were on hand to meet Lancashire business

people and provide information on developing their business activities in the Ribble Valley.

- 3.3 The event has received very positive feedback from both exhibitors and visitors and has now become Lancashire's biggest business exhibition. Representatives of the Councils' Regeneration Department spoke with many attendees throughout the day, circulating information about the Ribble Valley as the place for business as well as tourism information and other related Council activities to support business, such as support and funding availability, property and land availability for example.
- 3.4 Now in its fourth year, the exhibition was visited by around 3,000 delegates and around 160 organisations, including other local authorities, held exhibition space. This provided a platform for many organisations throughout the areas business community to network, promote their benefits, build relationships and of course create new business. The event also offered delegates the chance to attend keynote sessions from leading Lancashire figures, sharing their experience and knowledge to inspire people to develop their businesses. Some images from the event are attached at Appendix A of this report.

CRAIG MATTHEWS  
REGENERATION OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Craig Matthews, extension 4531.





**Ribble Valley**  
The Place for Business

A collage of six images showcasing business and industry. The top-left image shows a modern office interior with a large tree and people working. The top-right image shows a factory floor with a robotic arm. The middle-left image shows a person in a white lab coat working with a microscope. The middle-right image shows a person in a white lab coat working with a microscope. The bottom image shows a large, modern office space with a large tree and people walking.
