**Leicester Textiles Coalition**

**Friday 6th October 2017**

**City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

Leicester has a long and proud history of textile manufacturing and we want to ensure it plays an important role in our future. Leicester is the second largest fashion cluster in the UK, with 1,500 businesses employing around 10,000 people, and is worth over £500m to the local economy.

Many retailers now want to source more garments from the UK, and this gives Leicester a great opportunity given the concentration and breadth of textiles manufacturing businesses in the area. However, we have to acknowledge there are unethical and illegal working practices in the industry, which are preventing retailers from buying more locally.

This is not just an issue for Leicester, but a national one. However, in Leicester we want to make sure that we have the highest standards of employment; that workers are properly paid, well-trained, and work in safe environments. We want to support our factories to be the best they can, and to set an example that others can follow.

This is a huge challenge and will require effective partnerships between regulators, retailers and manufacturers. This meeting will look at how effective and visible enforcement action can be enabled for Leicester’s textiles sector, and how we might build a partnership to drive engagement and investment going forward.

Agenda

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| **0900** | **Arrival and refreshments** |  |
| **0930** | **Welcome/ objectives/ opportunities** | **Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor** |
| **0940** | **Opportunities and challenges for ethical sourcing in the UK** | **ASOS****New Look** |
| **0950** | **Labour Market Enforcement Strategy** | **Sir David Metcalf, Director of Labour Market Enforcement** |
| **1000** | **Enabling Effective Enforcement*** How can effective and visible enforcement be enabled for Leicester’s textiles sector?
* What are the barriers, and what can be done to address these?
* How can intelligence sharing be enabled?
* What other effective interventions can be put in place?
 | **Discussion (All)** |
| **1045** | **BREAK** |  |
| **1100** | **Building engagement and support*** How can effective partnerships be created between regulators, retailers and manufacturers?
* What is the best way to engage with manufacturers and put in place effective support mechanisms?
* How can we secure government support and attract investment?
 | **Discussion (All)** |
| **1145** | **Summary and next steps** | **Sir Peter Soulsby, City Mayor** |
| **1150** | **CLOSE** |  |