

## **UN Global Compact- Communication on engagement**

### **Period covered by this communication on engagement**

From: 31.10.14                      to: 31.10.16



### ***Part I: Statement by the CEO***

Date: October 2016

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce continues to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Over the last two years we have participated in activities that have advanced the principles of the compact, as well as using our voice within Staffordshire to raise awareness of the UN Global Compact and its importance to business, and pledge to continue doing so over the coming two years.

Sincerely yours,

Sara Williams

Chief Executive

### ***Part II: Chamber activity to support the UN Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative***

In our letter of commitment, we outlined the numerous activities we would undertake to advance the the principles of the Global Compact.

One such activity was the establishment of a Social Value Forum, a group of Chamber members to the principles of the Global Compact to the local business community. Since its inception this group has flourished and has driven numerous CSR activities, including holding careers fairs and aspiration days to help improve the relationship between employers and schools, as well as supporting apprentices and raising awareness of Staffordshire credit union as an ethical alternative source of finance for business. The forum has also supported our environmental management action group, aimed at reducing the Chamber's environmental footprint.

We also committed to developing events and training to raise awareness of the Global Compact amongst local businesses, as well as other actions businesses can take to be more

socially responsible. We fulfilled this pledge by holding a large event for the local business community dedicated to outlining the principles of the Global Compact, as well as the benefits for joining the compact to businesses. The Global Compact and the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility have also been a theme across many Chamber events, including events to raise awareness of the National Living Wage and Apprenticeship Levy. In addition, a consultation session was held with Chamber members to highlight the importance of being socially responsible and the benefits this could have on their business.

In line with our commitment, we have ensured that we communicate our activities and engagement with the UN Global Compact via our communication channels. Our activity to promote the Global Compact was featured in the headline article of our Chamber magazine, which has a printed circulation of 3,000, and also on our social media platforms and within the Chamber newsletter. Our partnerships with Social Value UK, Social Enterprise UK and the online CSR recording platform Trading for Good have allowed us to spread this message still further.

### ***Part III: Measurement of outcomes***

The activities described above have succeeded in advancing the principles of the UN Global Compact. Through the Social Value Forum and the programme of events it has supported, we have ensured that more businesses have been made aware of, and engaged with, the Global Compact.

We set and achieved our internal environmental targets with regards to recycling. In addition, we highlighted our activities and successes to our contacts, including via social media, thereby encouraging them to adopt similarly environmentally responsible activities.

The Chamber has an electric car charging point on our premises, which is used by our business clients on a regular basis, and we have encouraged our staff and clients to consider alternative travel. For the last two years, we have held an annual green travel day. In 2015 20% of staff travelled to work by alternative means, exceeding our target.

We partnered with the CIPD and JP Morgan Foundation to deliver the People Skills programme, which supports businesses with their human resources. To date, this programme has supported 164 businesses to develop HR policies and ensure that they provide a fair and positive environment for their staff.

Lastly, approximately 4,500 young people attended the fourteen careers fairs we have organized, gaining awareness of the variety of opportunities open to them.