

Coventry & Warwickshire Business Festival 2017

CWLEP Board Report



20th November – 1st December 2017







INTRODUCTION









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The CWLEP Growth Hub (CWGH) engaged Associate Events in September 2016. The request was for the company to review the feasibility around replicating and capitalising upon the successful 'Business Festival' model formed in Leicester in 2014 but with a specific focus on Coventry and Warwickshire.

The objectives of this engagement were four fold. The first was to prove the commerciality of such an initiative and ensure a strong long-term return on investment structure for CWGH. The next was to showcase and promote the region, its businesses and its economy as 'The Knowledge Capital of the UK' on a regional and national level. This would be achieved by uniting the local business community and its advanced business activities under one structured umbrella brand to ultimately drive interest, inward investment and economic growth across the region. CWGH were keen to advance their position as the region's leading 'business support network' by succinctly communicating the range of services they offer, whilst 'softly' showcasing their support and method of building growth across the region - driving initiatives such as the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Festival. Lastly and arguably the more challenging of the four objectives was to increase engagement from those businesses who have not been actively engaged within the 'local business community' over the past year or more - and more specifically those who had yet to engage with or hear of CWGH.

Within seven months of contract execution we developed, designed, launched and delivered the first Coventry and Warwickshire Business Festival (CWBF) in its entirety from concept to delivery generating the exceptional results outlined within this report and delivering upon these four key objectives and all of its contractual terms.

Attending more than 300 meetings, travelling thousands of miles and dealing with more than 3000 operational emails, from a

standing start, the team has delivered a Business Festival that achieved the budget set and achieved a total media circulation of 31.6M (reach of 5.54M).

The Festival comprised 114 events, saw nearly 5,000 attendees (56.1% of whom had not been to a local business / networking event in the past 6 months or more) across the two weeks and engaged a total of 501 individuals who all subscribed to hear more about CWGH's services. Remarkable, in an incredibly short space of time, the Festival became 'the region's largest business event' attracting national and international attention not to mention attendees.

The seven months of activity successfully engaged the local business community, who truly showcased why the region is such a beacon for investment; with stories of cross-sectorial engagement and examples of inward investment continuing to roll in.

CWBF is something that all partners, suppliers, and the region can be proud of and continue to build on the lessons learnt in 2017 for not only the future of the festival, but also the region too.

Associate Events has been delighted to be contracted to work on such an innovative and impactful project. There is indeed a great deal to learn, amend and improve from the experiences of 2017 and we look forward to working with the CWLEP and all partners in 2018 onward to build upon this incredible foundation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and commitment to the venture.



Craig Humphrey
Managing Director CWLEP Growth Hub







HEADLINE STATISTICS













Events rated 'good to excellent'

Attendees from outside the region

Attendees that have not been to a local business / networking event in the past 6 months



Attendees who said **CWBF** positively affected them or their business



Total circulation



Expressions of interest to hear from one or more of our partners



168,453 Direct social media impressions

International



Attendees that booked through Ticketleap submitted feedback



Total reach

Estimated as of 18/12/17

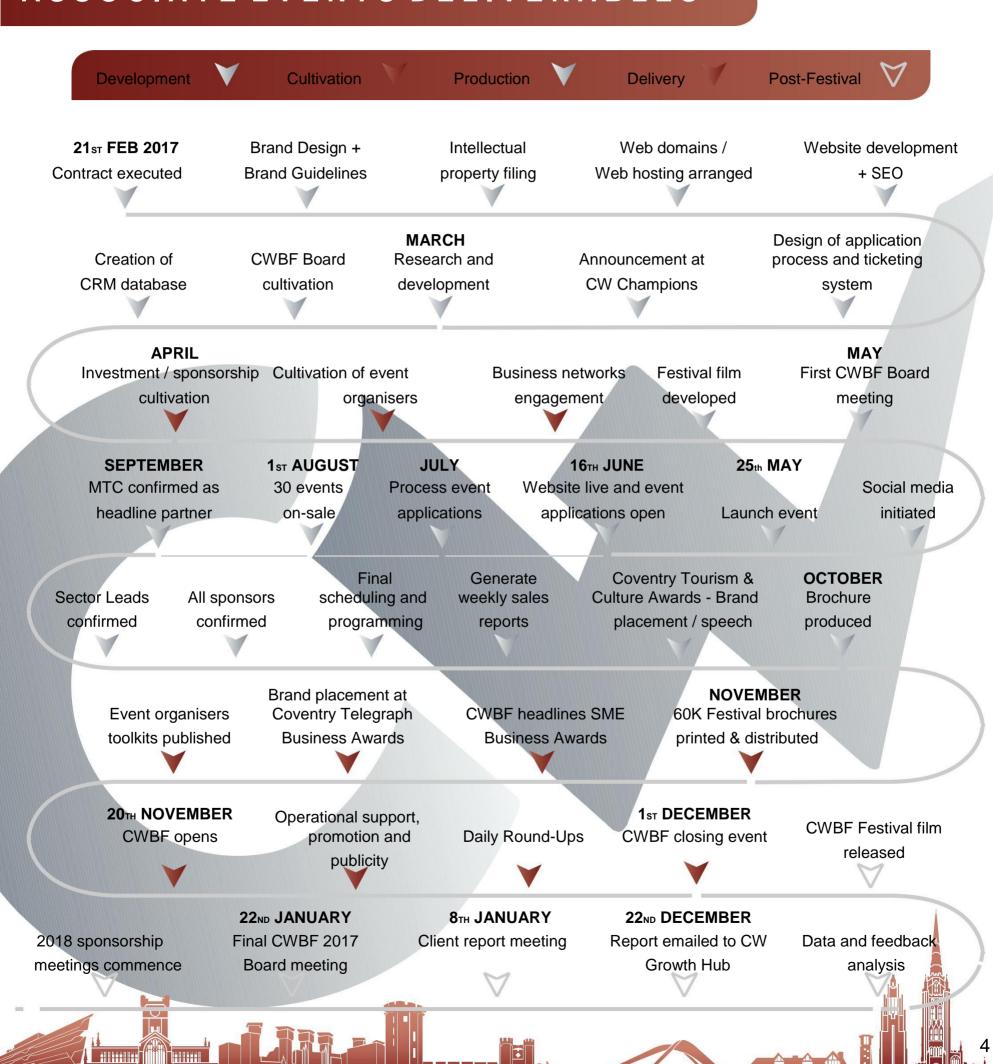
*Those who have booked tickets via CWBF







ASSOCIATE EVENTS DELIVERABLES

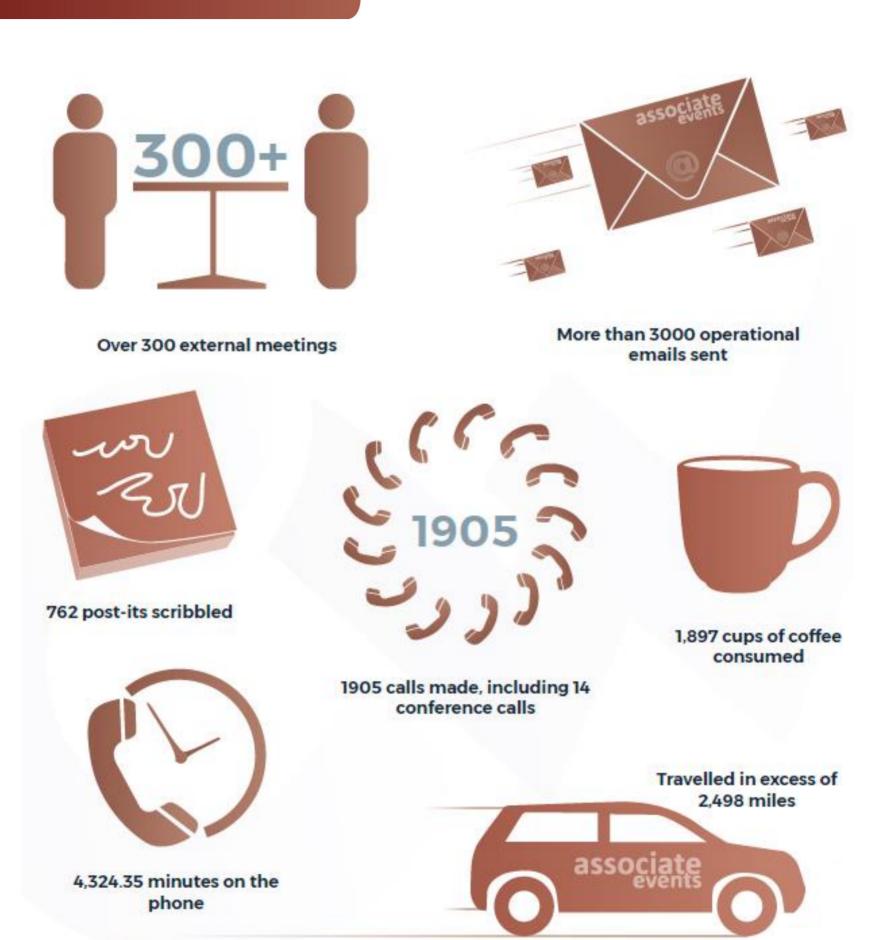








DELIVERABLES

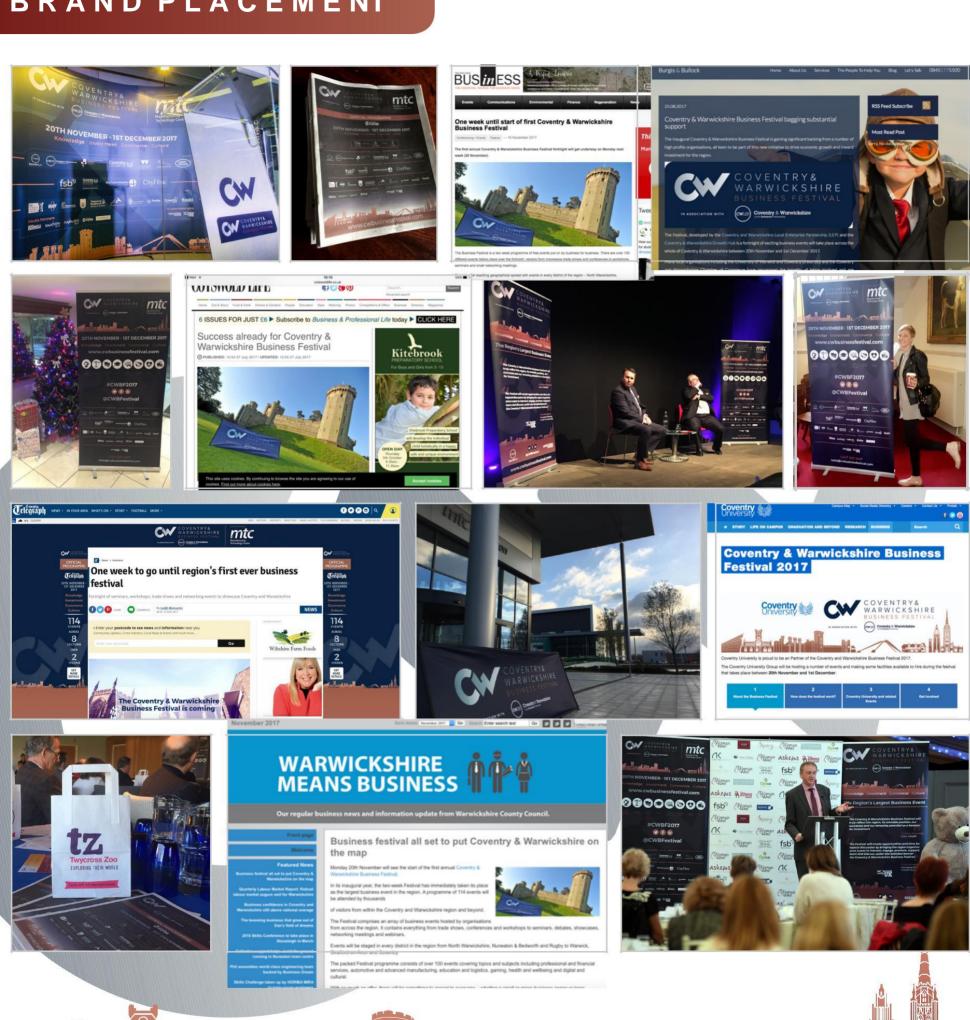








BRAND PLACEMENT









BRAND PLACEMENT



100 events at first Business **Festival**

CW









New festival champions

commerce, culture and innovation



Business festival is hailed great success INAUGURAL EVENT ATTRACTING REGION'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS...









① ② ⑥ ① 24 7663 3636

















PRINT ONLINE BROADCAST RADIC

Encompassing commercial newspapers and magazines; online media channels; televsion and radio.



Press releases issued between 25 May & 4 December (average of 3.6 press releases p.m.)

4K Nearly 4,000 journalists, bloggers and reporters reached

25.3M Media online & print circulation

Printed media: Including Coventry Telegraph, Rugby Advertiser, Leamington Courier, Stratford Herald, Nuneaton News,

Cotswold Life, Business & Innovation Magazine

Online media: Including Coventry Telegraph, Conference News, Midlands Business News, Asian Today, Coventry

Observer, Fruitnet.com



24,000 approx.

BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Radio

- Opening event on Monday 20th November
- Live Autumn Budget Review (Thursday 23rd November)



Quidem Radio Group (Touch FM, Banbury Sound, Rugby FM)

- 'Get involved' message 4 weeks' (mid-Aug - 15th Sept)
- 'Book Tickets' message 6 weeks' (16th Sept 17th Nov)



Coverage of Business Festival launch at Warwick Castle on 24th May 2017 reached nearly half a million people.

Total circulation: 26.3M

Includes print, online, broadcast and radio.









SOCIAL MEDIA & FESTIVAL WERSITE



3,877 Links to ticketing system

Posts made

746 Mentions

557
Retweets

340 Likes

Website session referrals



6,385 Links to ticketing system

252 Posts made

170 Post engagements

107 Website session referrals



2,682 Links to ticketing system

200 Posts made

110 Website session referrals

Total circulation:

168,453 Social media

282% more website session referrals from Twitter than any other social media channel

more links to ticketing system through Facebook than any other social media channel



421

www.cwbusinessfestival.com

CW Business Festival web and on-line traffic, comprising CWBF website and Business Festival booking system, Ticketleap.

Created content and built site which went live on 21 June 2017.

7,742 Website sessions

50.4% New users

49.6%

Returning visitors

Peak Day:

Monday 20 November (270 sessions)

Peak Week:

19 - 25 November (1124 sessions)

Traffic Acquisition:

43.95% Dir

Direct

34.78%

Organic search

31.1%

Referral

8.37%

Social Media

Popular Pages:

54%

Home

5.45%

Apply

4.77%

Venues

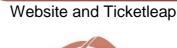
122,428

Ticketleap sessions

Total circulation:

130,170











EMAIL & ONLINE MARKETING







34%

Open rate (approx. 8,246) Industry average 13.6% 24,415

Individual emails sent out

11.75%

Click rate (approx. 2,868) Industry average 1.1%

Set up branded email templates using Mailchimp. Numerous campaigns issued, including the following:

Event Organisers' Information......Inviting application submissions; event organsiers' newsletter; CWBF Toolkit;

roller banner information

CWBF General Newsletters.....August, September, October, November

District Newsletters (x6)......Coventry, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Warwick, North

Warwickshire

Sector Newsletters (x8)......Automotive and Advanced Manufacturing; Construction; Creative, Digital, Culture

and Tourism; Logistics; Games Development and Serious Gaming; Professional and

Financial Services; Healthcare; Education

Opening Event...... Invitations, reminders, joining instructions

Daily Festival Updates (x10)......Photo of the day, top tweets, featured events coming up

Closing Event......Invitations, reminders, joining instructions

End of Festival Round-Up.....December 4th

Total circulation: 24,415

Email and online marketing







Numerous partners have engaged with CWBF issuing a variety of communication across varied channels encompassing: emails, newsletters, printed materials, on-line articles, web blogs and posts.



Advocates include:





76,900

Partners' emails, newsletters and printed materials (This excludes Associate Events/CWBF emails - covered above)

4,879,777

Partners' web and online communication (This excludes CWBF website and Ticketleap figures - covered above)

There have also been many meetings and conferences where CWBF has had a presence and prominent brand placement. This has included for example, the SME Business Awards; Coventry Telegraph Awards; CW Champions event; Tourism & Culture Awards; Apprentice of the Year Awards etc.

62,460

Brand placement at events

5,019,137 Total circulation:

NB. This is based on known communication only. In essence, this figure could be far greater.







SECTOR SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION

Sector specific communication

Sector specific newsletters were created for each of the eight key sectors. These highlighted the events in the sector, along with details about the sector and it's importance in the region.

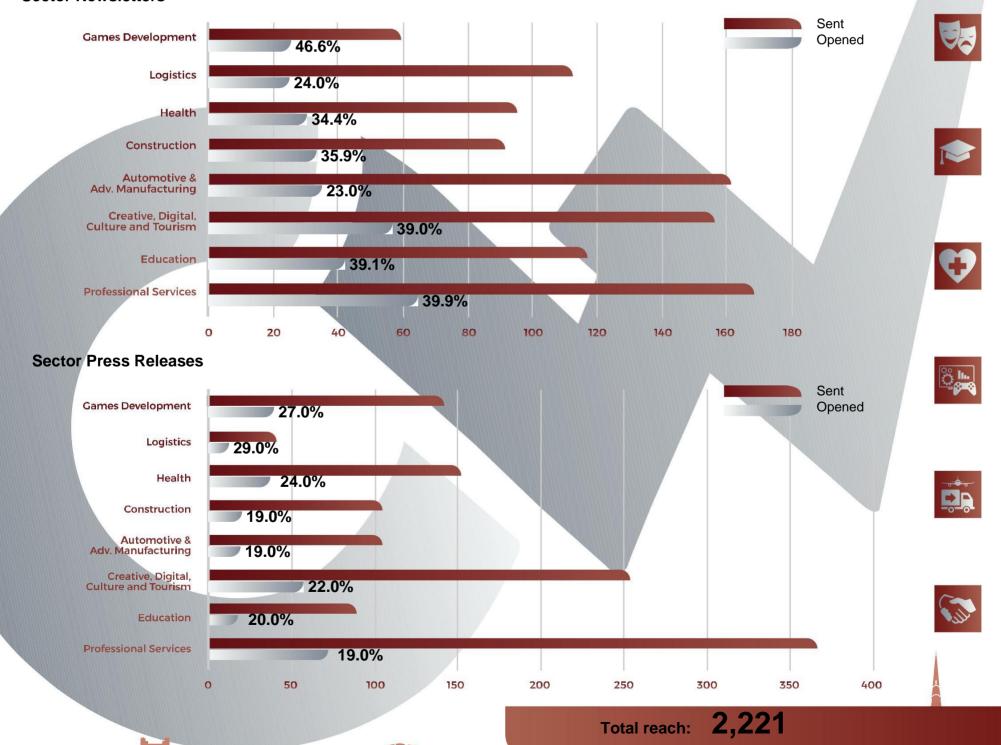


These were sent to the sector leads, relevant sector event organisers and anyone in the database who, from the information they supplied, was deemed to be working in, or had already booked onto an event in that sector.

Press releases containing a link to the sector newsletters were also then issued to specialist press, relevant journalists and bloggers, industry and trade press. Each release also included a quote from the sector lead.



Sector Newsletters







Please click the links below to be taken to your selection online.

Daily Round-Ups

Monday 20 Nov Monday 27 Nov

Tuesday 21 Nov Tuesday 28 Nov

Wednesday 22 Nov Wednesday 29 Nov

Thursday 23 Nov Thursday 30 Nov

Friday 24 Nov Friday 1 Dec

Final Festival Round-Up

District newsletters:

Coventry

Warwick

Nuneaton & Bedworth

Rugby

North Warwickshire

Stratford-on-Avon

Sector newsletters:

Automotive and Advanced

Manufacturing

Construction

Creative, Digital, Culture

and Tourism

Education

Games Devleopment and

Serious Gaming

Health and Wellbeing

Logistics

Coventry & Warwickshire Business Festival 2017 Image Gallery >

Professional and Financial Services

Videos:



Coventry & Warwickshire **Business Festival Official Opening**



CW Champions Event





Coventry - Our Heart and Soul Headquarters



Coventry & Warwickshire **Business Festival 2017**



Meet the University of Warwick



Tourism & Leisure Networking Event



Collaborate to Train Coventry & Warwickshire



Manufacturer's Day



Finances to the Cloud



Fixing Business



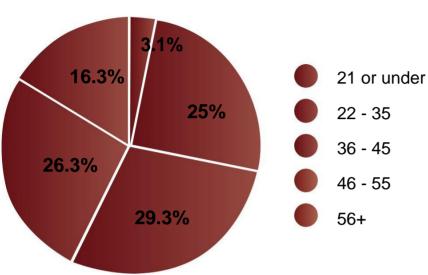


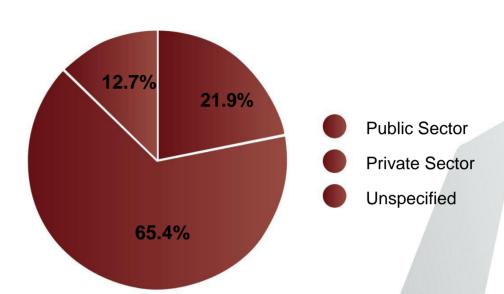


ATTENDEE DATA

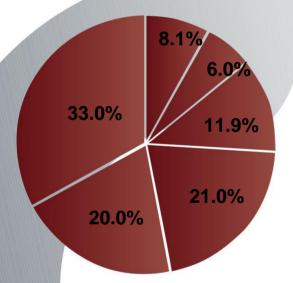
TICKETLEAP BOOKINGS ONL

Age:





Employment level:



Unspecified

Assitant / Co-ordinator / Support

Officer / Executive

Management

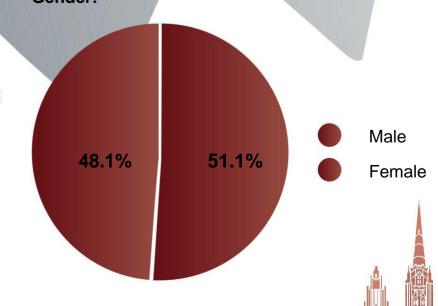
Director / Senior Management

Owner / MD / CEO

Sector



Gender:









EVENTS DATA

DISTRICT, DAY, SECTOR

EVENTS IN PROGRAMME ONLY

Spread by region:



	Week 1	Week 2	TOTAL
Coventry	24	35	59
Warwick	10	12	22
Nuneaton & Bedworth	4	1	5
Rugby	7	3	10
North Warwickshire	1	0	1
Stratford-on-Avon	9	5	14
Online webinars	1	2	3

Spread by day:

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	TOTAL
Week 1	8	13	11	12	12	56
Week 2	13	16	14	9	6	58

Spread by sector:









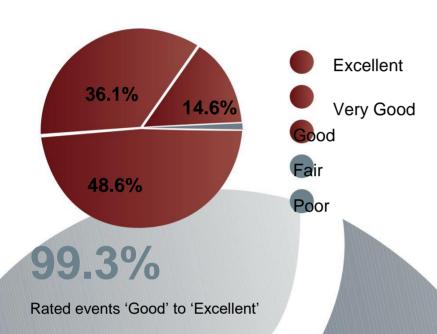
FEEDBACK

RESULTS FROM FEEDBACK FORMS

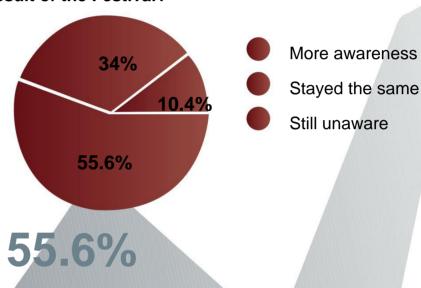
Following Coventry & Warwickshire Business Festival, feedback surveys were sent to event attendees to gain insight into their thoughts and feelings around the events they attended.



Overall, how would you rate the quality of the event?

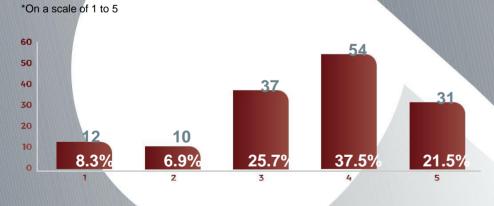


Are you more aware of the business support available to you in Coventry & Warwickshire as a result of the Festival?

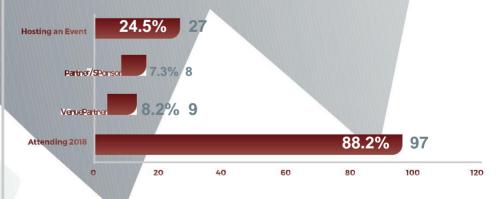


More aware of business support in Coventry & Warwickshire

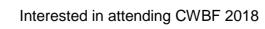
Did Coventry & Warwickshire Business Festival have a positive impact on you or your business?*



Would you be interested in getting involved in Coventry & Warwickshire Business Festival 2018?



88.2%



84.7%

Had a positive impact on themselves or their business







FEEDBACK

ANECDOTAL & TWEETS

Suggested improvements:

(Taken from the feedback form)

"More awareness throughout the city from the events and the venues taking part please. Social Media,

Traditional Media"

"More
engagement
and support
from the
businesses in
the area"

"Yes, better marketing materials and more PR. Dealing with no-shows more effectively."

"Events outside of

"Marketed more to students" "Get better known, tap into schools for introducing the workforce of tomorrow"

"Better promotion through social media campaigns"



normal 9-5 hours

would help"

Top Tweets about the Festival: @CWBFestival #CWBF2017



Conference Centre

@CovConfCentre

Following

Penny Shinfield
@PShinfield_CU

Following

We really enjoyed being a part of @CWBFestival over the last couple of weeks. It was great to be a venue for this and we really loved meeting lots of new people. Here are some pictures taken from Tuesdays event. #Coventry #Business #CWBF2017



Following

We're delighted to have been the Construction lead for the 2017

@CWBFestival. It was a great festival!

Thanks to @DavidPenn100 of
@BromwichHardy & @cwchamber and
@robtalliss of @CovUniEstates for their
presentations at our offices. Let's get ready
for CWBF2018!

Wow what a fantastic first go at the @CWBFestival. We have reached the end of an amazing 2 weeks of unusual, informative, exciting events right across the region #thisiscoventry @Coventry2021 @CityOfCulture21



Following

A massive thank you to everyone involved in the #CWBF2017 It was a great way to highlight the strengths of #Coventry & #Warwickshire and our business base. Looking forward to next year @CWBFestival @CW LEP @CW GrowthHub









TESTIMONIALS

FROM THOSE INVOLVED

Linsey Luke, FSB

Event: The Coventry and Warwickshire Small Business Conference Event

"Really great night. Amazing venue and Christian and Oliver were compelling and engaging speakers. We finished on a lighter note with some hula hooping and an excellent tour of the apprenticeship facilities at MTC."





Lord Digby Jones

Event: Fixing Business

"The Business Festival is exactly what Britain needs and I feel warm in my heart that Coventry and Warwickshire are leading this national initiative..."

Sandra Garlick, Woman Who...

Woman Who...

"Today went really well and the social media channels are buzzing. I've been approached by several venues and potential sponsors who want to get involved so thank you. Lovely to see the room full and only a handful of no shows."



"I attended the business festival in Rugby. As someone new to both HMRC and the growth agenda, I found it to be a useful day in terms of understanding the wider range of partners involved in both trying to evaluate and drive business growth. Thank you for the opportunity" to attend.

Peter Tooke, Natwest

"This is just a quick note to congratulate you all on an excellent festival event this year and to register an interest in perhaps hosting an event in next years festival."

Edward Hudson, Deeley Group

"[...] may I just say I've been very impressed with the organisation of the festival. It's been a well-oiled machine!

Peter [Deeley] was getting compliments from our partners in the industry that we're one of the few private companies noted on the supporters board adjacent to all the councils. Excellent coverage for us."

Nick Powell, Astheimer

"We are an innovative and growing design studio in the region. During the summit we had a face to face discussion with both Aston Martin and LEVC, which was very helpful in terms of starting to develop relationships with new customers in the region."

Penny Shinfield, Coventry University

The Business Festival gave Coventry University a real chance along with other stakeholders, to demonstrate to the local, regional and in some cases international business community what the Coventry & Warwickshire areas have to offer.









TESTIMONIALS

FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

Event organisers said their events would support Coventry & Warwickshire to drive inward investment and economic growth by...





"Highlighting important and ground-breaking developments in the automotive sector - UK and globally"

"Signposting companies on where to access the latest equipment, how to get business support and how to collaborate with the University and apply for joint funding- leading to quicker product development and troubleshooting & provide a competitive advantage to business in C&W."

"Addressing the forecasted skills shortage in the region and help to close the gender pay gap."

"Ensuring Coventry and Warwickshire's education and training activities are business-led, fit-for-purpose and responsive to the needs of local employers."

"Demonstrating the opportunities for the region's industries to benefit from the new technologies in the Augment and Virtual Reality sectors and how they provide competitive advantages that will become invaluable over the coming years."

"Improving the ways in which HE, FE, local authorities and other stakeholders work together with businesses to provide high quality and effective education and training services in a more collaborative, user-led way."

"Raising awareness of mental health issues and signpost employers to support available, as Mental Health has been identified as one of the key barriers to productivity costing our regional economy an estimated £2m per year in lost working hours."

"Demonstrating that we have the necessary network infrastructure, expertise and culture to attract businesses that rely of effective communication and collaboration to be successful in our region."

Exploring the specific challenges faced by women-led businesses and makes recommendations for improving support, developing mentoring networks, and increasing the diversity of business ambassadors.









LESSONS LEARNED

POST-FESTIVAL 201

SECTORS

Fully review the sectors and re-define the sectorial split.

Create a new sector:- 'Business and Communications'.

Minimise events categorised as 'Other'.

Split out large sectors such as 'Creative, Digital, Tourism and Culture'.

REVIEW SECTOR LEADS / STEERING GROUP:

EVENTS:

Run an event for event organisers - Associate Events to arrange a 'How to run an amazing event' event aimed at event organisers.

Location:- Improve on area spread, particularly in Nuneaton / North Warwickshire.

Scheduling: Ensure key events don't clash and reserve several spaces for featured events before the start of the booking process. The provisional programme of events will be discussed and agreed upon between Associate Events and CW Growth Hub.

Attendance:- Overbook all events by 25% to allow for drop-outs. Send additional reminders to attendees including an early one and the day before. Highlight to event organisers the importance of contacting their attendees themselves prior to the event.

Manage sold out events – Operate a waiting list system and add clear text to Ticketleap with instructions on what is to happen if the event is full.

Banners – large venues should have their own supply of banners for use by the event organisers and if possible, left up for the duration of the festival and placed strategically.

Event changes – Prevent changes being made to event titles once the brochure deadline has passed.

Limit external bookings – Bookings only to be made via Ticketleap as far as possible. External sites such as Eventbrite may be used in special circumstances and with prior agreement.

Manage Expectations - Be clear what is expected of event organisers, especially in terms of their own Promotion. KB to add a flow chart of the Event Organiser process to the CWBF website and send out a branded schedule.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Establish firm T & C's to cover all points above

