

Industry Strategy Green Paper

The following is a link to the Government's new Industry Strategy Green Paper that was launched on the 23rd January. The paper signals a much more "hands-on" attached by the government to economic development with the aim of delivering "a high-skilled, competitive economy that benefits people throughout the UK".

https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/supporting_documents/buildingourindustrialstrategygreenpaper.pdf

The approach is for sectors to organize themselves to develop "sector deals" for the Government's consideration. These sector deals are to be developed to address the following 10 main issues (pillars) that may require Government intervention (see attachment for more details).

1. Investing in science, research and innovation
2. Developing skills
3. Upgrading infrastructure
4. Supporting businesses to start and grow
5. Improving procurement
6. Encouraging trade and inward investment
7. Delivering affordable energy and clean growth
8. Cultivating world-leading sectors
9. Driving growth across the whole country
10. Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places

While the Green paper is not meant to address specific industries, it is worth noting that the events sector merits two mentions in regard to expanding trade opportunities and in terms of its role in encouraging inward investment.

1. "Strengthening value from trade shows" - DIT will explore how we can maximise the opportunities that a UK presence at existing international trade fairs offers for businesses throughout the country. We will also explore where there are sectors which could benefit from support to create trade fairs, in particular emerging sectors such as innovative technology initiatives.
2. "We will continue to improve how the promotion of inward investment links up with local areas and we will explore where there are sectors in the UK which could benefit from support to create recurring international trade fairs."

The Tourism industry is included with mention being made of the Government's new Tourism Action Plan and that tourism is central to both the Northern Power house initiative and solving aviation capacity in the South East.

The Green Paper also give a good indication of those industries likely to emerge as priorities such as, but not limited to, science, new technologies, digital, transport, infrastructure, clean energy, education, aerospace, automotive. The focus on specific industry sectors will enable the events industry to align itself with the industrial strategy and provide a unique opportunity through event platforms to showcase Britain's strengths in these sectors.

For discussion

The key issue to address is should there be a Sector Deal for the Events Industry and if so the best way to take this forward.

These are some of the considerations to be considered:

1. Should the Events Industry have a discrete approach or join with other sectors? These could be within the visitor economy, within the creative industries, within the knowledge economy or within the very trade sectors that will be priorities in the Industrial Strategy. It may be possible to propose a separate Sector Deal and also be included in all other relevant “Deals”.
2. What would a Sector Deal for Events look like and how should it address the 10 pillars mentioned above?
3. How should the industry organize itself so as to put together a deal and what could that process be?
4. How should the Events Industry respond to the Green Paper? How should any response be coordinated? What resources are needed and who should lead?