



# Back to Your Future

***Learning City: Your Learning, Your Life, Your Community***

***Date: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021***

***Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm***

***Virtual conference hosted via Zoom***

## **Outline**

Building a learning city is a collective and continuing journey. It requires a concrete action plan with strong political leadership and steadfast commitment, a structured dialogue and consensus involving all stakeholders, diverse celebratory events charged with enthusiasm and inspiration, easy accessibility and enjoyable experiences for all citizens, proper monitoring and evaluation of progress, and sustainable and secure funding. Alongside the University of Salford, Salford City College, The Lowry, Salford CVS and community groups the council is developing a different style of learning.

Using our community's knowledge and expertise, we will turn Salford into a dynamic, interactive academy of ideas with 'no strings attached' educational and developmental opportunities. It's all about the joy of learning.

For people who struggle with exams, tests and qualifications, Salford's Learning City approach will support those who feel excluded from formal education. At the same time, the approach will recognise the knowledge and skills in our communities. Learners can also be teachers.

Learning is about curiosity, openness, raising confidence, challenging prejudices, and committing time and patience to a project. Learning is a route to unlocking the secrets of the world we all live in. It's how we come to understand the organisations we interact with, make social connections and become involved in civic life. Learning is something which benefits all of society.

## **Event Vision**

To bring together residents and City Leaders to shape the agenda for new pathways into learning and employment by connecting and amplifying formal, informal, and in work learning opportunities that exist across the City.

## **How to register your place**

The virtual conference will be hosted on Zoom and places can be registered using the following Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/back-to-your-future-your-learning-your-life-your-community-conference-tickets-143772075147>. ***Important: In order to access the joining instructions, you will need to register for, and activate, a free Eventbrite account.***

Should you experience any issues registering your place via Eventbrite, please contact Clare Hopton at [clare.hopton@salford.gov.uk](mailto:clare.hopton@salford.gov.uk) who will be able to assist and ensure you are registered and receive the joining instructions.

**Back to Your Future**  
**Learning City: Your Learning, Your Life, Your Community**  
**Virtual Conference Programme**

Timings	Item	By whom	Overview
10.30 a.m.	Opening address	Paul Dennett, City Mayor Tom Stannard, Chief Executive, Salford City Council	Salford as a Learning City and the principles of building back a better fairer Salford
10.45 a.m.	Introduction	Professor Jenny Pearce	Introduction to the Learning City and outline of the principles
11.00 a.m.	Session 1	<b>Listening to the Community: Learning in Lockdown</b>  <i>Community Panel will share stories and lived experience about what learning means to them</i>	What does learning mean to residents?
12.00 p.m.	Session 2	<b>Reflecting on the panel discussions open discussion</b> Debbie Blackburn	What does a Learning City look like? What do people want to learn? How do we shift the balance?
12.30 p.m.	Feedback	Councillor John Walsh	Feedback shared from Sessions 1 and 2
<b>Break for lunch 12.30 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.</b>			
1.00 p.m.	<p><b>Hackathon with the Community: A Hackathon is an approach to solving a defined problem and is facilitated by members of the Learning City Steering group, the discussion is free-flowing, and we would love to hear your ideas in the sessions.</b></p> <p><b>We are also using an open space approach to the conference which means you don't have to stay in one room and the law of two feet (or two clicks): any time you feel that you're not learning and not contributing, you can use your two feet to go somewhere else. Also, whoever is in the room are the right people, this means you can leave a discussion at any time and join another depending on what interests you. Whatever happens is the only thing that could've. When it's over, it's over if the discussion naturally ends that is the right time to finish.</b></p> <p><i>What can a Learning City do?</i></p>		
	Topic 1:	How do we acknowledge lived experience and life skills?	Facilitated by Phil East, Salford Foundation
	Topic 2:	How do we improve routes into formal learning and employment? What are the barriers?	Facilitated by Sarah Scanlan and Angela Arthur, Salford City Council and Charlotte Morris, Salford University
	Topic 3:	How do we use learning from Covid to build a better, fairer, healthier greener Salford?	Facilitated by Debbie Blackburn, Salford City Council
	Topic 4:	How do we engage people in contributing to the Learning City on an ongoing basis?	Facilitated by Marie Wilson and Anne-Marie Marshall, Salford CVS
	Topic 5:	What do people want to learn about and how as a system do, we support that learning?	Facilitated by Paul Healy, Salford City College
2.15 p.m.	<p>Pledges: based on the discussions today:  <i>What are <b>we</b> going to take as an action?</i>  <i>What are <b>you</b> going to take as an action?</i>  <i>What is <b>the Learning City Steering group</b> going to take as an action?</i>  <i>What as a <b>City</b> do, we need to take as an action/s?</i></p>		
2.30 p.m.	Close		