

**LEP Executive Group Meeting
Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR
9th September 2015
Minutes**

Present

Group Members

David Frost (Chair)	
John Henderson	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Kerry Diamond	Zytek
Cllr Abi Brown	Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Mark Kerrigan	Alton Towers Resort
Jonathan Dale	Denoviant
David Sidaway	Rep. CXO, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Prof. Michael Gunn	Keele University
Ken Stepney	JCB

Advisory/Secretariat

Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Joanne Tyzzer	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
David Sidaway	Executive Director of Place, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Tony Bray	BIS

Apologies

Richard Cotterell	Perkins Engines
John van de Laarschot	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr George Adamson	Leader, Cannock Chase Council
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Leader, Stafford Borough Council

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Attendance of observers is at the discretion of the Chair.

2. Apologies

Noted.

3. Declarations of Interest

A record of declarations of interests was present at the meeting and available for examination. No additional declarations were made.

4. Notes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

Rail Strategy is progressing. Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council officers had discussed the current document and SOTCC were feeding comments back to SCC.

The amended SLA between the LEP and SCC will be signed shortly.

5. Chairs Delegated Decisions and Actions

The Chair had agreed to commission Regeneris to review the Enterprise Zone proposals, given their knowledge of the Strategic Enterprise Plan.

The Chair highlighted that there was a lot of change under discussion locally and nationally, including devolution, which would be covered later, the Midlands Engine, FE Area Reviews and Enterprise Zones. It was important to secure resources to consider these in a coherent way.

6. Key Performance Indicators

The KPI report was noted. Production locally had been affected by the economy in the Far East and this situation needs close monitoring.

7. Devolution – Discussion with Tony Bray (BIS)

Tony Bray outlined Government thinking on devolution and the progress on initiatives locally. Members discussed the local implications, including the need to avoid confusion between initiatives, the need to continue to maintain progress on delivery and the importance of maintaining a business input. The group concluded that the LEP and Business needed to be kept engaged.

8. Midlands Engine & Midlands Connect

The group welcomed the report and agreed that £20,000 should be earmarked to support the development of the initiative.

9. Enterprise Zones

Simon Hooton from Regeneris presented their findings and thoughts on the potential bids following a discussion. It was agreed to progress with their clear recommendations of the A500 Growth Corridor bid as priority and, secondly, Staffordshire Rural Productivity (including Keele).

10. City & Growth Deal

The Implementation Tracker was noted. A review of Stafford Western Access had been completed. An interim candidate for the post of Programme Director has been identified and would be meeting the Chair of the group.

11. Financial Dashboard

Kerry Diamond made a short presentation. Two projects were in delivery through Growing Places although some good cases have dropped out at the last minute. All funds have been allocated but not yet spent. ESIF bids to provide a pipeline of £40M had been submitted to date at the outline stage. First bidding for EAFRD is 5th November.

12. 'Reviewing Post 16 Education and Training Institutions' Announcement

A national approach to reviewing Post-16 institutions had been launched by Government. This would involve a series of short reviews of provision with clear recommendations. The LEP had met 'Skills Staffordshire' to discuss the implications .

13. European City of Sport

This was Deferred to October's meeting.

14. Policy and Task Group Updates

Jonathan Dale reported that the Innovation Council was well underway and recruitment was in process. A letter from John Sellgren regarding regulation was welcomed. Professor Gunn offered to follow up the university involvement to engage in a conversation around resources from universities that is required. The Board ratifies the courses of action. Ken Stepney updated members on a recent meeting he had with Jackie Dunn, which would be covered in October.

Action: MG to liaise with John Sellgren

13. Any other Business

The draft programme for the LEP Annual Conference is being developed with the Chair and draft of the Annual Report had been circulated.

John Henderson has met with representatives from the Royal Signalmen and options for LEP involvement were to be progressed.

Action: subject to be included on agenda for November's meeting

Work on developing the relationship with the Chinese partners had been progressing. An update was provided by Philip Atkins.

19:55 Close of Meeting

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 15th October, Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR