

**STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
Note of a Board Meeting held on the
13 July 2011, at Staffordshire University, Weston Road, Stafford**

Present

Maitland Hyslop	(Internet Central) - Chair
Ben Adams	(Representing Cllr Atkins - Staffordshire County Council)
Nick Bell	(Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council)
Kerry Diamond	(Zytek)
Stephen Dixon	(Johnson Tiles)
Ron Dougan	(Trent and Dove Housing)
Brian Edwards	(Leader, South Staffs Council)
Mark Kerrigan	(Alton Towers)
John Van de Laarschot	(Chief Executive, Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
Simon Morris	(Keele University – representing the University Sector)
Sue Prince	(Beechenhill Farm)
Paul Shotton	(Representing Cllr Pervez – Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
Ken Stepney	(JCB)
Stephen Sweeney	(Leader, Newcastle Borough Council)

Observers / In attendance

Paul Richards	(Staffs University)
Steve Willis	(Association of Staffordshire Colleges)
Kevin Postones	(BIS - Local)
Catherine Raines	(Staffordshire County Council)

Advisory/Secretariat

Hardial Bhogal	(Stoke on Trent City Council)
Bryan Carnes	(North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce)
Steve Burrows	(Staffordshire County Council)
Peter Davenport	(Staffordshire County Council)
Jeremy Herbert	(Staffordshire County Council)
Tony Lovett	(Staffordshire County Council – for item 5a)

1. **Introductions**

Maitland welcomed everyone to the meeting and emphasised how encouraged he had been by the support expressed at the last meeting and subsequently.

2. **Apologies**

Philip Atkins	(Leader, Staffordshire County Council)
Stephen Burgin	(Vice-Chair (Alstom))
Mohammed Pervez	(Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council)

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared. The Chair asked all members who hadn't yet done so to complete the requisite form.

Action

Forms to be forwarded to the Chair and PD.

4. **Notes of the meeting held on 14 April and Matters Arising**

These were agreed.

Matter Arising

Following a comment about a press release it was agreed to highlight to all concerned the need for press releases which included third party information to be checked with the relevant organisations.

NON CONFIDENTIAL

5. For Decision:

5. a. High Speed Rail

The Board considered a paper which set out the background to the consultation and the questions posed in the documentation. The paper also set out the views of Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce, and the Southern Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce. Members debated the issues and the conclusions of the discussion were;

- Maintaining and improving the national and international connectivity of Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire is important in attracting and supporting investment
- The LEP's focus is on developing jobs in the short term by taking advantage of this connectivity.
- The current level of services on the rail network was generally viewed as being good and there were major concerns that these could suffer as a consequence of HS2.
- If the strategy did proceed it needs to be revised to include a station in North Staffordshire.
- The business case as presented does not robustly demonstrate that the strategy will support local job creation
- Furthermore the board was also concerned that HS2 would reinforce the economic focus on Manchester, Birmingham, and London to the detriment of locations between including Staffordshire.

Action

- PD to draft response and circulate to Board Members for comment before approval by the Chair.

5. b. Report back on Business Priorities Discussion

The Chair outlined the results of a discussion amongst the business members the areas they considered to be priorities, and the need to look at a Community Interest Company (CIC). The immediate priorities were to;

- Create jobs
- Deliver the Enterprise Zone Agenda
- Identify further sites for immediate development
- Provide a 'red carpet' process for Inward Investors and Business Developers
- Work with developers to deliver enhanced commercial packages
- Offer simplified planning procedures
- Deliver super-fast broadband to relevant sites
- Identify and apply relevant funding packages
- Promote the required skills

Action:

- HB to prepare a paper on the options for the next meeting.

5. c. Chairman's Report - Structures

Following the discussion on business priorities the board considered its supporting structures and agreed two additional areas needed to be covered – Land and Housing – Ron Dougan, and Transport – Steve Burgin. Kerry Diamond will be taking over the Funding Group. Funding Group to look at establishing a Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Growth Fund.

Action:

1. Revised structures to be implemented.

5.d. University Representation

The paper was welcomed by the Board.

5.e. Prospectus and Business Plan

A short Prospectus setting out the board's priorities and ambitions with an accompanying business plan is to be produced. This will focus on key areas where the LEP can make a difference and it will be launched at an engagement event in early October.

Action

1. Draft Prospectus to be available early September for approval
September Board Meeting – Secretariat
2. Business Plan – All Sub Group leads and Facilitators to identify key activities for the group. Three activities suggested with a page per sub group.
3. Draft Business Plan to be available for the September board meeting.
– Sub Group Leads/Facilitators and Secretariat

6. For discussion - Meeting with Mark Prisk MP

All of the board members found the meeting extremely useful and were keen to progress the ideas discussed.

Action

1. Red Carpet thinking to be developed by Business Development, Inward Investment, Planning, and Marketing Leads – Launch in November
2. NB/JvdL/PR to develop draft thinking for consideration
3. Examples of good practice to be identified – all to advise Chair and PD
4. Planning discussions to proceed and engage Local Planning Authorities involved in the EZ submission as a starting point – SP

7. For Endorsement And Information

7a. Task and Finish Groups

Broadband

Action – Sue Prince to contact Peter Connor

Inward Investment

Good progress was being made in bringing the Inward Investment teams together and the sub group will also be looking at the Memorandum of Understanding with UKTI.

Action

- Continue to develop integrated offer and the MoU with UKTI – PR/NB/JvdL

Business Development

Stephen Dixon reported that he was mapping out what's already in place and would be examining how the LEP can best support Business Development.

Action

- SD to meet contributors to review activity and see what the LEP needs to do

Branding and Communications

Action

- Board members were asked to consider how to take the Place Marketing work forwards.

Enterprise and Skills

Work progressing and Ken highlighted the importance of the young enterprise scheme, and school visits.

7b. LEP Capacity Fund

The paper was noted.

7c. LEP Startup Fund

The submitted bid was noted. The options for the future structure of the LEP including a CIC will be discussed at the next meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

8-11 Not available.

12 Any Other Business

1. Briefing meeting to be arranged with MP's – Chair/Vice Chair/Secretariat
2. MEP letter of support to be followed up – Chair/PD
3. There had been good news on the investment front with Amazon choosing to locate in Rugeley, and JCB investing in expansion. Newcastle under Lyme Borough and Staffordshire County Councils are also investing in Newcastle town centre. However the board were also concerned about the implications of the Bombardier announcement.

The meeting concluded at 20:53

Date of Next Meeting

21st September 2011 – 1800 hours – Staffordshire University