

Notes of a meeting held on Monday 14th May 2015

At Staffordshire University, Octagon Building, Weston Road, Stafford

Present

Group Members

David Frost (Chair)	
Kerry Diamond	Zytek
Ken Stepney	JCB
John Henderson	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Mark Kerrigan	Alton Towers Resort
Richard Cotterell	Perkins Engines
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Leader, Stafford Borough Council
Cllr George Adamson	Leader, Cannock Chase Council
Jonathan Dale	Denoviant
David Sidaway	Rep CXO, Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Advisory/Secretariat

Darryl Evers	Staffordshire County Council
Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Kevin Postones	BIS
Andrew Briggs	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Jude Taylor	Staffordshire County Council

Observers

John Carr – LEP Board Member	Barrington Engineering
Cllr Mark Winnington	Staffordshire County Council
Mark Schneider	WMES

Apologies

John van de Laarschot	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Prof. Michael Gunn	Staffordshire University
Cllr Mohammed Pervez	Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed John Henderson to his first meeting. He was also pleased to welcome Mark and John to the meeting to discuss links with China.

2. China

The background to the visit of a party from the West Midlands to Guangzhou and Tianjin was explained. The visit had provided a major opportunity to develop an ongoing relationship with regions in China. It had been supported by the World Cities programme and involved a delegation from the West Midlands which included John Carr and Cllr Atkins. They reported positively about the business opportunities on offer.

A delegation from the two regions would be visiting the region in July. (This is now scheduled for the 25th June). John and Philip would be involved in the arrangements and the development of the links.

It was agreed that Mark Schneider and the Secretariat should develop a proposal as to how the relationship with Guangzhou and Tianjin could be developed. Mark would be mapping other links to China and other LEP Chairs would be made aware of the proposals.

3. Apologies

The apologies noted above were received.

4. Declarations of Interest

A record of declarations of interests was present at the meeting and available for examination. Members were asked to confirm the details on their declarations.

5. Notes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with an amendment to note Kerry Diamonds apologies.

The amended Concordat will be passed back to CWLEP – PD

The Board Vacancy will be advertised.

6. Chairs Delegated Decisions and Actions

None to report

7. Key Performance Indicators

The KPI report was noted and the good JSA figures welcomed.

8. Growth Hub Update

The Group received a presentation setting out the proposed principals. The Executive Group emphasised the importance of effective private sector leadership and wished to see a further report back on the detail.

The secretariat would compile a bid for EU Funding for submission on the 29th May based on the presentation and would be consulting Jonathan Dale and Peter Hooper before the bid is submitted.

Action : NK/JP

9. District Heat Network

Andrew Briggs updated the group on how the District Heat Network was being progressed. The group extended its thanks to him for the teams efforts in securing the funding and taking the project forwards.

10. Sportshire – Economic Development in Sport (Corporate Games)

The group received a presentation which set out the value of sport to the local economy, the vision, and two upcoming events – Ironman, and the UK Corporate Games. It was agreed that;

- The LEP needs to maintain a direct link with the sports sector given its wider visitor and other benefits
- The marketing potential of the various events needed to be maximised particularly the Corporate Games
- Opportunities needed to be integrated in the Growth Hub
- A quarterly update of what's happened and happening should be provided.

11. Confidential Item

12. City and Growth Deal Programme Report – Part Confidential

The group reviewed the progress on the projects and agreed that £910k should be reallocated from Branston Locks to Bericote Four Ashes utilising the flexibility the LEP has to manage funding. The Rugeley reference would be amended to match the other schemes.

A contractual meeting has been held regarding the Etruria Valley GPF and the principals agreed. Lawyers will be meeting shortly to finalise the agreements.- PD/EH/MC

13. Update on EU Submissions

The Board received a presentation which updated members on activity, responses to calls, opt ins, national programmes, timelines, and governance.

14. Policy and Task Group Updates

These were noted.

15. Any Other Business

The Office Manager and Communications Officer have both been appointed. The premises at Stafford College are being prepared and equipped for an opening in early June.

19:55

Close of Meeting

Date of next meeting: 15th July 2015