

**LEP Executive Group Meeting
Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR
15th July 2015
Minutes**

Present

Group Members

David Frost (Chair)	
John Henderson	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Mark Kerrigan	Alton Towers Resort
Richard Cotterell	Perkins Engines
Jonathan Dale	Denoviant
David Sidaway	Rep. CXO, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Prof. Michael Gunn	- Req HEI Staffordshire University
Ken Stepney	JCB
John van de Laarschot	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr George Adamson	Leader, Cannock Chase Council
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Leader, Stafford Borough Council
Cllr Mark Winnington	Staffordshire County Council rep. Cllr Atkins

Advisory/Secretariat

Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Chris Kirkland	Make it Team
Jo Tyzzer	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Matt Potts	Make it Team
David Sidaway	Executive Director of Place, Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Apologies

Cllr Philip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Kerry Diamond	Zytek

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and reminded those present regarding the role of observers and alternates where provided for in the constitution. 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

Alison Thomas, Communications Officer, took up the role with effect from 13th July.

5. Chairs Delegated Decisions and Actions

It has been an active month for the LEP. A meeting had been held at parliament with the 11 Chairs of all the Midlands LEPs and hosted by Anna Soubry and Marcus Jones to understand LEP commitment to the Midlands Engine. A strong impression had been made. Launch of West Midlands Combined Authority Prospectus would need a clear model from the Local Authorities. Savid Javid's Productivity paper needed to be reviewed before the LEP could respond. Strong Further Education targets to deliver on Apprenticeships.

6. Key Performance Indicators

The KPI report was noted and the good JSA figures welcomed. There were concerns on what could potentially happen with local manufacturing if the euro weakens.

7. Staffordshire Rail Strategy

Clive Thomson gave a presentation on the draft Staffordshire Rail Strategy which had been prepared by Staffordshire County Council, following a rail summit and questionnaire. The strategy had been considered by the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee. The Executive Group welcomed the development of the strategy as a positive step forwards. It asked that the County Council work with the City Council to develop a strategy that covers the whole of the LEP area. It was agreed that the City and County councils would work to achieve this and bring this to a future meeting.

Action – Jonathan Dale to liaise with Clive Thompson, and David Sidaway, to take forwards

8. Update following Budget

£5M had been allocated in the budget to Midlands Connect, £3M in the current financial year with £2M in the next one. It was agreed to maintain the commitment to the study agreed previously.

The LEPs across the Midlands will be meeting to see take forwards the Midlands Engine and the relevance to the skills strategy.

9. City and Growth Deal Programme Report

The Executive Group approved the allocation of £2.4m of funding to the Etruria Valley project, based on the business case, subject to contract with the City Council which will cover deliverables, timescales, reporting and other appropriate requirements related to the funding.

The Executive Group approved the scheme business case and agreed that £5.2million of Local Growth Deal funding identified for 2015/16 be released to the Stafford Western Access project as appropriate, and further Growth Deal

funding is released in future years subject to further refinement of the project and receipt of Growth Deal funding and confirmation that the balance of the local contribution has been secured. This allocation being based upon the business case, and is subject to an agreement between SCC as Accountable Body and SCC as project deliverer which will cover deliverables, timescales, reporting and other appropriate requirements related to the funding.

The Executive Group approved a capital grant award not exceeding £3,921,000 (£5,417,000 including match) to South Staffordshire College subject to contract requirements and further negotiations with the college to increase its match and reduce the final capital grant award. It is also agreed that the LEP undertakes further discussions with Stafford College and JCB Academy to reshape their respective applications to align to the remaining grant available of £2,979,000 (£3,750,000 including match) with a view to further recommendations being received by the City Deal and Growth Deal Programme Management Board on 21st September 2015

10. Strategic Finance Sub Group

It was agreed that the Chair approve an amended draft of the Service Level Agreement with the Accountable Body. Clause 3.1.6 to be amended accordingly.

Action: Secretariat to liaise with Chair

11. EU Programme Update

Jonathan Dale made a short presentation. The ESIF Committee meeting on the 28th July will be dedicated to examining the pipeline. There were three possible outcomes – 1) approve & appraise 2) approve & scale back 3) reject.

The need to look forwards was discussed. SCC in particular was conscious of a need for some capability to seek awards and would welcome thoughts from others.

12. Policy and Task Group Updates

12a MIPIM Options Appraisal - Confidential

After discussion of the possibilities, it was agreed to book a stand and apartment. Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council both agreed to contribute £20k each towards the £80k cost. The LEP would also need to make a contribution. Approaches had been made to other LEPs in the Midlands to gauge interest in a joint stand but whilst there had been interest, it was not sufficiently strong to support a shared stand at this time.

12b Innovation Council

The Innovation Council had met following the successful event and work was progressing well.

13. Any other Business

None raised.

19:55 Close of Meeting

Date of Next Meeting:

9th September, Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR (Victoria Square entrance opposite Crown Court)