



**Stoke-on-Trent
& Staffordshire**
Enterprise Partnership

***CONCORDAT
FOR INTER-LEP
JOINT WORKING
AND COOPERATION***

***CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON LEP
STOKE-ON-TRENT AND
STAFFORDSHIRE LEP***

**Stoke-on-Trent
& Staffordshire**
Enterprise Partnership



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**CONCORDAT FOR INTER-LEP JOINT WORKING
AND COOPERATION**

BETWEEN

CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON LEP

AND

STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE LEP



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CONCORDAT

This Concordat between Cheshire and Warrington LEP and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP, provides a vehicle to foster inter-LEP joint working and co-operation. It mirrors the current pan-LEP collaboration between Cheshire and Warrington, Liverpool and Manchester LEPs around the Atlantic Gateway, and across the Midlands LEPs on Midlands Connect. The Concordat recognises the opportunities for significant economic growth across the Cheshire and Warrington and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP areas, driven by enhanced capacity on the motorway network, the arrival in the next decade of high speed rail and the wider logistics impacts of the new post-Panamax terminal at the Port of Liverpool.

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The parties AGREE to work together and jointly explore how collaboration can:

- ◇ Develop a Growth Strategy and delivery mechanisms building on existing Strategic Economic Plans, harnessing the synergies between the economies of the two areas e.g. south east Cheshire and northern Staffordshire.
- ◇ Provide a platform for joint working to maximise the benefits of common opportunities linked to economic growth and prosperity
- ◇ Provide more effective mechanisms for joint working on cross-boundary issues
- ◇ Identify and promote the opportunities for sustainable growth including opportunities for residents to access jobs and training
- ◇ Maximise the contribution to and opportunities from the proposed Northern Powerhouse, taking advantage of our strategic location particularly between the Core Cities of Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester as well as our access to ports and airports
- ◇ Develop a series of clear, strong messages to Government and other investors regarding the economic strengths and excellent connectivity of the two LEP areas

for the mutual and individual benefit of the parties and in the pursuit of the well-being of the communities and businesses of the two adjoining LEP areas.

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

Cheshire and Warrington LEP is a Company Limited by Guarantee, bound by its Articles of Association. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP is a partnership bound by its constitution.

The Parties will therefore be bound collectively and separately by those laws and requirements in the exercise of this Concordat and in any initiatives, projects or joint working activities which arise from it.

OUR SHARED VALUES

The Parties AGREE to maintain the following shared values during the exercise of this Concordat [examples]:

- A commitment to deliver quality outcomes which offer good value and mutual benefit
- To retain flexibility, honesty and accountability
- A pragmatic approach to ensure to ensure bureaucracy and duplication are minimised
- A belief in partnership and sharing
- A recognition of the rights and responsibilities of each of the Parties

OUR APPROACH TO JOINT WORKING

The Parties will work together to ensure that this Concordat is implemented successfully and will, wherever possible, use the following approach to achieve common goals:

- ◇ Maintain close political links between the two Partnerships
- ◇ Develop closer co-operation and/or joint working
- ◇ Build a framework within which joint project development can become a reality
- ◇ Utilise our collective resources to provide common sources of advice and data
- ◇ Embrace best practice, learning and experience

The two LEPs commit to meet at least four times a year at Board level to ensure that they are working together in a way that fully exploits sustainable growth opportunities across the two areas.

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