

**STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

**Note of a Board Meeting held on
13th September 2012**

**Octagon Board Room, The Octagon Building, Staffordshire University
(Beaconside Campus), Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0AD**

Present

Board Members

Maitland Hyslop	(Reiver Marketing) - Chair
Ron Dougan	(Trent and Dove Housing) - Vice Chair
Mark Kerrigan	(Alton Towers)
Kerry Diamond	(Zytek)
Richard Cotterell	(Caterpillar)
Jonathan Dale	(rep. Sean Parry) (Longton Avia (UK) Ltd.)
Judith Kirkland	(rep. Ken Stepney) (BES)
Paul Richards	(Staffordshire University)
CLlr Mohammed Pervez	(Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
John van de Laarschot	(Chief Executive, Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
CLlr Ben Adams	(rep. Leader, Staffordshire County Council)
Darryl Eyers	(rep. Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council)
CLlr Eddie Boden	(Deputy Leader, Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council)
CLlr Mike Wilcox	(Leader, Lichfield District Council)
CLlr Michael Heenan	(Leader, Stafford Borough Council)

Associate Members

John Carr	(Barrington Engineering Ltd.)
Geoff Riley	(Staffordshire & Black Country BIC)
Marie Stevens	(Burnt Gate Inn)
Adrian MacLaughlin	(Dunston Business Village)
John Smart	(Kapability Associates)
Ian Jenkinson	(Stilwell LLP)
Richard Ward	Vistage International (UK) Ltd.

University/Further Education Observers

Sarah Robinson	(Stoke-on-Trent College)
Jenny Tucker	(Keele University)

Observers / In attendance

CLlr Mark Meredith	(Cabinet Member, Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
CLlr Gordon Alcott	(Cabinet Member, Cannock Chase Council)
CLlr Brian Edwards	(Leader, South Staffordshire Council)
CLlr Gareth Snell	(Leader, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)
John Sellgren	(Chief Executive, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)
Neale Clifton	(Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)
Richard King	(Lichfield District Council)
Dai Lerner	(Staffordshire Moorlands District Council)
Ted Manders	(Stafford Borough Council)
Bob Philips	(Cannock Chase Council)
John Willis	(Inward Investment Team Manager)
Trish Caldwell	(Staffordshire County Council)
Paul Masterman	(Staffordshire County Council)
Jeff Marlow	(Southern Staffordshire Partnership)
Kevin Postones	(BIS)

Advisory/Secretariat

Sara Williams	(NSCCI)
Peter Davenport	(Staffordshire County Council)
Jonathan Phipps	(Stoke-on-Trent City Council)

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed colleagues to his last meeting. He restated the importance of the LEP supporting Political Leaders. However he had been disappointed to learn of the recent decision for a number of areas to pool their business rates outwith the county.

Maitland reported that the LEP and LTA Chief Executives had been asked to advise on the geography for the Local Transport Body. He reaffirmed his view that the geography for the Local Transport Body should follow the Local Transport Authority boundary as previously discussed by the board. This was agreed.

The Ministerial reshuffle had led to a number of changes, principally the move of Mark Prisk from BIS to DCLG and his replacement by Michael Fallon. Support from Government over last few months from Government had been welcome.

2. Apologies

Ken Stepney, Kevin Oakes, Sean Parry, Philip Atkins, Nick Bell, Cllr George Adamson, Jeremy Mellor, Stuart Adams, Hardial Bhogal, Alison Knight, Catherine Raines, Steve Burrows.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Heenan declared an interest in Beacon Business Park.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

These were agreed with the addition of Judith Kirkland and the separation of the Chairmanship discussion from the deal.

5. Key Performance Indicators

The updated table was welcomed and it was noted that the sub group headline indicators needed to be populated. Data on planning applications would be sought.

Action:

- 1. Updated document to be circulated at the next meeting**
- 2. Copy of detailed paper presented in May to be sent to Cllr Snell**

6. Confidential - Draft Future Funding Plan for the LEP

Not for publication.

7. Confidential - Inward Investment Presentation

Not for publication.

8. Deal Update and Next Steps

The Board received a verbal update on progress in developing a deal to unlock growth in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. The key points were that the LEP and LA partners were continuing to work closely with Government and Civil Servants, and that we had been challenged to develop a proposal that is focussed and deliverable. Further discussions had been arranged and a national announcement was anticipated in October.

Work was continuing on the development of governance models and the content of the deal. There was a desire to maintain a holistic view which represented a game changing approach for the economy of the whole of the area. It would be necessary to understand the impact of multi LEP areas on the proposals.

The Chair thanked the teams from both local authorities for their hard work in particular, Darryl Evers and Alison Knight. He believed that wave 2 represented an excellent opportunity. The elements of risk will need to be dealt with in phases.

Action: Further briefings to be brought to future board meetings on the proposals.

9. Sub Group Updates

(a) *Supporting Existing Business to Grow – Jonathan Dale*

The sub group report was welcomed by the Board. The Business helpline was in the process of being procured. A presentation from the group would be given to a future meeting.

(b) *Increasing Inward Investment - Paul Richards*

The principal details were covered in the presentation. The Board was also advised that the Steering Group meetings were to be reintroduced.

(c) *Successfully Marketing Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire as a place to do business - Mark Kerrigan*

The sub group report was welcomed by the board and the work priorities noted. The Board was asked to support the principle of a red carpet showcase event in Westminster. This was agreed.

The Sub Group Chair highlighted the importance to the group of securing the funding for the priorities identified in its plan.

It was noted that promotional investment by LEP partners is also helping to promote Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. Staffordshire University was highlighted as an example.

The Chair commented that consistent messages do make an impact when delivered.

(d) *Improving Access to Finance and Funding - Kerry Diamond*

The sub group report was welcomed.

The KPI were agreed.

The proposals to develop a Business Angel Investment programme working with CEBA were agreed

It was noted that the bid for ERDF to support Enjoy Staffordshire was progressing well. An announcement on Regional Growth Fund round 2 bids was anticipated shortly. Board members were keen to understand the cost per job of investment decisions.

(e) *Providing the Right Sites and Infrastructure - Ron Dougan*

The sub group report was welcomed.

A Sites and connectivity presentation would be given to the board in the new year. Progress on broadband provision in areas supported by BDUK was awaiting the resolution of national issues.

(f) *Ensuring the Skills and Training of our Workforce meet Business Needs – Judith Kirkland for Ken Stepney*

The sub group report was welcomed.

The work on the Education Trust was being aligned to the Deal. The Chair of the Sub Group was meeting with colleagues to finalise its role. The relationship between the LEP and the Education Trust was raised. It was noted that the Education Trust would need to have relationships with a number of strategic partnerships including the Staffordshire Strategic Partnership and the LEP.

The LEP Chair referred members back to previous discussions which had proposed the merger of the Enterprise and Skills Group within the Education Trust.

The work on Tallentmatch had been progressing well. The 'Your Staffordshire' card had been mentioned as a positive idea. It was agreed that a bid would be submitted and agreed with the sub group chair.

10. Update on Board Membership and Chairmanship

The Chair thanked the board for their support during his term of office. He had been particularly pleased to receive the constructive and positive support of Councillors Philip Atkins and Mohammed Pervez.

Led by Cllr. Mohammed Pervez the board thanked Maitland for his contribution and the new Chair made a presentation to Maitland as a token of the board's thanks.

Ron Dougan took the Chair

11. Any Other Business

1. An Associate Director sought clarification on the consequence of overlapping areas. This prompted a discussion about how this impacted on messages to external partners. Councillor Wilcox explained some of the positive benefits of participating in two LEPs as he saw them.
2. Kerry Diamond reported that she had been pleased to welcome the Secretary of State to Zytec and had taken the opportunity to promote the LEP.

In concluding the meeting the Chair thanked Maitland for the hard work he had done to ensure that the LEP was held in high regard by Government and partners.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 11th October at 6.00 p.m. The Committee Room, Lichfield District Council, Frog Lane, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6YY