

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

**Note of a Board Meeting held on
11 April 2013
Torc Campus Vocational Centre, Tamworth**

Present

Board Members

Ron Dougan	(Trent and Dove Housing) –Chair
Ken Stepney	(JCB)
Mark Kerrigan	(Alton Towers)
Kerry Diamond	(Zytek)
Sean Parry	(Michelin)
John Carr	(Barrington Engineering Ltd.)
Judith Kirkland	(BES)
Adrian MacLaughlin	(Dunston Business Village)
Jenny Tucker	(Keele University)
John van de Laarschot	(Chief Executive, Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
Cllr Philip Atkins	(Leader, Staffordshire County Council) - Part
Cllr Ben Adams	(Deputy Leader, Staffordshire County Council) - Part
Cllr Gordon Allcot	(Cannock Chase Council)
Cllr Val Richards	(Deputy Leader, Lichfield District Council)
Cllr Mike Stubbs	(Cabinet Member, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council – rep Cllr Boden)

Associate Members

Jonathan Dale	(Longton Avia (UK) Ltd)
Stuart Adams	(Endeka Ceramics Ltd)
John Smart	(Kapability Associates)

University/Further Education Observers

Sarah Robinson	(Stoke-on-Trent College)
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Observers / In attendance

Richard King	(Lichfield District Council)
John Sellgren	(Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)
Ian Thompson	(Stafford Borough Council)
Bob Phillips	(Cannock Chase Council)
Paul Masterman	(Staffordshire County Council)
Tony Bray	(BIS)
Philip Bradbourn	(MEP)
Anthea McIntyre	(MEP)
Adam Duell	(Keele University Student)

Advisory/Secretariat

Sara Williams	(NSCCI)
Peter Davenport	(Staffordshire County Council)
Alison Knight	(Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
Jeff Marlow	(Southern Staffordshire Partnership)

1. Introductions and Welcome

The Chair welcomed the guests – Anthea McIntyre, and Philip Bradbourn MEP and Tony Bray to the meeting. He thanked the Torc Vocational Centre for their hospitality.

2. Apologies

Kevin Oakes, Richard Cotterell, Nick Bell, Cllr Pervez, Cllr Wilcox, Cllr Boden, Cllr Adamson, Cllr Meredith, Cllr Heenan, Paul Richards, Ian Jenkinson, Jeremy Mellor, Geoff Riley, Richard Ward, Darryl Evers, Helen Riley, Kevin Postones

3. Declaration of Interest

None.

4. Notes of previous meeting and matters arising

Messrs Sellgren, Meredith, and Parry were also present.

Wall of Influence to be circulated by Paul Masterman.

5. Discussion with Philip Bradbourn MEP / Anthea McIntyre MEP

Anthea and Philip updated the Board on the development of the future European Programme for 2014-20. The main focus of the programme is on the convergence areas. However, Shropshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire maintain eligibility in the new programme as a Transition Area. The new programme has a defined set of priorities with a higher intervention rate in the transition area.

The Trans-European Network Programme was being revised and would in future also cover energy and superfast broadband.

The final detail of the programme remains to be finalised.

Each LEP area will get an indicative allocation for its area. Allocations will be advised in the summer. There will be more flexibility for LEP to bring activity together through Strategic Plans.

A booklet was distributed at the meeting which provided a brief guide to European funding. It was agreed that it was important to provide practical advice to potential bidders.

As reported previously the LEP will need to develop a EU Investment Framework in draft by September 2013.

Both MEPs volunteered to help the LEP.

6. **Growing Places Fund - Confidential**

Not for publication.

7. **Recycling of Regional Funds**

Adrian McLaughlin returned to the meeting

The Board considered how best funds which previously operated across the West Midlands should be merged. It was advised by BIS that it would be responsible for any liabilities. The Board agreed that a cross LEP working group should be established as proposed and that Kerry Diamond should be its representative.

Action:

- (1) Other LEP and Regional Finance Forum to be advised.

8. **Taking Forward the Away Day Outcome – Vision and Priorities**

John Sellgren delivered a short presentation which discussed the vision and priorities. The Board agreed the principles of the presentation and welcomed the offers from the local Colleges, Authorities and Social Enterprises to contribute to the development of the work programme and strategic plan.

Action:

- (1) All Sub-Groups to draft 2013-14 work programmes for distribution in May.
- (2) Secretariat to undertake a light touch review of the Strategic Business Plan.
- (3) Strategic Plan to be developed over the next 11 months to draw down the single pot from 2015.
- (4) City Deal work to be used as a key component in this work.

9. **Taking Forward the Away Day Outcome - Governance and Operations**

The Board considered a short presentation on Governance and Operations.

It was agreed that:

- (1) The quick wins should be implemented.
- (2) That the new arrangements should provide an accountable decision making structure that would meet the requirements of the single local growth fund and be consistent with that adopted for the City Deal.

Action:

More detailed proposals to be considered at the June meeting with implementation thereafter.

10. **Any Other Business**

(a) Local Transport Body

The Board was advised that the Transport Advisory Group had been convened to discuss the development of the LTB.

(b) City Deal Programme

A note was circulated to Members which updated Members on progress. Briefings were being arranged with Board Members.

(c) Sub Group Headlines

The report was received with the following comments:

- The Ambassador role is a key component in raising profile of area.
- A further update on Inward Investment would be provided in June.
- The results of the perceptions meeting work were to be discussed.
- Progress had been made in discussing business tourism.
- Ian Thompson, Chief Executive, Stafford Borough Council had offered to lead work on housing. The Chair had gratefully accepted this offer.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 9 May 2013 at 6.00 p.m. Staffordshire University (The Octagon Boardroom)