

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

**Note of Executive Group Meeting held on
13th February 2013
Staffordshire University, Stafford**

Present

Board Members

Ron Dougan	(Trent and Dove Housing) – Chair
Cllr Mike Heenan	(Leader Stafford Borough Council)
Nick Bell	(Chief Executive Staffordshire County Council)
Mark Kerrigan	(Chair DMP – Alton Towers)
John van de Laarschott	(Chief Executive – Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
Jonathan Dale	(Longton Avia UK)
Cllr George Adamson	(Leader Cannock Chase Council)

University Observer

Sandra Booth	(Sandra Booth Staffordshire University)
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Advisory/Secretariat

Peter Davenport	(Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP)
Alexander Greatholder	(Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP)
Kevin Postones	(BIS Local)
Jeff Marlow	(Southern Staffordshire Partnership)

The meeting started at.

1. Introductions and Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr Mohammed Pervez, Cllr Philip Atkins, Ken Stepney and Kerry Diamond

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Heenan declared an interest in Beacon Business Park

4. Notes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

On page 3 of previous minutes a date given 2010 needs to be changed to 2014.

ACTION: Alex Greatholder to change date
Actions completed

5. Key Performance Indicators

Dashboard – “Jobs created” figures do not seem to match up.

Fall in 16 – 18 apprenticeships. Chase Up.

It was noted that the reduction in JSA is fastest in country.

Action: Alex Greatholder to clarify three points above before next meeting.

6. Feedback from Meeting with Greg Clark visit and update on progress on developing the Strategic Economic Plan

Ron Dougan gave 20 min presentation to Greg Clark covering SEP. Notes were sent around and can be requested from the LEP secretariat. The feedback on our LEP was very positive. Our vision and strategy is clear and the focus on connectivity is right. Central government is keen on the development of smaller pinchpoint schemes. Our focus on sites and skills is also largely seen to be good, we need to strive to identify and meet the needs of the local area. The LEP has been told that anything on energy in SEP should not duplicate what is already in the City Deal. There needs to be more evidence of private sector investment leverage. Also we should endeavour to make sure that our LEP SEP harmonises with similar documents in surround LEPs. Local MPs also need to be informed, engaged and inspired; we need to aim to have MPs (inc. MEPs) sign our SEP and give letters of support.

There was a follow up session with West Midlands LEPS and Greg Clark. We need to make sure SEPs work together. There should be more references to cross LEP projects in SEPS and better evidence of collaboration may result in better finance backing. We were specifically credited at this event.

Information will be taken on board in SEP.

BIS Local reiterated the comments of the Minister particularly the need to demonstrate the need for investment, the flexibility of our proposals, and demonstrate prioritisation. The value of MP engagement was reiterated.

ACTION: Nick Bell and John van de Laarschot to arrange for MPs to be contacted and briefed.

7. Update on the City Deal - Confidential

8. Update on Recruitment of New Chair and LEP Capacity development – Confidential

9. Sub Group Update

The Sub Group update had been circulated with the papers. The Executive Group was asked to endorse the following

- International Trade Strategy – LEP approval was required to allow it to form the basis of working with UKTI and others. It had been developed in conjunction with business and the Executive Group agreed that it should be adopted.
- IGISS – The Executive Group agreed a £25,000 contribution from the Core Funding to support programme management in 2014/25.
- The Executive Group approved the financial allocations set out in the Quarterly Financial Review.
- The Executive Group supported the application to secure Core Funding of £250,000 for 2014/15. This had been agreed by the relevant Finance Officer.

Thereafter the group discussed the following

- The progression of the HS2 response to the consultation and the work needed to support submissions.
- The likely need for Housing Associations and others to seek LEP support for submissions for HCA funding and the link to the EU Investment programme.

ACTION: Secretariat to confirm funding

10. Any Other Business

- There is a need to have a formal declaration of interest's procedure for LEP meetings in addition to the Board and Executive Group.
- The renaissance of the Lord Stafford awards was discussed. The view of one of the sponsors was that the previous model had been superseded.
- There was a request for Governance to be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

10th April