

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

**Note of Executive Group Meeting held on
12th June 2013
Staffordshire University, Stafford**

Present

Board Members

David Frost CBE, DL	(Stoke-on-Trent & Staffs LEP) - Chairman
Cllr George Adamson	(Leader, Cannock Chase District Council)
Nick Bell	(Chief Executive Staffordshire County Council)
Kerry Diamond	(Zytek Group)
Ron Dougan	(Trent & Dove Housing)
Cllr Mike Heenan	(Leader, Stafford Borough Council)
John van de Laarschot	(Chief Executive – Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
Cllr Mohammed Pervez	(Leader - Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
Ken Stepney	(JCB)

Advisory/Secretariat

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

1. Introductions

No specific introductions were necessary

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Sandra Booth	(Staffordshire University)
Jonathan Dale	(Longton Avia)
Cllr Philip Atkins	(Leader, Staffordshire County Council)

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mike Heenan - Beacon Business Park

4. Notes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The notes were approved.

Aviation policy is still being developed and the latest iteration will be circulated for approval at the next executive board meeting.

An update on progress in writing the Joint Working Protocol with GBSLEP will be given at the next executive board meeting. GBSLEP will be reviewing the protocol at a meeting on 20th June.

An update on the progress of the temporary governance working group which has been established will be given at the next executive board meeting.

5. HS 2 Presentation by Dr Alan James

Dr Alan James gave a presentation which set out the progress that was being made in promoting the Stoke route for HS2. (The presentation has been circulated to the group). He highlighted the benefits of the Stoke alternative compared to the consultation route and the Higgins proposals.

The retention of the Handsacre connection was viewed as a key priority to ensure services to destinations in the area.

Dr James was thanked for his presentation and asked to keep the group updated as discussions proceed.

6. Strategic Economic Plan – Update on Discussions with Government

The SEP was submitted on 31st March 2014. Since then there have been numerous exchanges of feedback from government and further information/prioritisation had been provided by the LEP and its partners.

Civil servants were appraising the project pipelines and Ministers were meeting regularly to discuss progress. At the time of the meeting the intention was that the outline of the initial offer will be provided by the senior sponsor. It was anticipated that there would be discussions thereafter regarding the details and scope of the offer. The scope for change was unclear.

A Programme Board meeting had been arranged on the 23rd June 2014 to review the deal offered and to discuss plans going forward. Ministers would be meeting on the same afternoon and would be meeting on the 30th June with the Chancellor and others to finalise the deals. Publication was expected on the 7th July.

BIS Local were asked how projects requiring investment over a number of financial years would be appraised. The group was advised that negotiations for following years would begin shortly after when the current year is announced but that future commitments will have been taken into consideration.

Cllr Mohammed Pervez had spoken to Greg Clark and it had been made clear to him that we should focus more on the demonstrating an ability to start than the need to focus on finished projects.

7. Key Performance Indicators

The KPI report and supporting note was received. The amended approach will need to be consistent with the SEP and the requirements of the Growth Deal. Targets were needed from each sub group area.

Recognition of the LEP was seen as an area of importance and the group asked that where the LEP was a sponsor or partner its logo should feature on promotional material.

The availability of a skilled workforce was an issue that needed to be addressed in the skills planning work to be discussed under item 11.

Action

- 1. Secretariat to produce a draft of the revised KPI**
- 2. Sub Groups were asked to review their targets for 2014/15**

8. Updated Growing Places Fund Programme - Confidential

9. Quarterly Financial Review – Confidential

10. Communications Strategy Implementation Plan

The communications strategy implementation plan was approved.

11. Sub Group Updates – For Information

The sub group key points were noted

A presentation was given by Tony Baines (County Commissioner Skills & Employability) and Julie Obada (Strategic Manager - Employment & Skills at Stoke-on-Trent City Council) on the plans for the Education Trust. This presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

The next steps identified were;

- Skills Strategy
 - Consultation and action plan
- Strategic Economic Plan
 - SLGF Skills capital business case appraisal

- EUSIF
 - Commissioning/implementation plan, transition area and Opt-ins
- City Deal
 - Implementation, monitoring and reporting
- Education Trust
 - Governance responsibilities, identity and resourcing

It was requested that the Education Trust work with local economic development officers in the districts.

The Chair wished to see a full session to discuss the skills issue and wanted to see a clearer picture of what was proposed.

The Strategic Funding and Finance Group recommended that we participate in the new West Midlands Mezzanine Fund at no cost. The executive group agreed this.

Action

- **Secretariat to arrange a more detailed discussion on skills (AB/JO)**

12. Any Other Business

Combined Authority and Economic Prosperity Board Legislative Amendments Consultation

Group members wished to have longer to consider this. The Chair asked the LA partners to advise on their views in developing the LEP response.

AGM

The AGM needs to be organised as a one day conference, however, there was insufficient time to discuss and so the item was deferred to be discussed later.

Cllr Adamson was pleased to announce that Cannock had secured investment in a new designer outlet village

Date of next meeting: 17th July 2014 at 6.00 p.m. (Executive Group)