

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

**Note of Full Partnership Board Meeting held on
13th March 2014**

Octagon Board Room, Staffordshire University, Stafford

Present

Board Members

Ron Dougan	(Trent and Dove Housing) – Chair
Ken Stepney	(JCB)
Mark Kerrigan	(Alton Towers)
Kerry Diamond	(Zytek Group)
John Carr	(Barrington Engineering Ltd)
Jonathan Dale	(Longton Avia (UK) Ltd.)
Sandra Booth	(Staffordshire University)
Mohammed Pervez	(Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
John van de Laarschot	(Chief Executive, Stoke on Trent City Council)
Philip Atkins	(Leader, Staffordshire County Council)
Darryl Eyers*	(Head of Eco. Planning, Staffordshire County Council)
Cllr Gordon Alcott**	(Portfolio Holder, Cannock Chase District Council)
Cllr Mike Wilcox	(Leader, Lichfield District Council)
Cllr Frances Beatty***	(Deputy Leader, Stafford Borough Council)
Cllr Terry Turner****	(Portfolio Holder, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)

* Representing Nick Bell	(Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council)
** Representing Cllr Adamson	(Leader, Cannock Chase District Council)
***Representing Cllr Heenan	(Leader, Stafford Borough Council)
****Representing Cllr Snell	(Leader, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)

Associate Members

Jeremy Mellor	(Wood Goldstraw Yorath LLP)
Geoff Riley	(Staffordshire & Black Country Business Innovation Centre)
John Smart	(Kapability Associates)
Ian Jenkinson	(Stilwell LLP)

University/Further Education Observers

Sarah Robinson	(Stoke College and Association of Colleges)
Nick Foskett	(Keele University)

Advisory/Secretariat

Peter Davenport	(Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP)
Alexander Greatholder	(Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP)
Kevin Postones	(Local Relationship Manager, BIS)
Antony Werren	(BIS)
Joanne Tyzzer	(Ass. Director, City of Stoke-on-Trent Council)
Sara Williams	(Chief Executive, Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce)
Simon Hooton	(Regeneris Consultants)

Observers

Jeff Marlow	(Southern Staffordshire Partnership)
Neale Clifton	(Exec. Director, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)
Bob Phillips	(Head of Plan. & Regen., Cannock Chase District Council)

1. **Introductions and Welcome**

The Chair welcomed those people representing board absentees as well as Antony Werren and Kevin Postones from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from those below who could not attend.

Kevin Oakes	(Steelite International PLC)
Richard Cotterell	(Caterpillar Inc)
Judith Kirland	(Business Enterprise Support Ltd)
Adrian MacLaughlin	(Dunston Business Village)
Nick Bell	(Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council)
Richard Ward	(Vistage International (UK) Ltd)
Nick Foskett	(Keele University)
Cllr George Adamson	(Leader, Cannock Chase District Council)
Cllr Mike Wilcox	(Leader, Lichfield District Council)
Cllr Mike Heenan	(Leader, Stafford Borough Council)
Cllr Gareth Snell	(Leader, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)
Cllr Paul Shotton	(Deputy Leader, City of Stoke-on-Trent Council)

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

4. **Notes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Minutes from previous meeting were checked for accuracy and accepted.

All matters arising from the previous LEP Full Partnership Board were included on the agenda.

5. **Key Performance Indicators**

A report of KPIs was distributed which was an update of the document considered by the February 2014 LEP Executive Group. The KPIs indicated that the LEP was on target and that long term unemployment appeared to be reducing.

The number of created included 2500 jobs created as a result of the recently announced JCB proposals. Whilst this approach was consistent with national reporting practice it did over report jobs created in a year and as a consequence the LEP was unlikely to meet its target of 2000 jobs by April 2014.

Action: Investigate the methodology for generating the jobs created figure for the board. Investigate how other LEPs operate.

It was noted that the media reports did not refer to the 300 jobs generated by Amazon in the Cannock Chase District.

6. **Update from the Chair**

The Chair reported that his discussions with a potential new Chair reaching a conclusion. He had been successful in discussions with David Frost, the current Chair of the LEP Network. It is believed that David Frost would be a credit to our LEP as such a high calibre candidate carrying the expertise evidenced by his extraordinary credentials. It was agreed that David should meet an interview panel

on the 26th March consisting of Ron Dougan, Kerry Diamond, Nick Bell and John van de Laarschot.

Subject to this interview the Chair proposed that his successor be appointed from the 1st April 2014 on successful completion of interview process. This was agreed.

Announcement to follow the interview on the 26th March.

Anyone requiring further information on the new Chair was asked to contact Peter Davenport.

7. Update on the City Deal

The Chair advised members that this was an historical day.

The City Deal was formally signed that day by Deputy Prime Minister - Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Minister for Cities and the Constitution - Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP - Ron Dougan, Leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council - Cllr Mohammed Pervez and Leader of Staffordshire County Council - Cllr Phillip Atkins.

The LEP's financial offer was the biggest of all the wave 2 city deals with £113m direct investment, £31m of which will be new money from government. Direct jobs coming from the City Deal will be 2000 with up to 20,000 achieved through the sites. It was highlighted that by working collaboratively and supporting one another a great deal had been achieved.

The LEP would next be entering into the implementation stage of the City Deal. The Partnership Board would receive progress updates through the deal delivery governance arrangements.

The Chair thanked Darryl Eyers and Jonathan Phipps along with all officers for their efforts in securing the City Deal.

It was intended to follow a similar approach in developing the Local Growth Deal.

8. Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

It was highlighted that there had been concerns over the maturity of the SEP delivery program. Following the development of the strategy project development would need to continue. There have been challenges in obtaining details from potential project leads through the completion of project pro-formas. Additionally there had been a need to agree the approach on cross boundary projects with GBSLEP. This had been done and in the case of transport projects, both our LEP and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP will be including the projects in the cross LEP area in their respective SEPs. However, finances for activities in this area will be administered through our LEP. The government has provided a strong steer towards cross-LEP work and has endorsed this arrangement.

The aim of the meeting was to:

A – agree the final draft strategy

B – agree the compilation of project proposals and outline investment plan

Simon Hooton gave a presentation on the current draft of SEP. Copies of this presentation could be requested from the LEP secretariat. The presentation summarised the investment plan and identified the strategic initiatives and the proposed expenditure.

Queries raised by board members included;

- The need to ensure deliverability.
- The scope of supporting initiatives. The Board was advised that there was a lot of detailed information behind the supporting initiatives and that they were closely tied to existing project ideas in the ESIFS submission.
- The bidding process was likely to be iterative. This indicated that the LEP would need to be very clear on priorities and that there would be uncertainties in funding. It was important to have a spread of projects starting ahead of May 2015.

The need to be prepared to track progress and ensure delivery was discussed. The LEP would need to ensure that resources were available to deliver successful projects. This would be built on the approach to the City Deal. The possibility of appointing a managing director was also mentioned. Overall it was emphasised that we need to have the right capacity and the right expertise. This would need close collaboration with all partners to determine where are resources are.

Following this the issue of the role of HS2 in the SEP was raised. Stoke-on-Trent City council confirmed their view that as a key piece of infrastructure nationally that is fundamental to the LEP's vision of Stoke-on-Trent as a core city, HS2 must feature as a key item in our SEP. It would also support our position as building a connected county.

The matter of HS2 was debated by the board with the shorter timescale of the SEP being compared with the delivery dates for HS2. Whilst advice in discussions with the Minister had been to discuss HS2 separately some members were concerned that it needed to feature more strongly.

It was agreed that a further conversation was required (with the views of all partners taken into account). It was suggested that BIS and/or ministers might help steer these discussion with their unique insight.

Action: Ron Dougan and Peter Davenport to organise conversation.

The growth fund totalled £2bn in the first year. The prioritisation in the LEP's SEP was clear.

The Board the principle strategy and project pipeline were agreed with the exception of some issues surrounding the inclusion of HS2 into the SEP.

9. **Sub-Group Specific Updates**

- **Regulation for Growth**

A draft copy of the Regulation for Growth Charter was circulated for comment. A large number of regulators consulted so far have been positive and have influenced the charter, including officers from the Local Authorities. A date for the formal signing was to be agreed.

- **Cross-LEP transport statement**

The LEP's in the West Midlands had prepared a cross LEP Statement on transport matters which was distributed for consideration. All LEP's were being asked to endorse the document.

Board members considered the document and queried whether it adequately considered relationships to the north and east to airports and railways. It was explained by the Board lead that there is collaboration with neighbours to the north and east but it was important to recognise the way that the transport networks were managed.

It was agreed that further comments be made in negotiation with the other partners before signing.

10. **Any Other Business**

Sarah Robinson highlighted the opportunity for LEP and LAs to comment on the proposed HS2 training college. Colleges and universities in the area are keen to submit a proposal to secure a training college soon and would like to secure the support of the LEP.

Date of next meeting

Full Partnership Board – 13th November 2014

Executive Group – 10th April 2014