

**Notes of the LEP Executive Group Meeting  
White Room, County Buildings  
13<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Present**

**Group Members**

David Frost (Chairman)	
Kerry Diamond	Continental Engineering
Cllr Philip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
John Henderson	Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council
Kevin Oakes	Crown Derby
Cllr Abi Brown	Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Prof Liz Barnes	Staffordshire University
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Stafford Borough Council
Sarah Montgomery	National Memorial Arboretum
Ken Stepney	JCB
Cllr Brian Edwards	South Staffordshire Council
David Sidaway	City Director, Stoke-on-Trent City Council

**Advisory/Secretariat**

Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
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**In Attendance**

Andrea Whitworth	Cities and Local Growth Unit
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**Apologies**

Richard Cotterell	Perkins Engines
Jonathan Dale	Denoviant

**1. Apologies**

These were noted.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations in addition to those noted in the register.

**3. Notes of the previous meeting and any matters arising**

The minutes did not cover a request from Cllr Farrington for a breakdown of costs on project allocations from Growth Deal 3. Secretariat to provide information requested.

The notes were agreed subject to this change.

**4. Chairman's Delegated Decisions and Actions**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Edwards to the meeting as the new District/Borough Council representative. He then reported that the attendance at MIPIM had been very successful and that the Midlands Engine stand had worked extremely well.

LEP Chairs had met the Prime Minister to discuss the economy and LEP contribution. He had also met with Greg Clarke and Sajid Javid. In a House of Commons Library Paper, he noted that this area has done remarkably well with low numbers of claimants. Comparison between Staffordshire and Black Country showed a good performance.

The Chairman proposed that future meetings gave a keynote discussion with the focus being on understanding more clearly what the LEPs objective of more, and better paid jobs means in practice. Suggested areas for discussion included technology programmes and investment, and innovation.

## 5. KPIs

The report was circulated for information.

In discussion the implications of Brexit were noted as a concern to business and it was mentioned that the Chambers had retained a member of staff to assist their members. Cllr Atkins referred to the changes that will result as a consequence of Brexit which require serious thought on what the economic objectives should be in the future. The Chairman commented on the leadership role the LEP has and the need to weigh up what we want from the new system.

## 6. Enterprise Zone Implementation Plan - Confidential

*The final draft of the Implementation Plan had been circulated.*

*Cllr Brown gave a presentation on the progress that had been made and an overview of the Implementation Plan. Andrea Whitworth commented there were still some gaps in the document, particularly the consistency with the Assurance Framework agreed in March and membership of the 'Project Board'. Governance should focus on LEP. David Sidaway undertook to ask the Project Manager to respond. The Group asked to see a copy of the final document to ensure the points had been responded to.*

## 7. Industrial Strategy Response

A draft letter had been circulated which responded to the consultation from a business perspective, based on consultation events.

This was agreed.

## 8. City Deal & Growth Deal Programme Board Report

The circulated report was considered.

The Group agreed the business case for the release of £3.0M of Growing Places investment into the Bericote Four Ashes Employment Site Access Improvement Phase 2.

It was noted that the outcomes were originally predicted to be above the 20/21 agreed of 5,000 jobs at 5365 but that the housing outturn was predicted to be slightly lower, at 954 homes vs 1,000 target. The intention was to bring a detailed funding programme to the May meeting.

Following the Growth Deal 3 announcement, the Group agreed the following allocations subject to due diligence reviews, the successful submission of business cases and final approval by the Executive Group:

<b>Scheme / Project</b>	<b>Proposed Allocation (£m)</b>
Hanley Bentilee Link Section 1	8.58
Doxey Rd Regeneration & SWAR	8.50
Spode Start Up Incubator Space	0.50
ROF Featherstone	1.50
Mercia Centre for Innovation and Leadership (MCIL)	1.00
LSTP	1.46
Skills Capital (inc. AMRICC)	1.76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23.30</b>

## **9. Finance Report**

The Group noted the letter from Tom Walker setting out funding for the LEP.

The Executive Group was pleased to be advised that the initial work on the GD outturn suggested that all funding had been spent in year.

## **10. Policy & Task Group Update**

### **Inward Investment**

Kevin Oakes had attended a number of meetings with the Make It Team. He had identified a number of improvements which were being taken forwards with the view of developing a service that was best in class and a set of recommendations would come before the Executive Group.

A report would be presented at the next meeting on MIPIM.

### **Careers Guidance and Employability**

The circulated update was noted.

Claudia Harris, Chief Executive of the Careers and Enterprise Company, would be visiting in May.

The Chairman commented on his perception that there were a lot of disconnected initiatives. He wanted to see more clarity on outcomes and mapping of locations and subjects. A number of initiatives from Sheffield and elsewhere were discussed. It was agreed that a more in-depth discussion was needed and Prof. Barnes offered to assist.

## **15. Any other Business**

A meeting was being arranged to discuss the Institute of Technology possibilities.

Progress on the development of a Ceramics Sector Deal proposition was outlined by Kevin Oakes and the Chairman. The work to date had been led by the British Ceramics Confederation but more local input was needed on the place elements. The Chairman asked that the LEP use its resources to take this forwards.

Cllr Edwards asked if the SSLEP had a position on the Midlands Interchange. He was advised that the SSLEP had not responded to any consultations.

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June in the Boardroom at Staffordshire University, University House, Leek Road, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST4 2DF at 4pm-6pm.