

**STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

**EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING**

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**2016/17 Accounts**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 As part of the Local Enterprise Partnership National Assurance Framework there is a requirement to produce a summary of the annual accounts of the Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SSLEP) and to ensure that these are published.
- 1.2 Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and Stoke on Trent City Council (SoTCC) jointly act as the Accountable Body for the SSLEP, with each local authority taking responsibility for specific funding streams that the SSLEP receives. An accountability agreement is in place between the SSLEP and the two local authorities which sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of the relevant partners, including the governance arrangements. A formal review (audit) is undertaken on an annual basis of these arrangements, in line with the National Assurance Framework.
- 1.3 The Accountable Body ensures the use of resources of the SSLEP are subject to the usual local authority checks and balances, for example, appropriate grant conditions are complied with; robust approval processes are in place; funds are used appropriately and agreements are in place which include adequate provisions for the protection of public funds and decisions and activities of the SSLEP conform with legal requirements with regard to equalities, social value, environment, State Aid, procurement etc. The Accountable Body also maintains the official financial records of the SSLEP.
- 1.4 The purpose of these accounts is to give an overall view of the funds and financial activities that the SSLEP has been involved with during the 2016/17 financial year.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Executive Group is recommended to approve the 2016/17 Accounts for publication.

**Contact details:** Simon Ablewhite

Strategic Finance Business Partner - [Simon.ablewhite@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.ablewhite@staffordshire.gov.uk)