

**Notes of the LEP Executive Group Meeting
Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR
15th September 2016**

Minutes

Present

Group Members

David Frost (Chair)	
Jonathan Dale	Denoviant
David Sidaway	City Director, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Kevin Oakes	Steelite
Cllr Danny Cook	Tamworth Council
Cllr Mark Winnington	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Stafford Borough Council

Advisory/Secretariat

Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Julie Frost	Office Manager, Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Chris Gill	(Consultant) Programme Director

In Attendance

Tony Baines	Staffordshire County Council
Jonathan Phipps	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Andrea Whitworth	BEIS West Midlands
Dave Byron	Staffordshire Chambers

Apologies

Cllr Philip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Richard Cotterell	Perkins Engines
Prof Trevor McMillan	Keele University
Kerry Diamond	Continental Engineering
Ken Stepney	JCB
John Henderson	Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council

1. Introductions

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were noted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Staffordshire Business Festival – Dave Byron

A presentation was given outlining the objectives and timeline of the Festival ahead of the official launch on the 16th September. <http://staffordshirebusinessfestival.co.uk/>

The group agreed to help with promotion when the opportunity arose.

- 5. Notes of the previous meeting and matters arising**
The minutes were accepted as a fair record of the meeting. Actions had been completed.
- 6. Chairs Delegated Decisions and Actions - DF**
The Chairman reported that the LEP had responded to the GBSLEP LEP Strategy consultation highlighting the importance of cross LEP activity.
- 7. KPIs**
The report was circulated for information. Business remained confident Post-Brexit had been better than anticipated but import duties remained a concern.
- The announcement that Gestamp were to invest in a new plant at Bericote was a major boost to the area and the work of the SSLEP in attracting Inward Investment.
<http://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/gestamp-expansion-shows-investor-confidence-in-staffordshire/>
- 8. City & Growth Deal Programme Board Report**
The Executive Group were advised of the progress on schemes. The predicted expenditure in 16/17 and subsequent years had been reviewed and work was in progress to reduce a potential slippage of £10.3m in 16/17. A full recovery plan will be reported to the next meeting of the City Deal and Growth Deal Programme Board.
- 9. EU Funding Update**
The Executive Group considered an update on the position of the EU programme. 80% of SSLEP funding had been committed which was ahead of other LEPs nationally.
- 10. Education Trust Update – ESF Programme**
The Executive group were pleased to learn that 12 contracts were in place to delivery the programme and that the proposed Skills Hub CRM system would be helpful in tracking outcomes.
- 11. Enterprise Zone Implementation Plan – Jonathan Phipps**
A report was circulated for information. The submission date of the working plan was Friday 26th September.
Action: JP to send draft copy to DF/RC/AB/KO
- 12. Northern Gateway Development Zone Update**
The group was advised that consultants had been appointed to A discussion took place around repercussions for NGDZ should HS2 not go ahead. It was agreed that, while HS2 was an enabler for growth, deliverables would still be required. Discussions had been ongoing on changing brand name but the decision would not be made until MIPIM UK had taken place.
- 13. Business Rates Consultation – LEP Response**
A report outlining the consultation on business rates and a potential response by SSLEP on the roles envisaged for LEPs in Combined Authority areas. It was agreed that a response to the particular questions should be submitted in response to the consultation.
- 14. Forward Plan**
A series of Business Engagement Dinners would be taking place over the next few weeks to improve engagement in business, identify potential Board members and advocate the LEP. The group approved the recommendation to that November’s Full Partnership Board as an interactive discussion session with a broader representation.
- 15. Policy & Task Group Update**
A report was circulated giving an update on:
- Business Growth & Innovation (including Growth Hub)
 - Inward Investment
- Kevin Oakes feedback on his findings from meeting the Inward Investment team, who had been tasked with reporting back to him with solutions for issues identified. It was agreed a more commercial approach was required.

Action: Kevin Oakes and David Sidaway to meet and discuss

12. Any other Business

None.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 13th October, Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR