

**Notes of the LEP Executive Group Meeting
Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR
21st July 2016**

Minutes

Present

Group Members

David Frost (Chairman)	
John Henderson	Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council
Kerry Diamond	Continental Engineering
Jonathan Dale	Denoviant
David Sidaway	City Director, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Ken Stepney	JCB
Ian Parry	Deputy Leader Staffordshire County Council

Advisory/Secretariat

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

In Attendance

Simon Hooton	Regeneris
Cllr Sybil Ralphs MBE	Leader, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Dai Larner	High Peak Borough Council/Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Richard Lawrence	Stafford Borough Council

Apologies

Cllr Philip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Stafford Borough Council
Richard Cotterell	Perkins Engines
Prof Trevor McMillan	Keele University
Kevin Oakes	Steelite
Cllr Danny Cook	Tamworth Council
Andrea Whitworth	BIS West Midlands

1. Introductions

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting and introductions round the table were made.

2. Apologies

These were noted.

3. Notes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

Action Point on Item 9 remained outstanding. Nigel Senior would be updating the list of grants available and circulating for information.

The notes were agreed as a record of the meeting.

4. KPI

The table was circulated for information.

5. Declarations of Interest

A record of declarations was available at the meeting.

6. Chairs Delegated Decisions and Actions

The Chairman fed back on the recent Growth Deal 3 Challenge Session at the Department for Transport where the LEP had been given a clear guidance to look at leverage.

The Chairman also reported back on the Midlands Connect Supervisory Board meeting he had attended that day. The message that came from the meeting had been to pay attention to existing connectivity issues.

7. City & Growth Deal Programme Board Report

The Executive Group noted the report and agreed;

- That following a review of the business case by the CDPB £2.66m be invested in the of the Friarsgate Lichfield development.
- That the Programme management team and the Accountable Body develop proposals to mitigate any underspends in 2016/17 in conjunction with the Chair of the CD&GD Programme Board.

8. Growth Deal 3 Submission

Regeneris had prepared a draft of the submission which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

A presentation was given which set out the progress to date and the constituent elements of the packages in priority order. The Group supported the approach that had been adopted and the review work that had been undertaken in the preparation of the bid. A package of core projects forming the basis of the "ask" of Government with a further pipeline of projects for development.

It was noted that the GVA calculations would be heavily scrutinised.

In discussion Chairman identified the need to more clearly explain how the ceramic proposals fitted together and contributed to the "world capital of ceramics" mantra"

The group agreed the Core and Pipeline ask.

Action:

- The Secretariat to finalise the Growth Deal bid and submit to CLoG.
- David Sidaway undertook to provide clarification to the Chairman on the relationship between the ceramics proposals

9. Draft Financial Accounts 2015/16

To demonstrate transparency an annual set of accounts had been prepared by the Accountable bodies for publication. It was agreed that they should be published on the website.

Action – Secretariat to publish the accounts.

Confidential - In discussion it was noted that Stoke-on-Trent City Council representatives would be meeting with Hilton representatives at the site of the proposed new hotel at Smithfield in the following week. It was hoped work would be started on the 122 bed hotel in mid-September.

10. Agri-Tech Update

SSLEP was working with Cheshire & Warrington, the Marches, and Worcestershire LEPS on Agri Tech. Collectively Consultants, BE Group and Mickledore, had been commissioned by four LEPS to:

- Provide analysis and understanding on the scope of the agri-tech sector and its assets (by LEP area and cross-LEP)
- Identify commonalities, synergies and differences – where they pose opportunities / barriers to growth
- Identify options and next steps to deliver value-added growth

The final draft of the report was in preparation and the work had illustrated the benefits of a collaborative approach which had been widely supported. LEP Board Member, James Leavesley was actively involved.

It was suggested that representatives from Leek's Cattle Market and dairy farmers in the Staffordshire Moorlands be involved in discussions.

The update was noted

Action: Secretariat to check on the list of companies involved

11. Policy and Task Group Updates

A report giving an update on the Growth Hub, Inward Investment, Skills and BGI was circulated for information and noted.

A verbal update was given on the latest position on the "Post 16 Further Education Review". A summary paper was likely to be issued in the following week and discussions were in progress between a number of institutions regarding their future relationships including a merger between Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stafford Colleges. The proposals for a LEP led Forum had been agreed by the FE Commissioner.

Recent Skills activity included the "Apprenticeship Graduation", and the "Skills Ladder".

12. Any Other Business

- The SSLEP had been asked to provide a letter of support for Cheshire East Council's application for funding through the DfT Large Majors Scheme Funding for the dualling the A500 west of the M6. This was agreed.
- John Henderson outlined work that was in progress on the "One Public Estate" initiative. This would involve making more effective use of public sector assets across government. A bid had been submitted to support a programme of development. LEP support would be useful in taking this forwards.
- Kerry Diamond asked members to make businesses aware of the opportunities available in the cross LEP HS2 Supply Chain programme.

- Jonathan Dale mentioned that the newly-introduced 'smart' motorways had presented a serious safety issue for road recovery personnel. This had been raised with the Transport Select Committee.

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 15th September, Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR