

**Notes of the LEP Executive Group Meeting  
Broad Eye Building, Earl Street, Stafford, ST16 2QR  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Minutes**

**Present**

**Group Members**

David Frost (Chairman)	
Cllr Philip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
John Henderson	Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council
Prof Trevor McMillan	Keele University
Ken Stepney	JCB
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 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**

Andrea Whitworth	BEIS West Midlands
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**Apologies**

Richard Cotterell	Perkins Engines
Kerry Diamond	Continental Engineering
Cllr Danny Cook	Tamworth Council

**1. Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting and announced the SSLEP had had been named winner of the FSB Staffordshire & West Midlands Region awards.

**2. Apologies**

These were noted.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None

**4. Notes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were accepted as a fair record of the meeting. There were no matters arising which weren't covered by items on the agenda.

## 5. Chairman's Delegated Decisions and Actions

The Chairman congratulated Stoke-on-Trent City Council on the Enterprise Zone Ceramics Valley launch, which had received very positive feedback.

The Chairman gave feedback from a recent LEP Network event which had heard from Greg Clark, Liam Fox Sajid Javid who reiterated the importance of LEP's role in promoting housing. Agri-Tech would be another key interest. It was agreed that in the light of the changing national perspective the Strategic Economic Plan required updating. The issue of the Ceramics sector had also been raised and it was agreed that Kevin Oakes would put a group together, including businesses and agencies, to progress this opportunity.

The Chairman raised concerns on the LEP's lack of involvement in wider issues and felt the Partnership Board wasn't performing as effectively as it could. He therefore proposed that the meeting in November took the form of a more interactive discussion about the updating of the SEP and the Industrial Strategy.

It was suggested that the Partnership Board would better be reconstituted as a forum including Local Authorities, key businesses and Skills which met twice a year This would require an amendment to the constitution.

These proposals were agreed.

## 6. KPIs

The report was circulated for information. The issue of how will the decision to invest be taken forward was raised.

## 7. City & Growth Deal Programme Board Report

The Executive Group were advised of the progress on schemes. The Executive Group were recommended to note the content of the report.

## 8 & 9. *Confidential items*

## 10. Ceramic Valley Enterprise Zone

The Executive Group were pleased to learn that the draft Delivery Strategy and Implementation Plan had been submitted to DCLG. The Enterprise Zone Memorandum of Understanding would be signed on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at MIPIM UK.

## 11. Midlands Connect Update

A presentation was given outlining progress to date.

**Action: Peter Davenport to circulate a copy of the slides to the Executive Group members**

## 12. Finance

The headline summary was noted.

## 13. Policy & Task Group Update

Inward Investment – Kevin Oakes reported that he had been working with the Make It team and had Chaired the 28<sup>th</sup> September board meeting. He had challenged the team on its operation and a future private sector model. He would be developing this further. Work was progressing on MIPIM UK and Cannes, lead generation and marketing, and key account management.

EU Funding – The ESIF programme was proceeding positively with a substantial number of commitments in progress. A number of ESF programmes were now starting delivery. The current position from DCLG on projects ahead of Britain leaving the EU was 'business as usual'.

## **12. Any other Business**

The Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council reported the One Public Estate bid had been successful.

General Richard Semple – Director Information Army - would be visiting Stafford on the 8<sup>th</sup> November. The General had been tasked with LEP engagement in Staffordshire.

Members were pleased to learn about the development of local business Risual and its expansion nationwide.

Careers & Enterprise funding had been used to recruit Carrie Abbot to promote further engagement with schools.

Stoke-on-Trent City Council were pleased to report that they had been successful in their application to host the poppies from the Tower of London. An announcement on the venue would be announced at a later date.

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

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – venue TBC (Stafford)