

**STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

**EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING**

**14th June 2017**

**Make It Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire  
Investment Service Review**

**Progress Report – June 2017**

**1. Introduction**

The Chair of the LEP Investment Board, Kevin Oakes, has been leading a review of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Investment Service, alongside senior officers from Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council. The partners' objective, 'to create a world class Investment Service for Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, capable of competing effectively on both a national and international stage'.

This report provides a summary of work, progress to date and a detailed timetable of further work to be undertaken.

**2. Background**

The Make It Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Investment Service works on behalf of Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, to attract inward investment and investor development into Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

The Make It team are responsible for:

- promoting the area as an investment location; attracting and delivering property investment through inward investment and investor development
- supporting the growth of priority sectors
- securing the delivery of new jobs and the safeguarding of jobs

**3. Progress to Date**

A considerable amount of research and detailed benchmarking work has already been undertaken, through the appointment of an external investment consultancy company (Breeze Strategy), as well as work in-house. This work included;

- a comprehensive benchmarking exercise of existing Investment Services in the UK
- a benchmarking review of the outcomes and recommendations
- An options appraisal
- A full review of the selected options

In agreement with all the partners, a decision was then taken to engage consultants, by way of a competitive tender, to complete the review. This work, funded through the City and County Council, is a two stage exercise;

Stage 1 - to review and assess the benchmarking work to date and the options appraisal, to consider the form and any sub-function rationale (place marketing, tourism, growth hub, skills hub, bondholder/developer scheme), to agree a route forward for stage 2.

Stage 2 – based on the outcome from stage one, to report and advise on the potential; structure, governance, levels of funding required and sources, plus other resourcing issues (tax implications, etc) that might be required to deliver a revised model that meets the objectives of the partner organisations.

#### **4. Timetable of Work to be Undertaken**

- Consultants to submit proposals by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017
  - Successful consultant will be appointed by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017
  - Inception meeting/s will be held between Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017
  - First stage consultancy should be completed and submitted by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, to be presented and discussed at the first phase workshop
  - The first stage workshop will be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017
  - The second stage consultancy should be submitted by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, to be presented at a half day workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017
  - The completion and end of the contract date is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017
5. Upon completion of the timetable of work, as detailed above, and further meetings and discussions between the three main partners, a further report will be provided to the LEP Executive Board.

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