

Note of a Full Partnership Board Meeting held at South Staffordshire College Rodbaston on the 16th March 2015

Present
Board Members

David Frost	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP - Chair
Kerry Diamond	Zytek – Vice Chair
Adrian Maclaughlin	Dunston Business Village
John Carr	Barrington Engineering
Richard Cotterell	Perkins
Patrick Farrington	Leader, Stafford Borough Council
Judith Kirkland	Business Enterprise Support
Cllr Mike Stubbs	Leader – Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
John Tradewell	Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council
John van de Laarschot	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Phillip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Graham Morley	Association of Colleges

Observers / In Attendance

Brian Edwards	Leader, South Staffordshire Council
John Betty	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Darryl Eyers	Staffordshire County Council
David Sidaway	Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Advisory/Secretariat

Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Alex Greatholder	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Julie Obada	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Nigel Senior	Staffordshire County Council
Kevin Postones	Dept. Business, Innovation and Skills

Apologies

Ken Stepney, Kevin Oakes, Mark Kerrigan, Cllr Mike Wilcox, Cllr George Adamson, Cllr Pervez Mohammed, Prof. Michael Gunn, Cllr Crowe

1. Chairs Introduction

The Chair welcomed Cllr Farrington as new Leader of Stafford Borough Council. He reported that he had attended the MIPIM international property event last week and had been pleased to join with colleagues in delivering a clear message about why investors should take advantage of the opportunities offered. He expressed his disappointment about the way the a piece of work had been progressed without LEP endorsement.

2. **Apologies**

The apologies noted above were received. Ron was thanked for his efforts and the Board hoped that it could remain in touch in the future.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Adrian Maclaughlin declared an interest in Dunston Business Village and left the meeting during the discussion of item 8.

4. **Notes of Previous Meeting and matters arising**

These were agreed and all matters arising were covered by the agenda.

5. **Chairs Delegated Decisions and Actions**

The Chair reported that he had agreed a loan of £165,000 to support the development of a business case for the District Heat Network from the Growing Places Fund.

6. **Key Performance Indicators**

The KPI were generally on track to deliver the targets in 2014/15. Companies House data can be used on an annual basis as a cross check against the Banksearch data which is used each month.

7. **City and Growth Deal Programme Report inc. Annual Report on City Deal**

City Deal

The tracker showed that in general everything was progressing on track. The business case for the District Heating Network had been signed off and funding was to be released by Government. The "Smart Energy Demonstrator" had seen the investment by Keele University.

The Growth Hub had overachieved apart from the IGISS project which had achieved its outcomes with less funding than had been allocated. Cabinet Office had been asked to see if expenditure could be defrayed until December 2015.

The Skills pilot was progressing with relationships with the SFA and National Careers Service being considered as part of a stocktake.

Growth Deal

Members were advised that the "Growth Deal" was now worth nearly £100m and involved the investment of in excess of £14m in 15/16. The funding would be received on the 1st April. However the Lichfield Park scheme was already on site. The Etruria Valley project was being funded from a range of funding streams. Whilst work with the DfT was progressing there had been challenges in securing approvals from a range of funding streams in similar timescales. It was agreed that should this continue to be a problem it should

be raised with Ministers. Locally the Growing Places Fund allocation needed to be progressed more quickly.

City Deal Annual Report

A draft document had been circulated and members were requested to provide comments to James Green by the 23rd March. The final document would be agreed by the Chair and circulated to MP's and other stakeholders.

Review of Project Pipeline

It was agreed that the project pipeline for future LGF bids should be reviewed and steered by the Executive Group.

8. **3rd Quarter 2014/2015 Financial Update**

Adrian Maclaughlin declared an interest in relation to Dunston Business Village and left the room.

The Financial update was noted by the board.

9. **Policy and Task and Finish Group Updates**

Adrian Maclaughlin returned to the meeting.

A presentation was given outlining the progress the sub groups had made.

Inward Investment – Board members were keen to get a sense of scale of the various development proposals and geography being delivered and promoted.

Education Trust – Skills Staffordshire, Phase 2 of the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hubs, the Locality Projects, and the ESIF Opt Ins were to be progressed between March and June. The overarching Skills strategy would be reported to the Executive Group in April. KMF Engineering were highlighted as an example of a company which had built a positive relationship with schools. Board members were conscious of the importance of the Education Trust and the need to develop a coherent offer.

ESIF Update – It was noted that the first bidding call was likely to be issued on the 23rd March. The ESIF Committee had met and had discussed the calls and communications. It was noted that the committee is now advisory to the "Managing Authority – DCLG". The Committee is supported by an Operational Working Group – OWG. A bid for Technical Assistance was being prepared.

The Board wished to ensure that the opportunity presented by the 2014-2020 programme was utilised effectively. It requested that a smaller group of board members be asked to ensure that sufficient resources were available to the ESIF Committee and that progress was reported in a similar way as the "Deals".

Housing and Place – The Housing and Investment Strategy draft report was about to be circulated. It had been developed in support of the SEP. The draft had been prepared with input from RSL, LPA, HCA, and other

stakeholders. As previously advised it would focus on delivery issues and the final draft would be reported to the Executive Group.

Transport – The board was updated on the work of the Cross LEP Transport Group, the development of HS2, and the Midlands Connect Study. It agreed to contribute £10k to support the study from the LTB Capacity Funding. Following discussions about the need to see early improvements of the M6 between J15 and J16 it was agreed that the offer of the Director of the Highways Agency to attend a future meeting be pursued.

10. **Update on Amended Governance and Constitution**

The board considered amendments to the constitution covering the nomination of Leaders, publication of decisions, and transparency and engagement.

The Board agreed that the three additional elements of the assurance framework be agreed by the Chair in conjunction with the Accountable Bodies.

It was noted that the appointment of the Chair involved an annual review and that a number of board members would require re-appointment. The vacancy for a board member would be advertised in accordance with the previously adopted practice.

11. **Any Other Business**

Corporate Games – The area would be hosting the UK Corporate Games on the 25th – 28th June. This would involve 23 sports and a series of events attended by 4000 competitors held at Keele & Staffordshire Universities and Trentham Gardens with competitors accommodated at Keele. A VIP reception was being planned on the 26th June. slides at the end of the presentation if necessary

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Dates of next meetings:

Executive Group	15 April 2015
Full Partnership Board	12 November 2015