

**Notes of a Full Partnership Board Meeting held at LEP offices, Stafford,
Thursday 9th March 2017**

Present
Board Members

David Frost	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP - Chair
Jonathan Dale	Denovaint
Adrian Maclaughlin	Dunston Business Village
Patrick Farrington	Leader, Stafford Borough Council
Cllr Phillip Atkins	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Len Tildsley	Association of Colleges
Sara Williams	Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce
John Henderson	Staffordshire County Council
Richard Cotterell	Perkins Large Engines/Caterpillar
James Leavesley	The Leavesley Group
David Hughes (representing DH/AB)	Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Observers / In Attendance

Alison Thomas	LEP Communications Officer
Andrea Whitworth	BEIS
Simon Hooton	Regeneris

Advisory/Secretariat

Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Julie Frost	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP

Apologies

Kerry Diamond, John Henderson, David Sidaway, Cllr Abi Brown, Judith Kirkland, Kevin Oakes, Cllr Terry Follows, Sarah Montgomery, Cllr Elizabeth Shenton

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Simon Hooton.

2. Apologies

The apologies were noted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared. The Board were asked to complete and return the Declaration of Interest form recently sent to them by Julie Frost

Action: All

4. Notes of Previous Meeting and matters arising

These were agreed with and the Board were thanked for ratifying the re-appointment of the Chairman for a further 3 years. The Chairman thanked the Board for the confidence shown in him but confirmed this would be his final term and progression must be addressed.

Cllr Cooke had given his resignation from the Board. District and Borough leaders would need to nominate another representative. John Carr had also resigned with immediate effect due to taking up a post with Keele University, which would be a conflict of interest. Several business Board members were coming to the end of their terms of office. Discussions would be had with them directly and vacancies advertised. The Chairman said this would be a good opportunity to look at the structure of the Board and a Working Party would shortly be set up to look at skill sets, with findings reported back to the next Partnership Board meeting.

5. Chairs Update & Delegates Decisions

The Chairman thanked Andrea Whitworth for her support ahead of the Growth Deal 3 announcement made today, which confirmed the LEP would receive £23.3M. The funding was expected to be available in April.

The Chairman had attended a visit by Marcus Jones MP, Minister for Local Government, today. The Board stated SSLEP was well placed to be part of Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect but ensuring links with Cheshire East and Cheshire West was a potential challenge.

The Chairman would be attending MIPIM from 14th March and the importance of having a coherent, international brand was agreed. Positive interest had been received. It would be useful to produce a map of who would be doing what to ensure there was no overlap.

6. Key Performance Indicators

A report was circulated for information.

The Chambers had recently held a Budget Breakfast and reported a rise in confidence. It was also noted that the West and East Midlands DIT delivery partners were now working together. However, future delivery was a concern due to the DIT contract going out to tender later this year.

7. Revised Assurance Framework – Approval of Revisions to meet CLG Requirements

A number of reports were circulated for information and key changes outlined. Following discussion and consideration, the Board endorsed the revisions.

8. Discussion

8b Industrial Strategy Green Paper

The Board discussed how the Industrial Strategy linked to individual areas, how the Board saw strategy, the SSLEP input and areas of relevance. Broad topic areas of Innovation, Skills and Driving Growth were discussed in detail. Both the County and City agreed a Place-based strategy was important, with the City focusing on Ceramics and the County focus being on Infrastructure, Skills, Connectivity and Housing.

8b Emerging Thinking on the SEP Refresh – Regeneris

The Board agreed the importance of retaining the 50-50-10 to encourage aspiration and bring higher paid jobs to the region. Staffordshire University had reported back on feedback from students that they don't stay in the area as it doesn't offer the café and music culture lifestyle they want. It was agreed to include Digital under the Barometer umbrella and increase the

important of promoting the Midlands and enhancing quality of life in the existing structure under Competitive Urban Centres. A timetable was agreed for Regeneris to present a consultation document to the Executive Group Meeting on the 11th May with a final draft to be presented at the Executive Group Meeting on the 14th September.

9. **Information Items**

SSLEP was holding a series of engagement events around the County, which had the support of BEIS. Board members were asked to encourage interested parties to attend.

10. **Any Other Business**

The issue of getting back to the region after attending late evening concerts and events in big cities was raised, as the lack of infrastructure was thought to be a contributory factor in young people leaving the County.

The Leader of Stafford Borough Council requested a breakdown and full list of Growth Deal 3 projects.

Action: Peter Davenport to email the information

Stoke-on-Trent City Council expressed their thanks to the Board for its support in their City of Culture bid.

Dates of next meetings:

Executive Group	13 th April 2016
Full Partnership Board	9th November 2016