

**Notes of the LEP Executive Board Meeting  
Drawing Room, County Buildings  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Present**

**Group Members**

David Frost (Chairman)	Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Strategi Solutions
Wendy Dean	Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr Abi Brown	risual
Alun Rogers (Vice Chair)	Wade Ceramics
Paul Farmer	City Director, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
David Sidaway	Keele University
Prof Trevor McMillan	South Staffordshire Council
Cllr Brian Edwards	Leavesley Group
James Leavesley	Royal Crown Derby
Kevin Oakes	

**Advisory/Secretariat**

Peter Davenport	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
Julie Frost	Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire LEP
John Devlin	Consultant

**In Attendance**

Andrea Whitworth	BEIS
Julian Woolford	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Suzanne Ward	Environment Agency
Andrew Proctor	Staffordshire University
Adam Breeze	Consultant
Prof Ieuan Ellis	Staffordshire University

**Apologies**

John Henderson	Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council
Richard Cotterell	Perkins
Sarah Montgomery	National Memorial Arboretum
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Stafford Borough Council
Mohammed Ahmed	National Grid

**1. Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guests.

**2. Apologies**

These were noted.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

No additional declarations were made beyond those set out in the registers of interests.

**4. How the environment supports the aims of the LEP – discussion with the Environment Agency, Natural England & Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**

Julian and Suzanne gave a short presentation which set out the case studies. The presentation prompted a discussion and it was agreed that a stronger partnership between the organisations and the LEP would be mutually beneficial. Members and agency

representatives discussed ways to achieve this. The presenters made a request to put together a change to the governance structure to create an Environmental sub-group. This was discussed and would be considered further. It was suggested that the Environment Agency should be involved in the Agri Tech West work.

**Action: Further engagement with environmental stakeholders to be considered**

## 5. Notes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting and the following points raised:

- Branston Locks had been completed
- The bid to the Midlands Engine Strategic Programme Development Fund had been successful

There were no matters arising.

## 6. Chairman's Delegated Decisions and Actions

There were no delegated decisions to report. The Chairman advised members of the following:

- He had attended a positive meeting with Nathan Phillips, the LEP's senior speaker from BExEU on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June.
- The Chairman had been invited to form part of a panel of other LEP Chairs meeting at 10 Downing Street on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, which would also be attended by Ministers Jake Berry and Greg Clarke. The LEP members would be raising concerns over Apprenticeships and the impact of the Levy.

## 7. KPI

The dashboard was noted. The recently announced restructure at Rolls Royce, and the potential loss of circa 3,000 redundancies, was discussed and it was agreed that Wendy Dean would approach the company.

## 8. Smart Staffordshire

Alun Rogers gave a presentation which set out the vision for 'Smart Staffordshire' and its supporting activities. Points raised included how the LEP could support entrepreneurial businesses, engagement with Microsoft, opportunities to develop IP as a consequence of the District Heat Network areas in AI technology, live/work spaces and building a digital cluster. A request was made for members of the Executive to part-fund a Smart Staffordshire team, to be led by Alun Rogers and hosted by Staffordshire County Council, for a 12 month period.

**Action: Funding proposals to be considered in more detail and reported at the next meeting**

## 9. Policy and Task Group Reports

A report was circulated for information including:

- Skills – a series of business engagement breakfast meetings had been held, with several attendees expressing an interest in being involved in the Education Skills & Employment Group.
- The Agri-Tech West launch had taken place at the County Show on the 30<sup>th</sup> May with good support from business, LEP and education
- Kevin Oakes had chaired a meeting of the Ceramics Deal on the 24<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting had been positive. A bid was being submitted to the Strength in Places Fund:  
**Action – secretariat to chase responses to the request for a letter of support**

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## 14 Any Other Business

The following items were raised:

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council gave an update on their bid to become a Channel 4 Creative Hub. The Board supported the proposal and wished it success.
- The City Council had submitted an Expression of Interest to the Transforming Cities Fund in conjunction with the Constellation Partnership. The SSLEP had provided input and a letter of support.
- Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Executive would take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the National Memorial Arboretum and would be a decision making meeting.
- Andrew Griffiths MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, would be visiting Keele University and Stoke Station on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. The visit would involve a meeting with the LEP.
- The work of the Ceramics Sector Deal was progressing with a further meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> July. Stakeholders, including the Midlands Engine Chair, Arts Council and Richard Harrington MP were being actively engaged.
- The Chairman extended his thanks on behalf of the Executive to Kevin Oakes, who had come to the end of his term of office, for his significant and valuable contribution to the LEP.

### **Date and time of next meeting:**

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> July**

6pm-8pm

Founders Room, National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road,  
Alrewas, DE13 7AR