

**Notes of the LEP Executive Board Meeting
Drawing Room, County Buildings
Thursday 18th October**

Group Members

David Frost (Chairman)	
Alun Rogers (Vice Chair)	risual
John Henderson	Staffordshire County Council
James Leavesley	The Leavesley Group
Cllr Patrick Farrington	Stafford Borough Council
Wendy Dean	Strategi Solutions
Cllr Abi Brown	Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
David Sidaway	City Director, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Mohammed Ahmed	National Grid
Prof Trevor McMillan	Keele University
Cllr Brian Edwards	South Staffordshire Council

Advisory/Secretariat

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

In Attendance

Nathan Phillips	BEIS
Andrea Whitworth	BEIS
Trish Caldwell	Staffordshire County Council

Apologies

Sarah Montgomery	National Memorial Arboretum
Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Paul Farmer	Wade Ceramics

1. Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Nathan Phillips. Nathan gave an explanation of his role, his background and asked how he can help the LEP produce its Local Industrial Strategy. He also explained his role as Economics Analysis in parliament over Brexit. John Henderson questioned how frictionless trade would work within the EU, how regulations could be faster and leaner. Concerns were raised that any delays to the automotive industry supply chain would have serious repercussions but Nathan advised the government was very conscious of this and it was built into the heart of the Chequers Plan. The government was also focusing on the future economic partnership as the next key issue.

2. Apologies

These were noted.

3. Declarations of Interest

Wendy Dean declared she had accepted an invitation to sit on the Board of the City Learning Trust.

4. Chairman's Delegated Decisions and Actions

The Chairman advised the following:

- He had been asked to provide a letter of support for the Cultural Development Fund bid, which he had done so
- Feedback was given on the geographic submissions
- An update was given on the LEP review following a meeting with LEP chairs and Damian Hinds MP on Tuesday 16th October and the Department for International Trade annual dinner at which the Secretary of State had been the key speaker
- Feedback was given on the South Staffordshire District's Business Breakfast, held on Friday 12th October. There had been a strong view that issues with the new i54 bus lane must be resolved, as this was having a negative impact on business investment. A lack of good hotels was also raised.
- Concerns regarding the economy, the difficulties being experienced by Jaguar Land Rover and the implications for the region. The Chairman stressed the situation must be monitored

5. Notes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

The notes were agreed to be a true and fair record of the meeting. It was announced that the CITB bid hadn't been submitted due to the inability to deliver suitable mechanisms. All were thanked for obtaining letters of support for the LEP's response to government for the LEP Review.

6. KPI

The dashboard was noted. New dashboards were still being reviewed, with copies circulated for comment. Feedback was requested from all.

Action: feedback to be given to Mohammed Ahmed re dashboards

7. Update on Regulation Work – Trish Caldwell

Trish explained the background of the Regulation for Growth Delivery Group, its objectives and membership. An update was then given on the research project on the Impact of Good Regulation on Business, which had been part-funded by the LEP. The full outcome would be brought back to the LEP Board in January but it was known that business survival rate was longer when they engage collaboratively with regulators.

8. Enterprise Zone Quarterly Report – Restricted

9. City & Programme Deal Programme Update

An update on the open call was given. 7 submissions had been received with 2 more expected. Recommendation would be brought to the next meeting for approval.

10 Q2 2018-19 LEP Finance Dashboard

The dashboard was circulated for comment and discussion.

11. Local Industrial Strategy – Recent Guidance

A presentation was circulated for information and discussion. The LEP Network had held a series of meetings, A 'worst case scenario' must be built into the strategy. A steering group consisting of David Frost, Peter Davenport, Martyn Jones, Trevor McMillan and Alun Rogers had been set up. It was agreed that November's Partnership Meeting would be used as an 'envisioning' event for 2 two hours sessions to include discussions and focus-type activity.

12. Policy & Task Group Updates

The report was circulated for information and the following were discussed:

MIPIM – all future hospitality must be funded out of commercial sponsorship

Skills Advisory Panel was progressing

13. Any other Business

The Risk Register was circulated for comment – all feedback to Mohammed Ahmed

Stoke-on-Trent had been shortlisted down to the last 10 for the Transforming Cities Fund

Date and time of next meetings:

Partnership Board:

Thursday 13th December

6pm-8pm

Drawing Room, County Buildings, Stafford

Full Partnership:

Thursday 15th November

6pm-8pm,

Drawing Room, County Buildings, Stafford