**STOKE-ON-TRENT AND STAFFORDSHIRE**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

**COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**18 July 2019**

**Phase One (March – June)**

During the first phase, Metro Dynamics completed the assembly and review of quantitative evidence. Comprehensive slides were prepared and have been shared with our local authorities and higher education partner analysts. Comments from partners are being fed back and used to strengthen the evidence base.

**Phase Two (June – August)**

A comprehensive programme of business engagement has been taking place in June and July. The table below summarises the planned activity:

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| **DATE** | **TIME** | **VENUE** | **SECTOR/INTEREST** |
| 27th June | 10:00 - 12.30 | Tamworth Enterprise Centre | Logistics |
| 27th June | 1.30 - 4:00 | Pirelli Stadium | Aero-auto |
| 28th June | 10:00 -12:30 | Newcastle College | Med-tech |
| 28th June | 1:30 - 4:00 | Stafford College | Digital |
| 11th July | 10:00 -12:30 | Staffordshire University | Professional & business services |
| 11th July | 2:00 - 4:00 | Leek College | Advanced materials |
| 11th July | 5.30-7.30 | Leaders/CEO | Local authorities |
| 12th July | 10:00 - 12:30 | Rodbaston | Rural/agri-food |
| 12th July | 1:30 - 4:00 | Yarnfield Park | Energy |
| 25th July | 1:00 - 3:00 | Gladstone Pottery Museum | Tourism |
| 26th July | 10:00 – 12:00 | Festival Park | Independent Training Providers |
| 26th July | 1:00 - 3:00 | Festival Park | VCSE |
| 26th July | 3:00 - 4:00 | Staffordshire Chambers - drop-in session | General |

**BEIS Phase1 Feedback Session**

On 2nd July, the team met with colleagues from BEIS to discuss the developing LIS. Positive feedback was provided on the approach being taken, progress to date and the forward plan for the next eight months, which was followed up in writing as follows:

“Good progress being made with phase 1 completed.  The LEP demonstrated its grasp of what is required to deliver the LIS.”

“Phase two timeline looks stretching - but really vital element of the work especially getting meaningful business engagement over the next few weeks.”

“We think that local sense checking would be helpful to ensure the implications of the statistics are interpreted in a way that drives the LIS towards locally distinctive interventions.  This will also help to put together the local narrative (which will be different for different parts of the LEP area).”

“Heat and Energy: we support the LEPs intention to do further work to explore the potential opportunities within the LEP area around geothermal and storage.  A potential area of distinctiveness for the LIS.”

“The availability of sites - particularly in the north - is another potential area of distinctiveness. There are known opportunities afforded by sites such as the former Rugeley Power Station and potential future sites such as the Kerry Foods site at Burton.”

“It was good to hear at out discussion that HS2 is being recognised as a major opportunity.  Clearly you will want to bring out the potential benefits of improved accessibility to major cities, but also to consider the potential benefits of new services being available as a result of capacity being released on the existing lines as more "through services" are moved to HS2.”

“It was good to hear that the LEP is considering how it can retain the value from its large companies - clearly access to the right skilled people is key to this, but as discussed there are a range of other ‘place’ factors which again could contribute to making the LIS locally distinctive.”

“It will be important for the LEP to get some real clarity about what it wants to focus on, ideally with an outline narrative, by early September.  As this picture emerges we can help link you up with other places that may have similar interests and build collaborative links.”

“It will be important for the LEP to fully understand the productivity challenge across its area and begin to consider what are the interventions and opportunities to address this (and any evidence required to support the interventions) - which might lead to place distinctive approaches.”

**Conclusion**

SSLEP is making good progress with the development of the LIS and is ahead of some other Wave Three LEPs. Targets have been met for completion in Phase 1 and we are forging ahead with our Phase 2 programme. We have set ourselves a challenging programme of engagement in the next few weeks, recognising the importance of local business input to the success of our strategy. However, with an active input from partners and a strong support network, these things are achievable.

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