

27 September 2019

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Dept of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Dear Mrs Leadsom

RE: Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

I have recently taken over the Chairmanship of the Stoke & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

We are a partnership that is truly led by senior business people who work across our area. Through the implementation of the LEP Review, we have fundamentally changed our partnership this year. This has brought a new dynamism to our economic growth work, increasing both our ambition for our area and the range of local opportunities which will help us transform the Stoke and Staffordshire economy during the next crucial decade for British business.

This year we have formed our company, revising our governance and increasing our accountability to our business base and the communities we serve. We have restructured our LEP Secretariat, reviewed our Board of Directors and are currently completing recruitment of four new LEP Board Directors. Our new structure and commissioning approach equips us to increase local business innovation and productivity.

Working together with civic leaders, we are currently setting down on paper our ambitious vision for Stoke & Staffordshire and the detailed programme of work that will drive the transformational change we need over the next decade. We have used the production of our Local Industrial Strategy and the LEP Review as a positive mechanism for driving change in the way we do business in future to deliver on government priorities for economic growth.

One barrier that is limiting our ability to drive things forward is the fact that we have received less funding than other Local Enterprise Partnerships. This is LEP Review Implementation Grant (£300k) which is currently being withheld from our LEP while the outstanding geographies issue is resolved.

I am asking for your support in ensuring we have the same resources as every other LEP in meeting the requirements of the government's LEP Review and in developing our ambitious economic plan that will deliver on your economic growth agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Alun Rogers
Chair Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire LEP

cc: Stephen Jones, Director, Cities & Local Growth; Tony Bray, Area Director WM & SW CLGU; Nathan Philips, Director, DExEU.

