**STOKE ON TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

**COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**18 June 2020**

**SSLEP Annual Report 2019/20**

* 1. The National Local Growth Assurance Framework (January 2019) set out the new guidelines for LEPs in relation to the changes required under the LEP Review. While LEPs continue to be autonomous and self-regulating, government will retain “accountability and oversight over the system as a whole.”
	2. As part of the assurance monitoring process, LEPs are required to produce an Annual Report which looks over the activity of the past year and a Delivery Plan which looks forward over the next 12 months. These are normally produced at the start of a new financial year. Due to the Covid crisis, government did not provide a production deadline this year.
	3. SSLEP’s LIS Implementation Plan, including Covid recovery activity, is currently being finalised and will be brought to the July Board meeting for consideration. The Delivery Plan for the next 12 months will be taken from this document. In the meantime, the SSLEP secretariat has worked with partners to produce the Draft Annual Report 2019/20 so that this is available for the Annual General Meeting (date to be confirmed).
	4. The attached Draft Annual Report 2019/20 provides an overview on SSLEP project & programme activity, strategy development, governance and use of funding. This year, the Chair has placed emphasis on the transformation of the partnership and activity to build our new Strategy. The final document must be published on the website.

 **Recommendation: That Board Directors are requested to:**

1. **Provide any comments upon the final draft document; and**
2. **Instruct the Project Officer to finalise the Report, delegating sign-off to the Chairman, and ensure publication on the website.**

Lead Board Member: Alun Rogers, SSLEP Chair.

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