

**STOKE ON TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP  
COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
17 SEPTEMBER 2020  
LEP Delivery – General Updates**

## **1. Growth Hub Peer Network Programme**

1.1 The SSLEP have been provisionally allocated grant funding of up to £405K from BEIS for Peer Network Programme for SMEs to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. A draft grant funding agreement has been issued to the Accountable Body. BEIS have published a website to help co-ordinate activity: <https://www.peernetworks.co.uk/>

1.2 The website states:

*Peer Networks is a peer-to-peer networking programme for SMEs that is delivered locally by the network of Growth Hubs across England. We create diverse cohort groups of individuals to collaboratively work through common business issues. Through interactive action learning, we enable you to discuss your own challenges, gain and reflect on valuable feedback and implement practical solutions to overcome them. From finance and HR to sales, marketing and more, our expert facilitators give you the flexibility to create a trusted support network that works for you, helping you to build and strengthen your business and improve its overall performance.*

### Who is it for?

Peer Networks is designed for business leaders who want to grow and develop their organisation for future success. The programme is available to any SME business that meets a range of criteria (e.g. operated for at least one year, at least five employees, a turnover of at least £100,000, etc).

**Next Steps:** The LEP Secretariat c/o the LEP CEO and Growth Hub Manager will consider the operational commissioning matters around demand from businesses, servicing that demand through delivery arrangements, the associated procurement requirements and will bring forward options/proposal(s) via the Growth Hub Steering Group under the Chair of Hannah Ault.

## **2. Getting Building Fund**

1.3 The Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) have advised that the contract and £23.7M [project fund](#) is likely to be made available to LEP (c/o the Accountable Body) in mid-September 2020.

1.4 Hatch Regeneris are providing the technical support to assess Business Cases for all the selected projects and the contingency projects.

- 1.5 Associated external Communications will be advanced alongside project approvals to build on the headline project information and will be referenced in the weekly communications advocacy brief. Project Sponsors will be involved in their shaping/signing off the storyboard for their projects. The outline project headline social media movie clips and brochure can be found here:

<https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/delivering-growth/deals/getting-building-fund/>

**Next Steps:** Strategic Programme Management Group (SPMG) will consider businesses cases throughout Autumn 2020.

### **3. Communications: PR & Marketing Services for the Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership**

- 1.6 The LEP Secretariat have commenced the procurement of the PR & Marketing Services and is published externally via the Accountable Body at the Proactis web portal.

<https://supplierlive.proactisp2p.com/Account/Login>

**Next Steps:** LEP Secretariat and Accountable Body will present recommendations from the procurement process to Hannah Ault and Alun Rogers during Autumn 2020.

**Note Prepared by:**

**Mark Parkinson, Chief Executive**