

**SSLEP Executive Board – SAP Update: Institute of Technology and Careers  
Enterprise Company**

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Purpose**

1. To update the Board on the background to Institutes of technology (IoT), the wave 2 application process and potential applicants.

**Recommendation**

2. The LEP to determine a process to support the wave 2 bids that avoids reputational damage to partnerships for those bids that are not supported.

**Background**

3. IoTs are government backed collaborations between further education (FE) providers, universities and employers. They will specialise in delivering higher technical education (at Levels 4 and 5) with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects.
4. IoTs will focus on the specific technical skills needs required in their area. They will provide employers with a skilled workforce and students with a clear route to technical employment. The first 12 IoTs collectively received a £170m grant and were selected through a government-led competition.

**Wave 2**

1. The govt is launching a second wave of IoTs in the Autumn to select 8 new IoTs. The competition will only be open to proposals that cover LEP areas that currently do not have an IoT.
2. The competition will run over two stages and will last around 12 months. Stage 1 is expected to ask proposals to demonstrate the strategic case for their IoT and its accompanying capital projects. Stage 2 is expected to ask proposals to provide a detailed case for their IoT including detailed information on the proposal, including financial viability, feasibility and vfm of the capital project and legal structure/delivery model.
3. The DfE is strongly encouraging LEPs to consider one collaborative bid to strengthen its chances of securing an IoT in wave 2.

**Expression of interest**

4. Interested parties were asked to register their interest through the submission of an expression of interest. We are aware of 2 EOIs that were submitted.
5. Staffordshire University - Staffordshire Digital Futures Institute (SDFI). The EOI proposes a responsive and agile curriculum offer, able to meet the future

needs of our local and regional workforces. The SDFI notes advances in digital skills provision in three key areas: digital-engineering, advanced manufacturing and materials, and critical communication systems. The curriculum offer will specialise in STEM and technical Integrated skills. A partnership governance model will be created between HE and FE, following either the Joint Venture or Special Purpose Vehicle model. There will be strong employer engagement in governance and leadership through the involvement of SSLEP.

6. Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group – Skills Innovation Centre. The proposal is to create an innovative partnership between the Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group, Keele University and a group of key employers focussed around engineering, advanced manufacturing and construction and planning. This partnership will drive activity from Level 2/3 through to Level 6/7 with a predominance at Level 4/5. The plan is to construct a purpose built facility on the NSCG Stafford site. This will be the hub of IoT delivery, linking up with NSCG Newcastle and Keele University for both feeder and progression. The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent conurbation and the wider environs are geographically well served for employers and learners across the county.

### **Next Steps**

7. Govt. propose to launch the competition in the Autumn. A draft Eligibility Conditions and draft Assessment Framework for Stage One of the Wave Two competition has been published and shared with the EOI parties.

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