



## Minutes of the Staffordshire Leaders Board Meeting held on 7 March 2024

Present: Alan White (Chair)

Attendance	
Michael Fitzpatrick	Thomas Jay
Mike Gledhill	Roger Lees
Aidan Godfrey	Stephen Sweeney

**Also in attendance:** Jane Ashworth (Stoke on Trent City Council), Andrew Barratt (Tamworth Borough Council), Lynsey Bissell, Chris Ebberley, Martin Hamilton (Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council), Keith Luscombe, Catherine Mann, Andy O'Brien (East Staffordshire Borough Council), Jon Rouse (Stoke on Trent City Council) and Andrew Stokes (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council)

**Apologies:** Tim Clegg, Pat Flaherty, Simon Fletcher, Dave Heywood, Tony Johnson, Doug Pullen and Simon Tagg

### Part One

#### 25. Apologies

The Chairperson and Leader of Staffordshire County Council took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Jane Ashworth and Mr Jon Rouse from Stoke on Trent City Council to the meeting.

The Chairperson noted that that work is well underway to amend the Terms of Reference to include Stoke-on-Trent City Council and under point '12.1' in the current Terms of Reference was exercising the authority as Chair to invite the Leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council to attend the meeting today, in advance of the formal amendments to the Constitution.

#### 26. Declarations of Interest

None.

#### 27. Notes of Previous Meeting

Approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

#### 28. Chairperson's Update

The Chairperson and Leader of Staffordshire County Council gave a verbal update to the Leaders' Board. The update informed the Board on its work



## Staffordshire

in growing Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent's economy, working collaboratively to deliver significant investment into the area, providing the foundation for exploring the potential of a County Deal and working together on wider areas including health and climate change.

### **29. Progress Review**

The Board considered the progress review, (since the Board began in July 2022).

It was also noted that work is underway to shape the Board's future priorities, building on the strong foundations and progress shared at the meeting.

Particular reference was made by the Chairperson on the Health Inequalities item and the Integrated Care Board.

A discussion took place on the Economic Growth item with reference to the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiIF) in Leeds in May 2024.

Mr Andy O'Brien provided an update on the Staffordshire Strategic Migration Partnership.

### **30. Cost of Living - Update**

Mrs Catherine Mann provided an update on positive joint Cost of Living focus and next steps.

Action - It was agreed:

- that the Cost of Living workstream is merged with and led by the Health Inequalities Directors Group (HIDG), ensuring continued and joined-up work avoiding duplication.
- that an information sharing platform for Cost of Living initiatives is maintained for all authorities utilising a dedicated Microsoft Teams Channel – noting the intention for representatives from Stoke CC to be invited to be part of this, ensuring join-up across the City and County

### **31. Exclusion of the Public**

**Chair**