



## Staffordshire Leaders Board

### Governance and Terms of Reference

11 July 2024

#### Recommendations to the Leaders Board

That the Board:

- a) Note and agree the updated Terms of Reference (see Appendix 1)
- b) Agree the Leaders Board Chair and Vice Chair.
- c) Note that the updated Terms of Reference will be taken to each parent authority's Cabinet meeting, to be agreed by all parties.

#### Background

1. The County, City and Staffordshire's eight District and Borough Councils have worked together over a number of years in many ways to benefit residents. This includes our collective response to the pandemic, supporting businesses and the economy, creating jobs and opportunities, delivering nationally important employment sites (such as i54 South Staffordshire and, Keele University Science and Innovation Park), reducing waste and increasing recycling, tackling climate change, and by reimagining and reshaping our High Streets and Town Centres.
2. The Leaders Board was created to build on this collaboration by recognising that a formal joint committee would be able to speak to central Government for the area and our communities. It also provides the foundation for exploring the potential of a deal with government, when the right time comes to do so, for the devolution of powers and funding to the area.
3. Although Stoke-on-Trent City Council were not one of the original members of the Leaders Board it was always hoped that they could be brought on board at some point. Further to the discussions at the Board in March 2024, agreement has been reached to enable this to happen. This will however require a number of amendments to be made to the Terms of Reference of the Board, and these amendments need to be considered and agreed by the Board and all parties, hence this report.

#### Terms of Reference updates

4. Further to the previous Board agreement of the Terms of Reference (2022), the key changes to note are summarised below:





- a. Stoke-on-Trent City Council are added as a 'constituent authority', with the Board comprising of all ten authorities across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
  - b. The Terms of Reference now include a clause allowing the Board to exercise additional functions given to it by members.
  - c. The remit section has been reworded in a number of places largely to change the emphasis around the Board's role (e.g. "oversee" rather than "lead and oversee").
  - d. Health, Housing and Homelessness remain in the Terms of Reference but with the Board's role being one of coordination.
  - e. The Terms of Reference now make clear that the scope of any potential Devolution Deal is not limited by the Terms of Reference themselves.
  - f. The Terms of Reference now reserve the co-option of additional non-voting members and winding up the Board to the constituent authorities rather than being dealt with by unanimous voting at the Board.
  - g. The notice period for exit has been reduced to three months.
5. The remit for the Leaders Board will be:
- a. To develop options for a devolution deal or deals for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent with HM Government.
  - b. To oversee the alignment of relevant local authority action on Climate Change, Waste and Sustainability.
  - c. To oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans for enterprise development and organisation of business voice.
  - d. To coordinate the alignment of local authority interaction with the Health sector in Staffordshire.
  - e. To oversee the alignment of relevant local authority plans for future development and infrastructure.
  - f. To coordinate the alignment of relevant local authority plans in relation to Housing and Homelessness.
  - g. To develop Staffordshire-wide joint initiatives to enhance local government efficiency and effectiveness.
  - h. To develop plans and coordinate delivery for strategic economic growth that spans local boundaries.
  - i. To develop opportunities for joint action with respect to addressing social inequalities across the geography.
  - j. To act as a conduit for coordinated engagement with other sub-regional and regional bodies the Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect.
  - k. Where appropriate, to agree shared priorities and bids for funding to existing and new external funding sources.
  - l. To monitor and evaluate projects and programmes of activity commissioned directly by the Committee.
  - m. To communicate and, where collectively agreed, to align activity across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent on a range of other key public priorities that affect citizens.
  - n. To prioritise and make decisions on the use of the funding that the Committee may influence or control.





6. The full updated Terms of Reference proposed for the Leaders Board are attached as Appendix 1.

### Chair and Vice Chair of the Leaders Board

7. Per the updated Terms of Reference, members also need to agree the below aspects of how the Board will operate:

- 7.10 Agree the Leaders Board Chair.
- 7.11 Agree Leaders Board Vice Chair.

8. As per the Terms of Reference, the principal member of Staffordshire County Council is the Chair of the Leaders Board, and the position of Vice Chair shall be filled by the principal member of Stoke-on-Trent City Council. This is to be subject to an annual vote as to whether this should continue, or whether the Chair or Vice- Chair should be the principal member of one of the other constituent authorities.

### Next steps

9. Following the Leaders Board agreement today, including the Chair and Vice Chair, the Terms of Reference updates will be noted.
10. Additionally, and subject to recommendation (c), members of the Leaders Board are asked to seek agreement from their parent authority, where required, to the updated Terms of Reference at a suitable time, to reflect the Board's updated Membership.

### Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference – The Staffordshire Leaders Board

### Contact Details:

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