



Minutes of the Staffordshire Leaders Board Meeting held on 11 July 2024

Present: Alan White (Chair)

Attendance	
Alex Farrell	Tony Johnson
Michael Fitzpatrick	Roger Lees
Mike Gledhill	Stephen Sweeney
Aidan Godfrey	

Also in attendance: Lynsey Bissell, Chris Ebberley, Darryl Evers, Simon Fletcher (Lichfield District Council), Stephen Gabriel (Tamworth Borough Council), Dave Heywood (South Staffordshire Council), Sarah James, Keith Luscombe, Gordon Mole (Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council), Andy O'Brien (East Staffordshire Borough Council), Jon Rouse (Stoke on Trent City Council), Andrew Stokes (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council) and Stott (Stafford Borough Council)

Apologies: Tim Clegg, Carol Dean, Pat Flaherty, Doug Pullen, Simon Tagg and John Tradewell

Part One

32. Declarations of Interest

None.

33. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed.

34. Chairperson's Update

The Chairperson formally welcomed Stoke-on-Trent City Council as a member of the Staffordshire Leaders' Board.

An update was provided on the locality's attendance at the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) in Leeds and how working collaboratively, the Board is already delivering significant investment into Staffordshire through the previous Government's options such as the Future High Streets Fund and Levelling Up Fund.

Reference was made to the recent General Election and as the new Government shapes its policies and agenda, the Board will continue to work together to put Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent first and ensure



that national Government listens to our voice and acts on behalf of the county and the city.

35. Governance and Terms of Reference

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.

It was agreed that the Board:

- (a) Note and agree the updated Terms of Reference.
- (b) Agree the Leaders Board Chairperson as County Councillor Alan White and Vice Chairperson Councillor Jane Ashworth.
- (c) Note that the updated Terms of Reference will be taken to each parent authority's Cabinet meeting, to be agreed by all parties.

36. Future Priorities

The Board received updates from councillors and officers on the highlights and achievements of the Leaders Board priorities since 2022:

- Economic Growth
- Strategic Migration Partnership
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Health inequalities
- Single Front Door

Reflecting on the above and the Board's clear ambition to collaborate on opportunities to help unlock some of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's most important challenges, the refreshed priorities for consideration and agreement for the next 12 months (2024/25) are:

- Economic Development (incorporating Green Growth)
- Transport infrastructure
- Climate Change and a joint approach to Waste and Sustainability
- Health inequalities Social inequalities
- Devolution and a County Deal
- Strategic Migration Partnership / Asylum Dispersal

It was agreed that the Board:

- (a) Consider and agree the proposed refreshed Board priorities, and next



Staffordshire

steps.

(b) Note the progress of the Leaders Board priorities over the last 12 months.

(c) Offer views on any further collaboration opportunities in terms of unlocking some of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's most important current and future challenges.

37. Exclusion of the Public

Chair