Staffordshire Chambers' of Commerce – Planning & Infrastructure forum

'This forum is tasked with exchanging information on planning policy, construction and regeneration. Recent topics covered include Local Plans, NPPF and Biodiversity Net Gain. It also steers Chambers' representations on these matters and receives updates on developments in planning law.'

Date of meeting	**Tuesday 29th September 2026**
Venue	**Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce**
Number of attendees	**16**
Agenda topics	**Chamber forum update** The forum discussed the Chamber's refreshed approach to forums, including how key issues and policy points will feed into Chamber Council, improving member engagement and inviting relevant statutory consultees to future meetings. **Presentation from Tony McGovern - Director of Investment, Delivery & Growth, Stoke-on-Trent City Council** Members received an update on the Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan, including its progress towards submission, housing requirements and the process for adoption. Members also discussed the potential for changes to housing requirements and national planning policy to affect the plan in future. An update was also given on regeneration and development across Stoke-on-Trent, including brownfield sites, plans for Hanley city centre and the development of masterplans for the city's six towns. **Local Plan updates from local authorities** An update was provided on the Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan, which was adopted by full council on 8th July. Work on a new Local Plan is currently paused while the council awaits clarity on the outcome and implications of local government reorganisation. An update was provided by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council on the partial review of its Local Plan. The Regulation 18 consultation period was due to close at midnight on 8th October 2026. A few drop-in sessions had been held across the district, with further responses expected towards the end of the consultation period.

	<u>Matters for Chamber Council Report</u> The forum discussed the new National Planning Policy Framework and changes to how planning applications are dealt with, including changes to planning committees. **<u>Any other business</u>** Members discussed a proposed property working group and investment group, as well as ways to improve communication about the forum and encourage more members to get involved.

<u>Date/time of next Planning & Infrastructure forum</u>: **Tuesday 1st December - 9AM to 11AM** – at Knights, ST5 0QW <u>or</u> attend remotely through Teams .

If you have any questions about our Planning & Infrastructure forum, please contact:

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