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March 2019

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Keele reaffirms commitment to the local economy



Keele University has reaffirmed its commitment to Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire by pledging to put the economy and quality of life in the local community at the top of its list of priorities.

Keele has joined more than 30 other institutions in committing to produce a "Civic University

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Speaking at the launch of the Civic University Commission report, Chris Skidmore MP, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, highlighted Keele's impact, saying: "Universities are crucibles of their local communities and are best-placed to help set up coordinated plans for local industrial strategies. I was pleased to read about Keele University's commitment to its New Keele Deal, designed to deliver a local industrial strategy for Stoke-on-Trent and the wider Staffordshire area, in partnership with local authority partners and the private sector."

Professor Trevor McMillan, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, said: "Our research is amongst some of the best in the world and our student talent is among the most employable in the country. Through the programmes and projects within The New Keele Deal alone, we aim to support 1,000 local businesses and inject £210million into the local economy, whilst also working to improve local health and care and put the region at the heart of the UK's transition to a lower carbon economy."

Read the full article on the Keele University website.

Fully-funded leadership development

Building on the success of the Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership (MCIL)* programme, Keele University is now recruiting local business leaders and entrepreneurs to take part in its bespoke development programme.



The fully-funded programme consists of six two-day facilitated group learning sessions, led by a mix of Keele University academics and expert business leaders. Participants will also have access to a dedicated Entrepreneur in Residence to provide coaching, advice and guidance on a one-to-one basis.

Sessions will initially take place at Keele Hall, before moving to the new Smart Innovation Hub when it opens later this year.

The programme is open to directors or senior management of SMEs in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire, with expressions of interest now being accepted for the next cohort which will commence in May 2019.

For more information, including dates, eligibility criteria and application forms, <u>please visit</u> <u>the programme's webpage</u>.

Accommodation opportunities for your business

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and high-quality facilities. The Park has accommodation suitable for a wide range of businesses – from start-ups and spinouts through to larger multinationals. Details on the accommodation currently available <u>can be viewed on the Keele University website.</u>

Smart Innovation Hub

Enquires are now being welcomed for office space in the Science and Innovation Park's new multi-million pound facility - the Smart Innovation Hub.

Due to open in late summer, the facility offers a range of office space



as well as co-working environments. Tenants will have unrivalled access to meeting rooms, boardrooms, lecture theatres and a number of business support programmes that will be housed within the new facility.

To find out more details, please visit the **Smart Innovation Hub website**.

Promoting local economic growth at the world's leading property market

Keele University, in partnership with Make It Stokeon-Trent and Staffordshire, Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership, will be attending MIPIM - the world's leading property market - in Cannes, France, next week (12-15 March 2019).





Keele will be supporting its local partners to secure investment in key development sites across Staffordshire, including the University's Science and Innovation Park, with a particular focus on the energy sector. Keele's 'living laboratory' approach to deploying its academic expertise to support energy network innovations, such as through the University's Smart Energy Network Demonstrator and HyDeploy projects, provides a unique strength in attracting companies into the area for expansion or relocation.

Discover more about the event on the MIPIM website.

New project to develop and trial new road technology

Small businesses in Staffordshire will support the creation of innovative transport improvements at a new Keele University 'living lab,' following a successful government funding bid by a Staffordshire County Council-led partnership.

The multi-million-pound project aims to extend the Smart Highways network to local roads, and will support the creation of a 'living laboratory' at Keele to develop, test and

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> The project, a partnership with Staffordshire County Council, Amey, Urban Integrated and Kent County Council, will bring in innovative SMEs to support the delivery of the scheme.



Not only will innovative small

businesses be involved at Keele and benefitting the wider economy, but students on site will support the scheme as part of their studies. Successful new developments could then benefit communities across Staffordshire and the rest of the country.

Read the full article on the Keele University website.



*The following support programmes available within the Business Gateway are receiving funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020:

- Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme (Ref: 32R16P00711);
- Smart Energy Network Demonstrator (Ref: 32R16P00706);
- Business Bridge (Ref: 32R18P02530);
- Keele University Science & Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub (Ref: 32R17P01691)

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund.

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs



