



Our specifically tailored sector Forums bring together business leaders, drawn exclusively from our diverse Chambers membership. The Forums are a great opportunity to meet experts in your field, raise any potential issues and share new opportunities within the Staffordshire business community. Our Forums steer our policy making process, ensuring that your voice is heard by decision makers.

Forum	Relevant sector/s	Purpose / Overview	Chairperson	Meeting Dates 2023	
				Date:	Time:
Digital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic & electrical equipment Information & communication Digital Technology 	This forum is here to drive the growing digital sector in Staffordshire, enabling businesses to freely exchange information, share best practice and discuss digital innovation, information communication technology and artificial intelligence (AI).	Charlie Houston- Brown Rushkeep Solutions Ltd (Chamber – Fiona Miller)	Fri 17 February Fri 12 May Fri 14 July Fri 13 October	0900hrs - 1100hrs
Money Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banking Financial and insurance activities Professional services All sectors 	This forum brings together businesses from the finance and professional services and is tasked with exchanging information on taxation, corporate law and governance, finance, insurance and professional services sector issues. Recent topics for discussion include making tax digital, GDPR, corporate governance and the Chancellor’s Budget.	Chris Alderman RSM (Chamber – Declan Riddell)	Fri 3 February Fri 23 June Fri 8 September	0900hrs - 1100hrs
Social Value & Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social enterprises Corporate social responsibility Procurement 	This forum is specifically tailored to bring together business leaders from the Chamber membership who are looking to promote social value, CSR and social enterprises within Staffordshire. Methods to help grow social value within our community and local and national constraints are addressed and discussed.	Margaret Michell Fendersocks Ltd (Chamber – Sarah Colclough)	Thur 16 February Thur 18 May Thur 13 July Thur 16 November	0900hrs - 1100hrs
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automotive Transportation and storage Distribution Transport infrastructure 	This forum is tasked with exchanging information on transport, infrastructure, automation and modernisation in transport, and road, sea, rail and aviation policy. Recent topics covered include M6 Smart Motorway project, HS2, automated vehicles, and electric vehicle charging points across Staffordshire. It also steers Chambers’ representations on these matters and receives updates on national transport policy.	Mike Herbert (Chamber – Declan Riddell)	Tue 24 January Tue 25 April Tue 25 July Tue 24 October	0900hrs - 1100hrs
Planning & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building and materials Construction Planning Architecture 	This forum is tasked with exchanging information on planning policy, construction and regeneration. Recent topics covered include the Joint Local Plan for Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Local Plans for Stafford Borough, and the NPPF. It also steers Chambers’ representations on these matters and receives updates on developments in planning law.	Carl Copestake Knights Plc (Chamber – Vicki Hardie)	Tue 17 January Tue 18 April Tue 18 July Tue 17 October	0900hrs - 1100hrs
HR Employment & Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education HR Higher Education Further Education Schools 	This forum is tasked with exchanging information on human resources, skills, education and training. Recent topics covered include the living wage, apprenticeship levy, and gender pay gap reporting. It also steers Chambers’ representations on these matters and receives updates on developments in employment law.	Caroline Brown Caja Ltd (Chamber – Suzanne Quinn)	Fri 17 March Fri 16 June Fri 15 September Fri 8 December	0900hrs - 1100hrs

Rural Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, forestry and fishing • Rural tourism & leisure • Rural economies • Agri-Tech 	This forum is a strategic group to promote the interests of the rural business sector in Staffordshire. It champions and lobbies for specific strategies and policies that will benefit members and ensure the rural sector has a stronger voice in our community.	Marcus Roberts South Staffordshire College (Chamber – Sandra Nixon)	Tue 4 April Tue 3 October	0900hrs - 1100hrs
Energy, Environment & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity generation & distribution • Water supply, • Waste management • Remediation activities • Climate change • Sustainability 	This forum is tasked with exchanging information on energy, environmental concerns and sustainability within the private sector. Driving our policy understanding on energy efficiency and environmental sustainability and promoting the development of a sustainable economy in Staffordshire.	Dr Scott Elliot Hydrock Ltd (Chamber – Tom Hammersley)	Tue 7 February Tue 11 April Tue 13 June Tue 12 Sept Tue 21 November	1000hrs - 1200hrs
Manufacturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing • Engineering • Ceramics 	This forum is tasked with stimulating manufacturing activity among member firms and the wider business community and to help encourage new investment in manufacturing in Staffordshire, to promote the image and profile of the manufacturing sector and help create an environment that enables manufacturing businesses to maximise their potential for growth and profitability.	Martin Smith Hex Group Ltd (Chamber – Tom Nadin/Steve Hopwood)	Wed 11 January Wed 03 May Wed 05 July Wed 11 October	0900hrs - 1100hrs
HS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS2 	The role of this forum is to advise the Chambers’ Board on policy and service issues relating to HS2 and to provide a wider forum for members to network and share information on this subject. The forum aims to ensure that Staffordshire gets the maximum economic and social benefits from the build and arrival of HS2.	Lee White Sterling Transport Consultancy (Chamber – Declan Riddell)	Thur 19 January Thur 20 April Thur 20 July Thur 19 October	0900hrs - 1100hrs
Charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Strategy • Awareness raising • Network 	The role of this forum is to champion the charity agenda, with the aim of creating a working group to aid support to the charities within Staffordshire. It will encourage education, collaboration, networking and support and focus on areas important to the charity sector.	Ben Martindale Synectics Solutions Ltd (Chamber – Tracey Massey/Julie Priestnall)	Wed 12 April Wed 4 October	0900hrs - 1100hrs

Notes: Chambers Forums are exclusive Member benefits of the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce. Should you wish to learn more about Chamber Forums, or the policy and lobbying work of the Chambers please call Rhouda Elalfy on 01782 202222 or declan.riddell@staffordshirechambers.co.uk.

If you would like to join one of the above Forums please contact the Chamber Admin noted above or declan.riddell@staffordshirechambers.co.uk