

## **Staffordshire Chambers' of Commerce – Manufacturers' forum**

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.

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Commerce House</b>
<b>Number of attendees</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Agenda topics</b>	<p><b><u>Presentation and round table discussion on Devolution</u></b></p> <p>The government has published a White Paper on Devolution (December 2024)</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper</a></p> <p>Councils in areas where a combined authority does not already exist – such as Staffordshire – are being asked to put forward ideas for "Strategic Authorities" - these are not quite Mayoral Authorities , taking into account economic geographies, current and potential travel-to-work patterns, and local labour markets.</p> <p>The default assumption is for these strategic authority areas to have a combined population of 1.5m or above where possible.</p> <p>If areas cannot agree on the best way to form a strategic authority, the government will be able to step in and do it for them.</p> <p><b><u>Round table discussion on key issues facing the manufacturing sector</u></b></p>

**Date/time of next Manufacturers' forum:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025, 9AM to 11AM  
Venue TBC (check events page of website for further details)..

If you have any questions about our Manufacturers' forum, please contact:

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