

Staffordshire Chambers' of Commerce – Digital forum

'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).'

Date of meeting	Thursday 23rd April 2026
Venue	Stoke-on-Trent College
Number of attendees	16
Agenda topics	<u>Update on British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) policy work in the area of digital</u> – An update on national digital policy covering connectivity, cyber security and AI. Regarding connectivity, BM highlighted a continued rural–urban divide, with rural businesses significantly less likely to report reliable broadband and mobile coverage. <u>Energy use at Chatterley Whitfield by Longcape –</u> A detailed update was provided on the strategic development of Chatterley Whitfield, focusing on its potential role in supporting energy infrastructure, data centres and wider regeneration activity. <u>Artificial Intelligence (AI) “show and tell” event</u> – Discussions around a dedicated AI event taking place on 15.9.2026. <u>Digital Divide Working Group (DDWG)</u> – Update on the work of the DDWG, which has established an IT Asset Disposition (ITAD) to accept donations of unwanted IT equipment (laptops, mobiles, tablets), with the aim of securely wiping the devices, before recycling them and offering them to community groups who will donate to members of the community who are suffering from the effects of digital poverty. Action: Appeal for donations of unwanted IT equipment and for more forum members to join DDWG. <u>Digital Skills Working Group (DSWG)</u> – DSWG is connecting businesses and training providers to create a local view of a digital skills pathway. This will provide learners (and where appropriate their families), with sign posting to technology specific learning opportunities and how the available courses can support a professional career development within the digital sector (and beyond). Action: Appeal for more forum members to join DSWG.

Date of next Digital forum – Thursday 2nd July at 9AM hosted by Great Grounds, Dilhorne – ST10 2PL (or on MS Teams)

Any questions about the Digital forum, please contact:

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