

Responsible Business Forum – Summary – 08/07/26

The Responsible Business Forum met on 8 July 2026 at Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, bringing together businesses, charities and support organisations from across Staffordshire to discuss responsible business, social value and community impact. The meeting also recognised the significant contributions of Margaret Michelle, who is retiring, and Lisa Healings, who will retire from VAST later this year.

A key focus of the meeting was a presentation from Tim Edwards of TJE Consulting on Social Return on Investment (SROI). The session highlighted the importance of measuring outcomes rather than activities, helping organisations better understand and demonstrate the social, economic and environmental value they create for communities and stakeholders.

Tom Nadin presented Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce's Year in Review, showcasing the Chamber's impact across the county through grant funding, skills support, business events and job creation. The presentation reinforced the importance of measuring and communicating organisational impact to demonstrate value and drive positive change.

Members also took part in workshop discussions exploring what social value means in practice, how impact can be measured effectively, and the barriers organisations face when collecting and reporting data. Common themes included the need for stronger leadership support, better measurement tools and greater use of beneficiary feedback, case studies and real-life outcomes.

The Forum received an update on the Responsible Business Accelerator, a Staffordshire-wide programme designed to help organisations embed responsible business practices, measure their impact and work towards local accreditation. A wider rollout of the programme is planned for September 2026 to encourage more businesses to make measurable commitments that support sustainable and inclusive growth. [\[RBF](#)