

328	14. We will stimulate demand for higher skills and create opportunities for people to acquire relevant skills for current and future industrial structure - The Finance Career Academy at NULC also works very closely with the professional services companies in FINEST who provide mentors and work placement opportunities for A Level students wishing to pursue a career in Finance. The Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Career Academy at the College liaises closely with Keele University Science and Business Park to find mentors and work placement opportunities in science-based companies on the Science Park.	Point accepted	Include as suggested.
	The Chamber welcomes the local authority's commitment to supporting business growth and job creation in the Borough and your recognition of the need to work closely with partners across North Staffordshire in order to address sub-regional priorities.		
	The Chamber looks forward to working with you to achieve your objective of transforming the business base and you may find it useful to make reference to some of our activities in your strategy document. As you will be aware, the Stoke and Staffordshire Inward Investment Team are now co-located with the Chamber at Commerce House, helping to provide a seamless service to businesses wanting to invest or re-invest in the sub region. The Chamber also delivers the LEP Business Helpline, providing a single point of contact for business support services.	Point accepted	Add more detail in first year action plan
	In addition, the Chamber provides: Start-up advice, training and enterprise units, Finest Professional Services Forum, Build Up North Staffordshire, North Staffordshire Manufacturing Forum, Business mentoring scheme, UKTI export services, business skills training, and a wide range of other practical support services for local firms.	Points accepted	Add more detail in first year action plan

	<p>The Chamber are currently working with Stafford Borough Council to run an independent retailers support scheme. We would be happy to discuss a similar initiative with you to help meet your objectives.</p>		<p>Update Section 2 to include the LEP's introduction of a business support helpline and strengthen the reference to the Business Link website. Other actions to be addressed in the action plan. Update section 15 in light of changes to the inward investment teams.</p>
	<p>Similarly, the Chamber is working closely with the City and County Councils to help ensure that the local economy benefits from public sector procurement opportunities by improving communication and accessibility to information and training for SMEs. We welcome the planned improvements to your website and communications, and are willing to assist you in any way that we can.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>We will explore this suggestion further for possible inclusion in the Action Plan</p>