



**Black Country Executive Joint Committee**  
Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton

**REPORT OF THE CITY DEAL AND GROWTH DEAL ADVISORY BOARD  
TO  
BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON  
9 MARCH 2016**

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – REVISED LEP ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK**

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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Joint Committee to agree a revised LEP Assurance Framework, the changes to which have been approved by the LEP Board and the Section 151 Officer at the Accountable Body as well as the Working Group and the Advisory Board.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee, as recommended by the Advisory Board, notes the changes contained within the LEP Assurance Framework (Attachment 1) which have been approved by the LEP Board and the Section 151 Officer at the Accountable Body, as well as endorsed by the Working Group.
- 2.2 That Joint Committee approves the revised LEP Assurance Framework.

**3. REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 Ahead of distributing Growth Deal funding, the Department for Business and Skills instructed all LEPs to develop an 'Assurance Framework'. The Programme Management Office at the Black Country Consortium, with support from the Accountable Body, developed this framework on behalf of their LEP and this was approved in March 2015. In line with guidance from BIS, this was published on the LEP website ahead of the start of the financial year and prior to the receipt of LGF funding from government.
- 3.2 This purpose of this report is to advise the Joint Committee that the original LEP Assurance Framework has been revised - to reflect developments in the processes of both the Programme Management Office in relation to bid assessment and the Accountable Body in relation to due diligence and contract award.

- 3.3 The revised Framework reflects the process outlined and approved by the Joint Committee in the 'Revised Process for the Evaluation of LGF Bids' report and supporting documentation. The revised version also reflects the incorporation into the process of the LEP funding sub-group who make funding recommendations to the LEP Board.
- 3.4 The assurance framework for Transport Projects, is attached at appendix 3 of this report, will form a separate appendix to the LEP Assurance Framework.
- 3.5 The new Appendix to the LEP Assurance Framework, 'Local Growth Deal Roles and Responsibilities' outlines the activities of the Programme Office and the Accountable Body in relation to assessment of Growth Deal bids and contracting with projects to deliver.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The revised LEP Assurance Framework has been developed and approved by the Section 151 officer for the Accountable Body. Ensuring that the Framework is up to date ensures we are in line with the requirements of BIS.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All applicants were asked to confirm that they will adhere to the LEP Assurance Framework during the Grant Award process.

#### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 None at the time of drafting.

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None at the time of drafting.

#### **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The LEP Board and the Section 151 Officer at the Accountable Body were consulted in the drafting of, and approved, the revised LEP Assurance Framework.

#### **Back Ground papers**

Black Country Local Growth Deal Approval for a Revised Process for the Evaluation of LGF Bids – *Joint Committee Report 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015*.

#### **Attachments**

Appendix 1 - LEP Assurance Framework – Revised February 2016

Appendix 2 – Local Growth Deal Programme Roles and Responsibilities

Appendix 3 – Black Country Strategic Transport Assurance Framework

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