

**Request for Use of Delegated Authority from the  
Black Country Executive Joint Committee  
By the Chair of the Working Group**

**Section A – Project Details**

<b>Project Name</b>	Very Light Rail Development Funding
<b>Organisation</b>	Dudley MBC
<b>Officer Requesting Use of Delegated Authority</b>	Rachel Goodwin BCLEP Programme Office
<b>Responsible Director and Title (inc Local Authority)</b>	Simon Neilson Executive Director, Regeneration, Walsall Council
<b>Why is Delegated Authority being requested (delete as applicable)?</b>	<p>A. Small value project</p> <p><b>B. Project to commence prior to the next BCJC meeting</b></p> <p><b>C. Project meets urgent need to utilise under-spend</b></p>
<b>If A is selected, please explain why this project cannot follow standard the BCJC approval process</b>	
<b>SEP Priority Number:</b>	SEPB5
<b>LGF allocated by LEP Board</b>	£150k in 15/16 <i>(NB: approval for the remaining £150k of LEP Board approved funds for 16/17 will be taken via the Joint Committee process)</i>
<b>Date of LEP Board endorsement</b>	25/01/2016
<b>Anticipated start date</b>	Jan 2016
<b>Outcomes</b>	Output is a range of development study work including technical and ecological assessments and design for the main scheme. Forecast outputs for main scheme (although subject to change) are: JOBS: 353

	BUSINESS ASSISTS: 84 LEARNER ASSISTS: 166
BCJC meeting date for ratification	09/03/2016

**Section B - Consultation**

Officers	Consulted - Who	Date(s) consulted	Consultee Signature
(a) BCC	Chief Executive	27/01/2016	<i>Sarah Middleton</i>
(b) Finance	Section 151 Officer	4.2.16	<i>[Signature]</i>
(c) BCJC	BCJC Chair	4.2.16	<i>[Signature]</i>
(d) Sponsoring Working Group Member			

**Consultee Comments:**

*Please include any further comments that support the request, include any explanations as to why the report is incomplete e.g. information not available until closer to the meeting, or any comments from Consultees*

*There is some small risk that if the project doesn't materialize this expenditure would be seen as revenue ~~for~~ rather than capital.*

**Approvals**

	Comments	Signature	Date
Chair of Working Group		<i>[Signature]</i>	9/2/16

- All requests for use of Delegated Authority must be accompanied by a copy of this form, with Section A completed.
- The Chair of the Working Group is responsible for consultation with the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium, the Chair of the Joint Committee and Sponsoring Working Group member.

- **The request form must be copied to the BCJC Programme Manager and Programme Management Officer. It is the responsibility of the Programme Manager (or appropriate nominated officer) to ensure any decisions taken by Delegated Authority are included on the agenda of the subsequent BCJC meeting. Should any changes be made to the project which alter the information in Section A above before the report appears in final form to the Joint Committee then the Consultees above must be informed prior to the decision being taken by the Joint Committee.**
- **The Request for Use of Delegated Authority must make it clear that consultees have responded (putting “no comments” is misinterpreted). If you have not received comments say “not received”.**
- **This Request for Use of Delegated Authority template should be not be amended. If any amendments are made to the project which requires the re-consultation of colleagues, this must be reflected in the form when submitted at the final stage.**
- **If electronic signatures are used, the accompanying email which confirms approval and supports its use must be attached when the form is returned to the Chair of the Working Group for approval.**
- **The Request for Use of Delegated Authority must be returned fully completed to the Programme Manager, Walsall Council before any due diligence or grant award can commence.**



## Verity Baker

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**From:** Simon Neilson  
**Sent:** 02 February 2016 09:54  
**To:** Councillor Bird; James Walsh  
**Cc:** Verity Baker; Mark Lavender; 'alan.lunt@dudley.gov.uk'; Sarah Middleton; Donna Baker; Yvonne Boon  
**Subject:** Request for Delegated Authority - Black Country Joint Committee  
**Attachments:** Exec Summary - PTP IT Training Academy v1.pdf; PTP IT Academy - Request for use of delegated authority by the Chair of ....docx; VLR Feasibility - Initial Proposal v1.0.docx; VLR Feasibility - Request for use of delegated authority by the Chair of....docx

Cllr Bird and James

Please see attached a formal request from the Programme Management Office for me as Chair of Working Group to use the Delegated Authority awarded by the Joint Committee. The PMO have requested that this be exercised to approve two bids - firstly for £40,000 for the ICT Academy - PTP Training (Walsall) project, a request for a £40k top-up to enhance a previous engineering-based project award. Secondly, for the first phase of the Very Light Rail (VLR) project Development Study - £150k in 2015/16. This will be underwritten by Dudley MBC.

LEP Board approval was achieved for both on 25/01/2016. As the next Joint Committee meeting is not until 09/03/2016, approval under Delegated Authority is sought to enable the projects to complete and claim in full by 31/03/2016. This would be unachievable using the usual approval route.

As you will be aware, the process for approval under Delegated Authority requires that as Chair, I consult with the following prior to approving the request: the Chief Executive of the Consortium, the Section 151 Officer at Walsall Council and the Working Group member under whose geographical area the project sits. I confirm that both as Chair of the Working Group and the relevant sponsoring WG member for the PTP bid I support this request in principle pending consultation with yourselves. You will note from the attached request that Sarah Middleton has endorsed this request. Alan has agreed to the VLR proposal and again Sarah has signed this off too.

Please find attached and below executive summaries of the projects for your information.

Once you have reviewed the requests, please advise whether you endorse, endorse with comments or do not endorse the requests. The JC Programme Management team will then approach you for signature.

Thanks  
Simon

### **1. ICT Academy, PTP Training Walsall, £40k in 2015/16**

This bid is seeking to build upon the success of the FAB KIT Project within the PTP Engineering Training Centre in Walsall. It would develop a further learning offer to deliver engineering ICT based qualifications and courses. The basis of this bid is focused consultation with local employers to establish their ICT Training requirements, which has revealed that local businesses need additional skills to those currently offered by PTP in the Engineering and manufacturing sector:

The PTP offer in terms of Apprenticeships and short courses will be extended to include:

- ICT based Estimating and quotation systems, to increase the speed of response from Businesses.
- Stock control/MRP systems
- Additional CNC modules for the sheet metal and fabrication industry to improve speed of programming, efficiency of material usage, improved cutting times. Press-brake forming modules to check viability of tooling and press set ups.

This bid would fund the additional software and hardware required to train on these systems & applications.

The project will target outputs of **145 Business assists, 146 Learner Assists and 80 Apprenticeship starts** (predominantly at Level 3) by 2020/21.

## **2. Very Light Rail (VLR) Development Study, £150k in 2015/16**

This is a development study for a £28.7m project which, through the creation of an Innovation Centre and Test Track in Dudley, will support the development of the very light rail sector and potential growth of a new UK industry supplying domestic and international rail schemes. Its facilities will also provide companies with a significant opportunity to develop new very light rail solutions. The Very Light Rail Innovation Centre and Test Track project which has been recognised could support a wider programme of transport improvements in the Black Country including helping to tackle some of the congestion problems facing both businesses and visitors to the area; providing access to key employment sites; and developing a supply chain to this new sector.

The construction of a National Innovation Centre and Test Track facility on the Castle Hill site in Dudley will deliver a range of outputs, **including new jobs (potentially up to 300), up to 330 apprenticeships, around 80 business assists plus additional learner assists.**

Note, approval for the remaining £150k of the VLR funding (phase 2 - 2016/17) will be taken via the usual Joint Committee process.

Simon Neilson  
Executive Director, Economy & Environment  
Walsall Council  
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**Request for Use of Delegated Authority from the  
Black Country Executive Joint Committee  
By the Chair of the Working Group**

**Section A – Project Details**

<b>Project Name</b>	Very Light Rail Feasibility Funding
<b>Organisation</b>	DMBC
<b>Officer Requesting Use of Delegated Authority</b>	Rachel Goodwin BCLEP Programme Office
<b>Responsible Director and Title (inc Local Authority)</b>	Simon Neilson Executive Director, Regeneration, Walsall Council
<b>Why is Delegated Authority being requested (delete as applicable)?</b>	<p>A. Small value project</p> <p><b>B. Project to commence prior to the next BCJC meeting</b></p> <p>C. Project meets urgent need to utilise under-spend</p>
<b>If A is selected, please explain why this project cannot follow standard the BCJC approval process</b>	
<b>SEP Priority Number:</b>	SEP5
<b>LGF allocated by LEP Board</b>	£150k in 15/16 <i>(NB: approval for the remaining £150k of LEP Board approved funds for 16/17 will be taken via the Joint Committee process)</i>
<b>Date of LEP Board endorsement</b>	25/01/2016
<b>Anticipated start date</b>	Jan 2016
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Output is feasibility report.</p> <p>Forecast outputs for main scheme (although subject to change) are:</p> <p>JOBS: 353</p> <p>BUSINESS ASSISTS: 84</p> <p>LEARNER ASSISTS:166</p>

BCJC meeting date for ratification	09/03/2016
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**Section B - Consultation**

Officers	Consulted - Who	Date(s) consulted	Consultee Signature
(a) BCC	Chief Executive	27/01/2016	<i>Sarah Middleton</i>
(b) Finance	Section 151 Officer		
(c) BCJC	BCJC Chair		
(d) Sponsoring Working Group Member		8/02/2016	<i>[Signature]</i>

**Consultee Comments:**

*Please include any further comments that support the request, include any explanations as to why the report is incomplete e.g. information not available until closer to the meeting, or any comments from Consultees*

**Approvals**

	Comments	Signature	Date
Chair of Working Group			

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- The Chair of the Working Group is responsible for consultation with the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium, the Chair of the Joint Committee and Sponsoring Working Group member.
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**Manager (or appropriate nominated officer) to ensure any decisions taken by Delegated Authority are included on the agenda of the subsequent BCJC meeting. Should any changes be made to the project which alter the information in Section A above before the report appears in final form to the Joint Committee then the Consultees above must be informed prior to the decision being taken by the Joint Committee.**

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