



**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 - M6 J10 RESILIENCE PACKAGE PHASE 2**  
**Amending the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement**

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**Key Decision:** Yes  
**Forward Plan:** Yes

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request that the Joint Committee approves contracting and subsequent amendment of an existing Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for Phase 2 of the 'M6 J10 Resilience Package' project from within the Accessing Growth element of Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme. The Accessing Growth Programme has a total allocation of £5.8m in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 1.2 The recommendation detailed in this report has been endorsed by the Working Group and Advisory Board and received LEP Board approval in October 2015.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement to the value of £1.25m to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of Phase 2 - M6 J10 Resilience Package project with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

**3. REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee received and endorsed a report on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 setting out the new processes to be adopted for the evaluation and approval of new projects entering the Local Growth Fund process. The LEP secretariat is currently in the transition stage from the old processes to the new arrangements as LEP Theme boards are established and membership recruited.
- 3.2 To ensure the secretariat is still able to meet the commitments of the programme, notably achievement of the spend targets for this 2015/16 financial year, it is continuing with elements of the previous processes including drawing on the expert staff available to assess

the proposed projects lifecycle the business case against the HM treasury 5 Case Model, resulting in proposals that can then move through the LEP Board and onto the Joint Committee for approval.

- 3.3 The M6 J10 Resilience Package project has been through this process, the details of which are now set out for consideration by the Joint Committee. The funding is available within the LGF programme and delivery will commence during the 2016/17 period. The application is for £1.25m of grant support.
- 3.4 **M6 J10 Resilience Package Phase 2 (£1.25m in 16/17 Accessing Growth)**  
This is an Accessing Growth funded scheme that would add value to the existing M6 J10 Transport Major scheme. M6 J10 Resilience Package includes improvements to three junctions, which will compliment the major improvements planned for junction 10 of the M6 motorway. The three junctions included in the package are located less than 2 miles north of M6 J10 and form part of a strategic route to the motorway for key employers in the Leamore, Bloxwich and Bentley areas of Walsall. As the construction of M6 J10 will cause disruption to the local road network, it is essential to support alternative routes during the works. The local road network to the south of M6 J10 is currently benefiting from improvements as part of the Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project.
- 3.5 The three proposed junction improvements will not only support the movement of traffic during the M6 J10 construction phase, but continue to mitigate against congestion and bring benefits to the network for future years.
- 3.6 Phase 1 of the package enabled carriageway widening for the junction of Bentley Lane/Bloxwich Lane. For this prior land acquisition and utility diversionary works to the value of £300K were approved by the Joint Committee in November 2015.
- 3.7 Phase Two of the project to be completed during 2016/17 will involve civil engineering and traffic signal works at all three junctions.

**Junction A: Bentley Lane/Bloxwich Lane** – Following the completion of land acquisition and utility diversion works in 2015/16; full work to complete the improvements at the junction will commence in 2016/17. This will include:

- Widening of the carriageway to increase capacity.
- Update traffic signal equipment to MOVA (intelligent traffic signal control) to increase capacity.
- Carriageway resurfacing.
- Install CCTV, allowing the Urban Traffic Control Team to monitor/control traffic flow.

**Junction B: Churchill Road/Bloxwich Lane**

- Update traffic signal equipment to MOVA (intelligent traffic signal control) to increase capacity.
- Carriageway resurfacing.
- Install CCTV, allowing the Urban Traffic Control Team to monitor/control traffic flow.

**Junction C: Stephenson Avenue/A34 Green Lane**

- Update traffic signal equipment to MOVA (intelligent traffic signal control) to increase capacity.
- Carriageway resurfacing.
- Install CCTV, allowing the Urban Traffic Control Team to monitor/control traffic flow.
- Linking of traffic signals along the A34 Green Lane to improve network efficiency.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The costs associated with these proposals form part of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme and will be covered by allocations from government associated with this programme. This includes the use of any interest accrued by the Accountable Body to cover costs associated with the delivery of Accountable Body functions, as approved by its (Walsall Council) Cabinet on the 29th October 2014.
- 4.2 The applicant (Walsall Council) will utilise its processes and procedures to ensure that best value is achieved and that all EU State Aid rules and regulations are met by all beneficiaries of LGF funding.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The appropriate Grant Agreements are in place and will be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Risk is being managed through the on-going assessment of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

**7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None at the time of drafting.

## 8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Prior consultation includes engagement with the Statutory Undertakers (Utilities), where they were informed of the proposals and C3 estimates were obtained. Highways England were consulted regarding the bridge structure on Bentley Lane and carrying out improvements on Highways England land. Land acquisition negotiations were undertaken with the NHS for land bordering Jubilee House on the junction of Bentley Lane/Bloxwich Lane. Internal to Walsall Council the following teams have been involved with the project planning/delivery: Traffic Management, Highways Maintenance, Road Safety, Urban Traffic Control (Traffic Signals) and the Major Projects Team (Scheme Delivery).

Highways England and Walsall MBC have held five joint public consultation events for the M6 J10 major project in December 2015. These events were used to share information around the resilience package, as the two projects are closely linked. A separate local public event was also held closer to the Bentley Lane area to provide information to those who will directly affected by the carriageway widening works.

8.2 The resilience package includes improvements at three junctions; these junctions are covered by three separate wards. The ward members were identified and invited to attend the public consultation events and directly supplied with details of the proposals.

8.3 Jubilee House, located at the junction of Bentley Lane / Bloxwich Lane is a former ambulance station and is now used for NHS administration. NHS property services are a key stakeholder in this process and have agreed to work towards Walsall MBC acquiring a section of their land subject to valuation and approval of final plans. The NHS property services and staff using Jubilee House will be directly consulted during the detailed design and construction process.

### Back Ground papers

- Revised Process for Evaluation of Local Growth Fund bids - Joint Committee Paper 17th June 2015
- The Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)
- M6 J10 Resilience Package Junction Improvements – Phase 2 Full Business Case

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