



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

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 11:00am

To be held at Walsall College Hub, Littleton Street West, Walsall

MINUTES – PUBLIC

MEMBERS - In person

Dudley MBC - Kevin O'Keefe

Sandwell MBC - Councillor Kerrie Carmichael (Voting), Kim Bromley-Derry

Walsall MBC – Councillor Mike Bird (Voting) (**Chair person**), Dr Helen Paterson
(**Secretary**)

City of Wolverhampton Council - Councillor Stephen Simkins (Voting), Tim Johnson

INVITED GUESTS – In person

The Black Country Consortium Ltd - Sarah Middleton

Dudley MBC - Helen Martin

Sandwell MBC - Tony McGovern

City of Wolverhampton Council - Richard Lawrence

Walsall MBC - Simon Neilson

Councillor Bird welcomed everyone to the meeting with voting members being present at Walsall College Hub. Councillor Bird confirmed that the meeting was quorate and that there were no members of the public viewing present in the meeting room.

1. Apologies

Councillor Ian Brookfield, City of Wolverhampton Council

Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley Council

2. Notes of Meeting held on 19 October 2022

Decision 23/0001

Councillor Bird moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 19 October 2022 which was seconded by Councillor Carmichael. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2022 be confirmed as a true record.

3. Matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting

None.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended): to agree that the public be excluded from the private session.**

None.

6. **Land and Property Investment Fund**
Dudley Brownfield Land Programme (2022)
Approval of Grant Agreement

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated and explained it was to seek approval for funding to support the delivery of investment in brownfield land site. The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) and funding sub group have supported the proposal. The Grant is to support the delivery of 52 new homes on a Council owned site. To support the viability gap. Excellent strategic fit. Outputs are 1.49hec of land to be remediated.

Decision 23/0002

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approve the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **enter into a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council for £1,040,000** to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land Programme with delivery to commence in the 2023/24 financial year.

The Grant award is subject to the conditions detailed in 3.5 of the report.

7. **Land and Property Investment Fund**
Stowheath Redevelopment for Housing
Approval of Grant Agreement

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated and explained the request was for approval of £1m to support the delivery of site clearance and services to Stowheath landholding, which includes proposed works to a nearby highway, and delivery of 134 mixed tenure new homes. The site is 1.52hectare owned by the Council and part of a much bigger development.

City of Wolverhampton Council is investing £1.4m of funding at this important strategic location which also has an excellent strategic fit. There are a number of conditions that have been put in place by the Black Country Local Enterprise Board and additional conditions are outlined in 3.6 of the report.

Decision 23/0003

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approve the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **enter into a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council for £1,000,000**, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund funded elements of the Stowheath Redevelopment for Housing project with delivery to commence in the 2023/24 financial year.

The Grant award is subject to the conditions detailed in 3.5 of this report.

8. Land and Property Investment Fund Willenhall Garden City – Phase 1 – (Moat Street and Villiers Street) Approval of Grant Agreement

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated and explained the grant is requested by Walsall Council and is a strategic project and long standing aspiration by the Council for it to be developed. The Council has outlined that public sector intervention is required to de-risk the Phase 1 site to enable delivery by the private sector. Phase 1 hopes to deliver 111 new homes but requires public sectors intervention. There are a series of conditions linked to secure the funding. Part of a larger development and has an excellent strategic fit.

Councillor Bird added that Levelling Up Fund has been confirmed for this project.

Councillor Simkins felt that it is really important to note how the levelling up fund can have real impact in the Black Country and felt that there should not be a need to compete against each other for this funding. Councillor Simkins welcomed the funding that Walsall have achieved and hopes that Wolverhampton will be successful in the future bidding rounds.

Councillor Bird felt that the Black Country as a region working together do achieve successful funding bids and we should try to work as a region. However, it is not always possible as the funding criteria set by the Government does not always allow this.

The Levelling Up Fund will improve our railway links and this will benefit Wolverhampton through the Willenhall to Wolverhampton corridor. Councillor Bird hoped that Wolverhampton would be successful in the next round of bidding.

Decision 23/0008

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approve for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **enter into an internal Grant Agreement with Walsall MBC for £3,200,000** to deliver the BC LEP funded elements of the Willenhall Garden City – Phase 1 (Moat Street and Villiers Street) with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Grant award is subject to the conditions detailed in 3.6 of this report.

9. **Delegated Authority Decision**
Growing Places Fund
Dudley Zoo Visitor and Education Centre Development Phase
Grant Award Reduction

Simon Neilson referred to the report previously circulated and explained he is reporting about a Delegated Authority decision he took as Chair of the Working Group. This was for a very minor change on this project to reduce previously agreed Grant Award by £5,000 and also a reduction of £5,000 of Match funds due to an administrative error.

Decision 23/0005

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Note that the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities within Walsall Council in his role of the Chair of the Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed **to amending the Grant Agreement with the Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Ltd**, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF) funded elements of the Dudley Zoo Visitor and Education Centre Development Phase project.

The Amendment is a **reduction of £5,000 of Grant Award and a reduction of £5,000 of Match Funds** due to an administrative error.

10. **Black Country Growth Hub**
Growth Hub Funding 2022/23
Approval of Grant Agreement

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated and explained this report is for noting that the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) has entered into a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2022/23.

The Black Country Growth Hub is a partnership made up of Dudley Council, Sandwell Council, Walsall Council, City of Wolverhampton Council, the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, BCC Ltd and the University of Wolverhampton.

Growth Hubs are local public/private sector partnerships which join up national and local business support, so it is easy for businesses to find the help they need.

Decision 23/0010

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee note that the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) has received Walsall Council's Cabinet approval to **proceed with a Grant Agreement with a value of £231,000, with the Black Country Consortium Ltd** to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2022/2023.

The meeting closed.