



**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 22 November 2017, 12.00pm**

**Sandwell Council,**  
**The Council House, Committee Room 1**

**MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Councillor Syeda Khatun, Sandwell MBC (sub)  
Councillor Lee Jeavons, Walsall MBC (sub)  
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

**NON VOTING MEMBERS**

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP Board (sub)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC  
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC  
Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC (Secretary)  
Keith Ireland, Wolverhampton CC  
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

**INVITED GUESTS**

Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC  
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC  
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b> Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC Stuart Towe, BC LEP Board Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 13 September 2017</u></b></p> <p><b>17/0072</b> It was resolved that the BCJC approves the notes of the meeting held on 13 September 2017.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting</u></b> None.</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Tim Johnson declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 15 and 18 as a Member of the Board of Governors at University of Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Ninder Johal declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 15 and 18 as a Member of the Board of Governors at University of Wolverhampton.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):</u></b> To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.</p> <p>There are no items to be considered in private session.</p>

6. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail (VLR) and Autonomous Technologies – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt presented the report and advised that the H2HTIC project will be developed to help catalyse skills and supply chain development for advanced low carbon engineering, with a focus on the opportunities offered by light weight low cost railcars and Autonomous Pods for urban mobility.

To date this project has received the following funding:

- £300,000 for the completion of feasibility studies (BCLEP);
- £132,000 of development funding (BCLEP/DMBC); and
- £836,778 SEED funding to support time critical works (BCLEP).

This application is now seeking £18,494,243 towards a £24,966,862 project to support the development and completion of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre, Test Track and purchase of key research/testing equipment. Although part of a broader £29,489,027 scheme which includes SME Incubation Units and a Vehicle Store, only funding for the construction of the 5,784 sqm Innovation Centre and 2,201m Test Track is being requested through this application.

**17/0073 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with **Dudley Council to value of £18,494,243** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 notes that this project will be underwritten by Dudley Council.

7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Very Light Rail ( VLR) SEED Funding - Change Request – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement –**

Alan Lunt presented the report and advised that the reason for this request is that, while these works were completed in 2016/17 (and therefore all invoices are dated during that period) there has been an overspend. The predominant overspend has been due to “underestimating the amount of time required to undertake design works and changes to designs”. Whilst the project has overspent in some areas, there have been significant cost savings elsewhere. The total project expenditure is therefore still within the approved grant award.

**17/0074 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending **the existing Agreement with Dudley Council to the value of £188,963** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the VLR SEED Funding - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 notes that this is a Change Request to move funding allocated from 2016/17 into 2017/18.

8. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Dudley College – Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre – Change Request – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Alan Lunt presented the report and advised that approval is requested to transfer £92,753 funding allocated for the Dudley College -Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre project, from 2016/17 financial year into 2017/18.

The reason for this request is that, while these works were completed in 2016/17 (and therefore all invoices are dated during that period) there has been an overspend against the maximum sum approved for "IT Equipment":

**17/0075 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Grant Agreement with Dudley College to the value of £92,753** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Dudley College - Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 This is a Change Request to move funding allocated from 2016/17 into 2017/18.

9. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – R P Technology Ltd – Approval to Move to Contracting**

Alison Knight presented the report and advised that the request for £78,603 for a £274,950 project to fund the purchase of a new moulding and CNC machines.

**17/0076 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

approves Sandwell Council to move to contracting with **R P Technology Limited for a funding allocation of £78,603 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works** totalling £6.5m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors R P Technology Limited project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

10. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – Repose Furniture Ltd – Approval to Move to Contracting**

Alison Knight presented the report and advised that the request for £62,614 for a £211,000 project to fund the purchase of a new computerised cutting system and install a new mezzanine floor.

<b>17/0076</b>	<b>It was resolved that the BCJC:</b> approves Sandwell Council to move to contracting with <b>Repose Furniture Ltd for a funding allocation of £62,614 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works</b> totalling £6.5m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Repose Furniture Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
11.	<b><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – Millennium Pressed Metal Ltd – Approval to Move to Contracting</u></b>  Alison Knight presented the report and advised that the request for £70,000 for a £350,000 project to fund the purchase of a new sheet metal laser cutter and a new five axis CNC tube bending machine.  <b>17/0077</b> <b>It was resolved that the BCJC:</b> approves Sandwell Council to move to contracting with <b>Millennium Pressed Metal Ltd for a funding allocation of £70,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works</b> totalling £6.5m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Millennium Pressed Metal Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
12.	<b><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – A &amp; M EDM Ltd – Approval to Move to Contracting</u></b>  Alison Knight presented the report and advised that the request for £58,000 for a £385,000 project to fund the purchase of two wire eroding machines.  <b>17/0078</b> <b>It was resolved that the BCJC:</b> approves Sandwell Council to move to contracting with <b>A&amp;M EDM Ltd for a funding allocation of £58,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works</b> totalling £6.5m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors A&M EDM Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
13.	<b><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors – Additional Funding Request – Approval to Move to Contracting</u></b>  Alison Knight presented the report and advised that the additional Funding is requested to specifically fund an application from Liberty Performance Steels Ltd which, if approved, will take the Growing Priority Sectors fund over its maximum grant award of £6.5m.  <b>17/0079</b> <b>It was resolved that the BCJC:</b> Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to <b>amend the existing Agreement with Sandwell Council to include an additional funding allocation of £127,000</b> to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors

programme of works - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year. This is an Additional Funding request for 2017/18.

14. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – Liberty Performance Steels Ltd – Approval to Move to Contracting**

Alison Knight presented the report and advised that the request is for £127,000 to fund the launch of a new division of the company producing high precision saw blades.

**17/0080 It was resolved that the BCJC:**  
approves Sandwell Council to move to contracting with **Liberty Performance Steels Ltd for a funding allocation of £127,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works** totalling £6.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Liberty Performance Steels Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year. This is subject to the approval of the request for Additional Funding for the Growing Priority Sectors programme.

15. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills – Additional Funding - Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Keith Ireland presented the report and advised that the additional funding is to allow delivery of the Springfield Hub in the ECMS, which has encountered a range of additional costs which cannot be accommodated within the existing budget since the project budget contingency has already been allocated.

Despite undertaking invasive surveys prior to construction, the internal structures of this former stables/workshop building which is over 140 years old, have only been uncovered since construction has commenced exposing additional problems. In particular, significant additional work has been identified to address the poor state of the roof and supporting structures and the uneven flooring which has been exposed following the removal of internal walls.

**17/0081 It was resolved that the BCJC:**  
2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton to the value of £506,400** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 This request relates to an Additional Funding request in 2017/18.

16. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – City Learning Quarter – Site Investigation – Grant Agreement Approval**

Keith Ireland presented the report and advised that the request will support

the initial stage of a much wider multi-phase project.

The Applicant is noted to be seeking a grant of £120,000 in relation to estimated survey costs of £194,000, to which additional Council expenditure in terms of traffic and transport surveys, design and risk management works are to be undertaken.

**17/0082 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the **City of Wolverhampton Council to value of £120,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of City Learning Quarter Site Investigation - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 notes that this project will be underwritten by City of Wolverhampton Council.

17. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – City North Gateway Phase 1 – M54 Junction 2 to Springfield Lane – Grant Agreement Approval**

Stuart Everton presented the report and advised that the bid seeks approval to invest £6,371,000 of Growth Deal funding on highway, pedestrian and cycle infrastructure improvements to the A449 along the segment south of the M54 Junction 2 to Wobaston Road roundabout. The scheme has funding of £6.12m earmarked through our Growth Deal 3 allocation.

**17/0083 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the **City of Wolverhampton Council to value of £6,371,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of City North Gateway Phase 1 -- M54 Junction 2 to Springfield Lane scheme, with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

18. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Springfield Campus Remediation – Site Investigation – Grant Agreement Approval**

Keith Ireland presented the report and advised that approval is requested for funding to allow site investigation of the Springfield Campus.

The request is seeking a grant of £118,850 in relation to survey costs. On the basis that 30% match funding is now required, it is recommended that a maximum total grant of £83,195 might be offered.

**17/0084 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the **University of Wolverhampton to the value of £83,195** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Springfield Campus Remediation - Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 notes that this Site Investigation funding is to be underwritten via a clawback arrangement with the bidder the University of Wolverhampton.

19.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growth Hub – Additional Funding – Grant Agreement Approval**

Tim Johnson presented the report and advised that Growth Hubs were established in April 2015 by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in each Local Enterprise Partnership area, following a successful pilot in 2014. 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.

Walsall Council received grant funding of £328,000 from BEIS to operate the Black Country Growth Hub in 2016/17. The City of Wolverhampton Council has managed the budget on behalf of Walsall Council through the Black Country Growth Hub Strategic Board, administered by the Head of the Black Country Growth Hub, employed by the City of Wolverhampton Council.

In March 2017, Walsall Council received confirmation from BEIS of £328,000 of funding to operate the Black Country Growth Hub from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

**17/0085 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement with City of Wolverhampton Council for £328,000** to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding within the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 approve City of Wolverhampton Council to manage the funding on behalf of Walsall Council.

20.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth Westside Link Development – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Stuart Everton presented the report and advised that the Westside development programme is a £55 million leisure-led mixed use scheme in the heart of Wolverhampton City centre. Urban & Civic, appointed developer, have identified the need for improvement and investment in streets and spaces connecting the development area with the City core to enhance the pedestrian connectivity and create economic uplift. Victoria Street and the surrounding streets of Salop Street, School Street and Skinner Street have quickly been identified as key linkages where such improvements would need to take place. This area is now referred to as Westside Link as it immediately adjoins the Westside development area and the City core. The area is currently heavily car dominated within significant pedestrian severance and unattractive walking routes.

**17/0086 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **amend the existing Grant Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton Council to value of £155,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth - Westside Link Development project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.2 notes that this development funding is to be underwritten by City of Wolverhampton Council.

21. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth – City North and City East Gateway – Major Scheme Development – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Stuart Everton presented the report and advised that approval is requested for funding to allow delivery of the project which has encountered a range of additional costs which cannot be accommodated within the existing budget.

The initial tranche of development funding awarded for 2016/17 has enabled City of Wolverhampton Council to commission a model to evaluate the current and future impacts on the transport network. This second tranche of funding will enable CWC to build upon previous development work; using the model to accurately identify potential scheme options and develop Full Business Cases to bring forward major capital scheme investments.

**17/0087 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **amend the existing Grant Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton Council to the value of £420,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth - City North and City East Gateway Major Scheme Development project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.2 notes that this development funding is to be underwritten by City of Wolverhampton Council.

22. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth Springfield Campus Interchange Phase 2 – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Stuart Everton presented the report and advised that approval is requested for funding to allow delivery of the Springfield Campus Interchange.

The Springfield Campus programme is a multi-million-pound redevelopment to the east of Wolverhampton City centre within the Canal Side Quarter. In particular, it is proposed that the pedestrian environment between the Campus and the rail and bus stations (Interchange area) and the northern Cannock Road and canal be considerably improved to ensure a safer and more attractive public realm for students to move through.

Phase 2, for which £550,000 of LEP funding is requested, consists of



Wednesfield Road improvements, crossing facilities, Cambridge Street improvements and Cannock Road crossing facilities with connections to existing walking and cycle routes including the recently refurbished canal towpath.

**17/0088 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **amend the existing Grant Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton Council to value of £550,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth - Springfield Campus Interchange Phase 2 project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

23.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – Funding Proposal for Management and Administration functions**

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that there is no funding in place to support the Management and Administration (M&A) costs of the programme beyond 2017/18. The PMO are therefore recommending a proposal to fund the M&A costs from 2018/19 – 2020/21. The funding proposal is a blend of capital and revenue resource and will support the costs of the PMO, Walsall Accountable Body and the BC Transport Director as set out in the report.

**17/0089 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 Approve the following capital allocations to be awarded to Walsall Council in relation to the Management and Administration functions of the Growth Deal in the Black Country:

- (a) **£543,000** for LEP Programme Management functions (to be **awarded to the Black Country Consortium Ltd**);
- (b) **£300,000** for the Black Country Transport Director (to be **awarded to the City of Wolverhampton Council**); and
- (c) **£525,000** for the Accountable Body function (to be **awarded to Walsall Council**).
- (d) Authorise Walsall Council in its' role as Accountable Body for the Growth Deal to enter into the appropriate Grant Agreements to administer these funds.

2.2 Notes that the funding awards will cover financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 as set out in table 3 of the report.

24.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – Walsall College – Digital Engineering and Construction Expansion – Grant Agreement Approval**

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that approval is requested for funding to enable the expansion of Walsall College provision of full time, part time and apprenticeships within key sectors of Engineering and Construction. This project will involve purchasing of new equipment and provide facilities the College does not currently have within their Engineering and Construction department, further offering outstanding quality and up to date service that will bridge the gap between supply and demand for

Engineering, Electronics and Construction skills at a range of levels for the benefit of young people, unemployed adults and employers in Walsall and the wider Black Country.

Specifically, the funding will be for building refurbishment works at 21 Portland Street, a building already purchased by the College for the purposes of this project, fit out and furniture, purchase and transfer of machinery, IT data connections together with Green Lane Plumbing workshop modifications. The development will result in a standalone Engineering facility providing the specialist focus and facility that these key sectors demand.

**17/0090 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with **Walsall College to value of £984,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Walsall College - Digital Engineering & Construction expansion project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

25.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – Mill Lane Bridge and Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study – Additional Funding Request – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that approval is requested for Additional Funding to allow further investigation into the Aldridge station studies, which has encountered a range of additional costs which cannot be accommodated within the existing budget.

The cost of the study is higher than initially anticipated. This is a very specialised study which is not undertaken frequently and therefore the original funding request was based on estimates.

**17/0091 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Agreement with Walsall Council to increase the grant allocation by £70,000 (to a total grant of £190,000)** to deliver the Pre-Allocated Local Growth Fund (LTB) funded elements (originally allocated to the Aldridge Station scheme) of the Mill Lane Bridge & Aldridge Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study development project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.3 notes that this request for additional funding is to be underwritten by Walsall Council.

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**Black Country Local Growth Deal – Former Willenhall ST Works – Site Investigation – Change Request – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that the reason for this Change Request is due to a requirement that some of the environmental surveys must take place at a specific time of year as they are weather/temperature dependant. The appointed contractor was not able to

undertake these works during the 2017 survey period as originally planned and will therefore need to commence in Spring 2018.

**17/0092 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Grant Agreement with the Midland Land Portfolio Limited to the value of £8,085** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Former Willenhall ST Works Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 This is a Change Request to move funding allocated from 2017/18 into 2018/19.

27. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre – Additional Funding Request – Approval to Amend the Existing Grant Agreement**

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that this additional funding request from Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre Ltd (AMTC) is seeking a contribution towards additional equipment necessary to enable AMTC to deliver their apprenticeship training programmes to the required trailblazer apprenticeship standard.

**17/0093 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Agreement with Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre Ltd to increase the value of the grant by £223,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre Ltd - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 This relates to an Additional Funding Request in 2017/18.

28. **Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund - Funding Proposal for Management and Administration Functions**

Tim Johnson presented the report and advised that the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), proposed by the Black Country LEP (BCLEP), seeks to invest in projects which support the re-use of brownfield land and buildings and the delivery of supporting infrastructure. The LPIF is a grant funding programme.

The fund has been created as a £200M loan, which the WMCA is allocating a proportion to Finance Birmingham £50M and the remainder to the BCLEP, £150M.

The City of Wolverhampton Council will act as Accountable Body for both the £50m allocated to Finance Birmingham for the WMCA Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund, the "Fund" as well as the initial £53m allocated to the BCLEP for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund. It is

proposed that the costs of the Accountable Body administrative functions are recovered through a top slice of the grant

**17/0094 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 Approve a capital allocation of Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funding to be granted to City of Wolverhampton Council (acting in its role as Accountable Body to the LPIF programme);
- 2.2 Approve the proposal for the Management and Administration functions of the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund.
- 2.3 Approve that the administrative costs of supporting effective programme development delivery and ongoing monitoring of schemes be funded through the Land and Property Investment Fund are recovered through a top slice of the total fund (as set out in **Appendix 1 of the report**).
- 2.4 Notes the approval received from West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) that the underwriting of these costs be provided via the revenue funding awarded to the WMCA, in the event that costs incurred are unable to be capitalised.