



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 28 June 2017, 12.00pm

To Be Held at:

Walsall Council,
Conference Room 1

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC
Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC (Vice-chair)
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC (Secretary)
Keith Ireland, Wolverhampton CC
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

INVITED GUESTS

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

1. **Apologies**

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

2. **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2017-18**

17/0045 It was resolved that:

Councillor Sean Coughlan, Leader of Walsall be Chairperson for 2017/18 municipal year.

It was resolved that:

Councillor Steve Eling, Leader of Sandwell be Vice Chairperson for 2017/18 municipal year.

3. **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 19 April 2017.**

17/0046 It was resolved that:

The notes of the meeting held on 19 April 2017 be confirmed as a true record

4. **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting.**

None.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

6. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**

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.

There are no items to be considered in private session.

7. **Constitution and Timetable of Meetings for 2017-18**

17/0047 It was resolved that the BCJC :

- 2.1 Note the amendments made to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Constitution including amendments to:
 - (a) Annex A Terms of Reference amending the reference of City Deal & Growth Deal to read City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority, and
 - (b) Annex C Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment at Walsall Council in his role as Chair of the City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority Working Group changing the Terms included as **Appendix A** to this report.
- 2.2 Note the amendments made to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal & Growth Deal Collaboration Agreement included as **Appendix B** to this report.
- 2.2 Approve the timetable of meetings for 2017/18 as set out in **Appendix C** of the report.
- 2.3 Approve minor amendments to the Working Protocols as set out in **Appendix D** of the report.

8. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - Changes to the Growth Fund Programme - Updated Project Expenditure and Outputs Approval**

Sarah Middleton presented the report which details the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) which have been considered and approved by the LEP Board and Joint Committee throughout the year, plus some additional changes that have been reported since the last Joint Committee meeting on 19th April 2017.

17/0048 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves the updated project expenditure and output profiles for the Growth Deal projects as set out in **Attachment 1**.

9. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - A461 Corridor Improvements Phases 2 and 3 Development Funding, Walsall - Grant Agreement Approval – Simon Neilson**

Stuart Everton presented the report. The A461 Corridor Highway Improvements scheme

seeks to address the issue of growing congestion and the lack of traffic capacity along this strategic route and will be made up of three phases of delivery. Phase one will be delivered in 2017/18 for junctions of A461/Salters Road and the A461/Chester Road (Shire Oak). Phase two includes the junction of A461/Mellish Road (delivery in 2018/19) and phase three the junction of A461/Pelsall Lane/Daw End (delivery in 2019/20)

17/0049 It was resolved that the BCJC :

2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council – Programme Management, Economy and Environment Directorate) to proceed to the appropriate form of **internal Agreement for £90,000** (with the Strategic Transportation - Economy & Environment Directorate) to deliver the Pre-allocated Local Growth Fund (LTB) funded elements of the A461 Corridor Improvements (Phases 2 and 3) Development Funding project – with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 This development funding to be underwritten by Walsall Council.

10. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre, Aldridge - Grant Agreement Approval – Simon Neilson**

Simon Neilson presented the report. Hyfore (part of the Engineering Technology Group - ETG) have partnered with In-Comm to develop the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre (AMTC) to bring about a unique model that will be truly industry led provision. The bid is part of an overall £1.49m project and relates entirely to acquisition of machinery.

17/0050 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to Grant Agreement with **Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre to the value of £499,999** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre, Aldridge project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

11. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth Programme – A461 Salters Road and Shire Oak Improvements - Grant Agreement Approval – Simon Neilson/Stuart Everton**

Stuart Everton presented the report. – The A461 Lichfield Road is an arterial route, which runs from Walsall town centre to the Borough boundary. It carries large volumes of traffic throughout the day which results in heavy congestion at peak times. The A461 Highway Improvement scheme seeks to address the issue of growing congestion and the lack of traffic capacity along this strategic route.

17/0051 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **an appropriate form of internal Agreement for £1,380,000** (with the Strategic Transportation - Economy & Environment Directorate) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth - Salters Road and Shire Oak

improvements, Walsall project – with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year (and to subsequently enter into all necessary agreements or other internal arrangements in respect of such a grant).

12. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Bloxwich Level Crossing Mitigation Package – Grant Agreement Approval – Simon Neilson/Stuart Everton**

Stuart Everton presented the report. Network Rail is electrifying the Chase Line Railway between Walsall and Rugeley Trent Valley. As part of these works the level crossing at Bloxwich must be closed to allow faster line speeds. A package of works has been developed between Walsall Council and Network Rail to mitigate the traffic impact of permanently closing the level crossing.

The mitigation measures include: traffic signal upgrades; junction improvements; traffic calming; new lines and signs; and associated Traffic Regulation Orders. These will help achieve retention of businesses (and jobs) in the Bloxwich area, especially on the Leamore Lane Trading Estate, and help realise the wider economic benefits that a new electrified Rugeley Trent Valley – Walsall – Birmingham New Street passenger rail service (from December 2018) will bring to the Black Country LEP and GBS LEP economies.

17/0052 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to an appropriate form of **internal Agreement for £100,000** with Walsall Council (Strategic Transportation - Economy and Environment Directorate) to deliver the Pre-allocated Local Growth Fund (LTB) funded elements of the Bloxwich Level Crossing Mitigation Package project– with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year (and to subsequently enter into all necessary agreements or other internal arrangements in respect of such a grant).

13. **Black Country Local Growth Deal Managing Short trips Tranche 2 – Grant Agreement Approval – Tim Johnson/Stuart Everton**

Stuart Everton presented the report. This project is an extension of the existing Managing Short Trips programme. Delivery of new canal cycle paths is supported by WMCA and Local Authority sustainable travel teams who promote and launch this new infrastructure to businesses and the community.

The project will generate benefits to the Black Country economy and residents and be an important catalyst for future growth and prosperity in the region by delivering 13.5 Km of canal tow path improved for use as off-road cycle paths by March 2018 for phase 1 and March 2019 for phase 2.

17/0053 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement for **£2,000,000 in 2017/18 and £2,254,850 in 2018/19 with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Managing Short Trips Tranche 2 project – with delivery to commence in the 2017/18

financial year.

14. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Holloway Street, Gornal – Site Investigation – Grant Agreement Approval**

Sarah Norman presented the report. The application to assess ground conditions, drainage issues and ecological matters at a 10.5 ha site located on Holloway Street in Gornal. The site is a former quarry and landfill site which has been vacant for a number of years.

The site is impacted by allocation as a Site of Local Importance to Nature Conservation (SLINC) and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) designations. Improvement works are proposed for the open space and enhancement of the statutorily designated habitats for nature conservation. To help support these works, the council plans to release parts of the overall site for housing development. Site investigation works are required to inform the feasibility of this proposal.

17/54 It was resolved that the BCJC :

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with **Dudley Council to value of £46,660** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Holloway Street, Gornal - Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.2 This development funding is to be underwritten by Dudley Council.

15. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Securing Sandwell’s Engineering Skills – Grant Agreement Approval**

Jan Britton presented the report. Sandwell College is seeking to ensure the College will have a dedicated and revitalised ‘Engineering Centre’ that has been secured and updated with equipment that will support more students towards a Level 3/4 qualification. It is focused on updating Engineering training equipment in the newly acquired Sandwell Training Association (STA) premises which will see the STA facility transformed into the engineering centre by September 2017 for the 2017 to 2018 Academic Year. The Skills bid relates entirely to acquisition of updated equipment and its installation.

17/0055 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with **Sandwell College to the value of £542,230** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Securing Sandwell's Engineering Skills project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

16. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – Auto Styling Limited – Approval to Move to Contracting– Nick Bubalo**

Jan Britton presented the report. Auto Styling UK Limited manufactures and sells 4x4 accessories. A request for £50,000 for a £250,000 project to expand existing premises through the installation of a mezzanine floor plus the purchase of new equipment.

17/0056 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with **Auto Styling Limited for a funding allocation of £50,000 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 Auto Styling Limited project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

17. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – MiGlass Limited, Sandwell – Approval to Move to Contracting– Nick Bubalo**

Jan Britton presented the report. MiGlass has two serious capacity and efficiency constraints which will effectively curtail growth. Both of these issues can be resolved by investing in new larger format automatic cutting facility. A request for £120,000 for a £600,000 project to install cutting and handling machines that will allow the company to process larger sheets of glass.

17/0057 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with **MiGlass Limited for a funding allocation of £120,000 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 MiGlass Limited project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

18. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – Ramfoam Limited, Dudley – Approval to Move to Contracting– Nick Bubalo**

3.2 Jan Britton presented the report. Ramfoam Limited manufactures foam products for a range of sectors including Automotive, Rail, Packaging, Military, Construction and Electronics. A request for £180,000 for a £1,300,000 project to purchase and fit out new premises. This funding will assist the business to expand to larger premises and purchase a range of equipment to give the company the future capacity that it requires for growth.

17/0058 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with **Ramfoam Limited for a funding allocation of £180,000 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 Ramfoam Limited project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

19. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – Slick Stitch Limited, Wolverhampton – Approval to Move to Contracting– Nick Bubalo**

Jan Britton presented the report. Slick Stitch started as a small embroiderer in the late

1980s and is now the operation behind the Tesco embroidered school uniforms. Slick Stitch now needs to grow to keep up with demand. A request for £144,000 for a £720,000 project to purchase and install new machinery.

17/0059 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with **Slick Stitch Ltd for a funding allocation of £144,000 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 Slick Stitch Limited project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

20. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors – Individual Project Decision – Steadfast Solutions Limited, Oldbury – Approval to Move to Contracting– Nick Bubalo**

Jan Britton presented the report. A request for £56,250 for a £187,500 project to fund the purchase of three wire EDM machines.

This investment will enable Steadfast Solutions to manufacture tooling components to meet an automotive manufacturer's new design, thereby safeguarding existing work and gaining new orders creating new jobs.

17/0060 It was resolved that the BCJC :

approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with **Steadfast Solutions Ltd for a funding allocation of £56,250 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 Steadfast Solutions Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
