



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 14 March 2018, 12.00pm

Walsall Council
Conference Room 3, Walsall Council House

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Syeda Khatun, Sandwell MBC (sub)
Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC (Chair)
Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC
Claire Nye, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

INVITED GUESTS

Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Stuart Everton, Black Country Director for Transport

1.		<u>Apologies</u> Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC Keith Ireland, Wolverhampton CC Sarah Middleton, Black Country Consortium
2.	18/0008	<u>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 24 January 2018</u> It was resolved that: the notes of the meeting held on 24 January 2018 be confirmed as a true record.
3.		<u>Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting</u> None.
4.		<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Jan Britton, Chief Executive Sandwell MBC, declared an interest for item 10, as he is a Governor of Sandwell College.
5.		<u>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):</u> There are no items to be considered in private session.

6.	18/0009	<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal ACCESSING GROWTH – SPRINGFIELD PHASE 2 (SEPPL44) - CHANGE REQUEST</u></p> <p>Stuart Everton presented the report and advised that the In September 2017 the LEP Board approved £550,000 for the Accessing Growth Springfield Campus Phase 2 bid for 2017/18. It has since been confirmed by the project sponsor that an administrative error has been made, and the request should have been for funding in the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>It was resolved that the BCJC:</p> <p>2.1 approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Grant Agreement with the City of Wolverhampton Council to the value of £550,000 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth – Springfield Phase 2 project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>2.2 note that this is a Change Request to move funding allocated from 2017/18 into 2018/19</p>
7.	18/0010	<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal ACCESSING GROWTH – WALSALL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE (SEPPL44) - CAPITAL FUNDING</u></p> <p>Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that Walsall is undergoing continued regeneration, with investment in a wide range of initiatives such as Walsall Northern Opportunity Area and Walsall town centre as well as other economic sites. As such, improved connectivity, better multi-modal transport options, reductions in journey time and improved journey time reliability are pivotal for the area to continue to grow. The programme is broken down into four main elements Walsall Ring Road improvements, Bloxwich Park and Ride car park expansion, Canal tow path cycling route improvements and M6 Junction 10 Resilience highway improvements</p> <p>It was resolved that the BCJC:</p> <p>approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to an appropriate form of Internal Agreement to award a £918,000 grant to Walsall Council, Economy and Environment to deliver the Local Growth Fund funded elements of the Accessing Growth - Walsall Economic Growth and Infrastructure Package project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p>18/0011</p>	<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal A34 CORRIDOR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (SEPPL14)</u></p> <p>Stuart Everton presented the report and advised that the funding is for externally contracted expert transport resources to bridge the gap between Growth Deal initial allocation of £25m funding for the scheme and the delivery of a fully developed scheme ready for approval by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Development funding is required to assist in the resourcing of the project throughout 2018/19 following the announcement of the Commonwealth Games being awarded to Birmingham and this has increased the pressure on delivery timescales.</p> <p>It was resolved that the BCJC:</p> <p>2.1 approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to an appropriate internal agreement to award a £70,000 grant to Walsall Council, Regeneration & Delivery to deliver the Growth Deal funded elements of the A34 Corridor Transport Development Funding project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>2.2 note that this grant is to be underwritten by Walsall Council.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>18/0012</p>	<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal SANDWELL RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME SITE INVESTIGATION (SEPPL33)</u></p> <p>Alison Knight presented the report and advised that the site investigation works across six separate unused sites, in the council's ownership, which are considered to be suitable for housing redevelopment. Uncertainty over site constraints has resulted in the sites not being brought forward. These sites remain vacant and underutilised, whilst the demand for housing in the Borough continues to grow.</p> <p>It was resolved that the BCJC :</p> <p>2.1 approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to value of £62,244 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Sandwell Residential Programme Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>2.2 note that this Site Investigation funding is to be underwritten by Sandwell Council.</p>

10.		<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal PROJECT WITHDRAWAL – SECURING SANDWELL’S ENGINEERING SKILLS – SEPP29</u></p> <p>Alison Knight presented the report and advised that since the original Securing Sandwell’s Engineering Skills scheme was approved in March 2017, Sandwell College has encountered some challenges with the building on-site following results from completed surveys.</p> <p>Sandwell College have now withdrawn the entire scheme bid. The College has reviewed the project as a whole given the changes, the delays and the wider financial climate facing FE Colleges, including changes to apprenticeships and apprenticeship funding nationally, and have concluded that the project presents a number of increased risks. Sandwell College thanks the LEP Board for its continuing support.</p> <p>BCJC expressed their disappointment that this project had been withdrawn. It was felt that it was important that the Black Country continue to develop its centres to provide engineering training to ensure opportunity to develop skills was available in a similar way as construction skills as this would assist the wider economic development of the sub-region.</p> <p>18/0013 It was noted by the BCJC :</p> <p>2.1 the withdrawal of the Securing Sandwell’s Engineering Skills project from the Growth Deal programme.</p> <p>2.2 note that removal of this scheme will create capacity of £542,230 for future Growth Deal scheme bids.</p>
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