



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

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 4 December 2019, 9.30am

City of Wolverhampton Council

Civic Centre, Executive Board Room 1

Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC
Councillor Yvonne Davies, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC (Chair)
Councillor Ian Brookfield, City of
Wolverhampton

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP

IN ATTENDANCE

Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley MBC
David Stevens, Sandwell MBC
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC
Tim Johnson, City of Wolverhampton
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country
Consortium Ltd
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

Apologies

None.

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 25 September 2019

Decision 19/0064

It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 25 September 2019 be confirmed as a true record.

Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting

None.

Declarations of Interest

None.



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

To agree that the public be excluded from the private session

Decision 19/0065

It was resolved that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of Agenda Item 10.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – Change Request – Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated that explains a variance in outputs upon completion of the project. Whilst Jobs Outputs were underachieved, Housing Units and Commercial Floor space Outputs has overachieved ensuring that the project is still deemed as success overall.

Decision 19/0066

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Town Centre Improvement Programme project to enable finalisation of output and project closure.
- 2.2 Notes that this change request relates to a variance in outputs.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – IT DIGITAL SKILLS AND INNOVATION (SEPP34) – Grant Agreement Request

Simon Neilson referred to the report previously circulated and advised that PTP are a private training provider based in Walsall town centre who in their application have demonstrated an excellent track record of providing high quality training to companies throughout the Midlands for over forty years. They have a strong track record of working with employers across a range of industries however there is a need for further investment in their IT and Digital skills offering. The programme will offer the flexibility and confidence to customers that training programmes can be customised to their needs and requirements. The investment will allow PTP to increase the amount of digital skills that they offer to the Black Country and recruit additional staff to deliver a high-quality range of bite size courses.



Decision 19/0067

It was resolved that the BCJC approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Performance Through People Training Ltd. ('PTP') to the value of £68,162.50 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the IT Digital Skills and Innovation project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – CHANGES TO THE LOCAL GROWTH DEAL PROGRAMME – APPROVAL OF THE 2018/19 YEAR END POSITION

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated that details the current position of all 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, and additional changes reported during 2019/20

Decision 19/0068

It was resolved that the BCJC approves the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and, to maximise the 2018/19 Growth Deal allocation expenditure, requests approval for various changes detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – CHANCES GLASSWORKS SITE ASSEMBLY – Project Withdrawal Request

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated. The site has complex ownership issues which have not been resolved and the Freehold of the whole site has not been secured by the Trust that was formed and incorporated with a view to regenerate the whole site. The project has therefore stalled.

Cllr Bird questioned the reasons for withdrawal.

Sarah Middleton clarified that there is a lack of security available from the Trust that would be required for public sector grant funding. Even with Sandwell Council offering support the spend deadlines of the Local Growth Deal programme could not be met.

Decision 19/0069

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to terminating the Grant Agreement of £660,000 with Sandwell Council for the Chances



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Glassworks Site Assembly project and instructs the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to inform Sandwell Council in writing of the decision.

- 2.2 Notes the withdrawal of the Chances Glassworks Site Assembly project from within the Growth Deal Programme

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 25 September 2019 – Private Session

Decision 19/0070

It was resolved that the Private Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2019 be confirmed as a true record.