

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 17 April 2019, 9.30am

Wolverhampton Council, Committee Room 3

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Judy Foster, Dudley MBC (sub)
Councillor Steve Trow, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC
Councillor Roger Lawrence,
Wolverhampton CC

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC (Sub)
Mark Taylor, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

Sarah Middleton,
The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

INVITED GUESTS

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Richard Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

Apologies

Decision 19/0019

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board
Councillor Qadar Zada, Dudley MBC
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC
Tim Johnson, City of Wolverhampton Council

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 13 March 2019

Decision 19/0020

It was resolved that notes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019 were approved.

Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting

None

Declarations of Interest

None

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

Decsion19/0021

It was resolved that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of:

Agenda Item 14 - Notes of Previous Meeting held on 13 March 2019 – Private Session
And

Agenda Item 15 - Land and Property Investment Fund – SANDWELL AQUATIC CENTRE
And

Agenda Item 16 – Black Country Local Growth Deal - I9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON -
ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – I9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON
(SEPPL94) - CHANGE REQUEST**

Richard Lawrence was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a change in the Grant Agreement Grantee due to an administrative error.
Due diligence is not effected but will be part of the process.

Decision 19/0022

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 ION Property Developments Ltd (IPDL), to ION Projects Ltd (IPL) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2 Change Request relates to the original grant award reported to BCJC on 23 January 2019.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – I9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON -
ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST (SEPPL94)**

Decision19/0023

It was resolved that the BCJC would make a decision on this matter would be made in the private session following consideration of a report containing confidential information.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – MILL LANE BRIDGE AND ALDRIDGE LINE AQUEDUCT GRIP 2 - 3 STUDY (SEPPL71)

Stuart Everton was present and referred to the report previously circulated which explains a review is taking place to possibly re-open a train station at Aldridge.

Decision 19/0024

It was resolved that the BCJC approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing internal agreement with Walsall Council, to the additional value of £70,000 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Mill Lane Bridge & Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 2 - 3 project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

Black Country Growth Hub Funding – GROWTH HUB - GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT APPROVAL 2019/2020

Sarah Middleton was present and referred to the report previously circulated which explains that 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, the Black Country Consortium (BCC Ltd) and the University of Wolverhampton. BCC Ltd now manages the Grant on behalf of Walsall Council through the Black Country Growth Hub Strategic Board. Day to day activity is administered by the Head of the Black Country Growth Hub, employed by the Black Country Consortium. It is expected that in May 2019, Walsall Council will receive the official offer letter from BEIS confirming the Funding for 2019/2020 financial year.

Decision 19/0025

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves Walsall Council to receive £328,000 from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to fund the Black Country Growth Hub from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.
- 2.2 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement to the value of £328,000, with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2019/2020.

Land and Property Investment Fund – I54 WESTERN EXTENSION (SEPPL95)

Richard Lawrence was present and referred to the report previously circulated which explains that The i54 Western Extension project is to develop circa 60 acres (24 hectares) of land owned by Wolverhampton City Council ('WCC') for subsequent delivery of some 1,075,000 sq. ft (100,000 sq. metres) of high-quality floor space that will accommodate circa 1,300 - 1,700 net new jobs, with the intention that these are primarily in advanced manufacturing companies. Procurement and management of the proposed works will be undertaken by Staffordshire County Council on WCC's land within the extended Joint Venture arrangement between both Councils.

Funding is sought to directly prepare development platforms and ancillary costs.

Decision 19/0026

It was resolved that the BCJC approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to an internal Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to the value of £5,000,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the i54 Western Extension Project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

Land and Property Investment Fund – SANDWELL AQUATIC CENTRE (SEPPL93)

Decision 19/0027

It was noted that the decision on this matter would be made in the private session following consideration of a report containing confidential information.

Delegated Authority Decision – Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors – Admin and Management Budget Change Request

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is for additional £30,000 for the programme's management and administration award of £247,000, with delivery in the 2018/19 financial year, to fund Due Diligence reviews.

Decision 19/0028

It was resolved that the BCJC note that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to increase grant award by additional £30,000 (from the Growing Priority

Sectors programme of works totalling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Administration and Management Budget - with delivery in the 2018/19 financial year. Approval of this project was achieved by the BC LEP Board on 21st January 2019 (Ref. no. 19/19).

Black Country Local Growth Deal – A34 CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (SEPPL14) - PROJECT WITHDRAWAL – For Noting

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated which explains that this project was approved in March 2018. Funding has now been identified within the HS2 connectivity Package to upgrade the corridor and also the announcement of the commonwealth Games increased pressure has been placed on delivery timescales. WMCA will not fund the scheme.

Decision 19/0029

It was resolved that the BCJC note the withdrawal of £70,000 for the A34 Corridor Development Funding project from within the Growth Deal Programme.

PRIVATE SESSION

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 13 March 2019 – Private Session

Decision 19/0030

It was resolved that the Private Notes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019 were approved.

Land and Property Investment Fund – SANDWELL AQUATIC CENTRE (SEPPL93) - (Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))

Alison Knight was present and referred to the Public and Private reports previously circulated.

Decision 19/0031

It was resolved that following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda, the BCJC approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to the value of £5,000,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment

Fund, funded elements of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre Project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – I9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON - ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST (SEPPL94) - (Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))

Richard Lawrence was present and referred to the Public and Private reports previously circulated.

Decision 19/0032

It was resolved that following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda, the BCJC approved for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with ION Projects Ltd (IPL), increasing the value by £275,190, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.