

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 23 January 2019, 9.30am

Held at Walsall Council

Conference Room 3, Walsall Council House

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Qadar Zada, Dudley MBC
Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC

Councillor Roger Lawrence,
Wolverhampton CC

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
David Stevens, Sandwell MBC (sub)
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC
(Secretary)
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

Sarah Middleton,
The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Chris Handy, Black Country LEP Board

INVITED GUESTS

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

Apologies

Jan Britton, Sandwell Council.

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 5 December 2018

Decision 18/0077

It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 5 December 2018 were approved.

Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting.

None

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lawrence declared an interest in Item 8 and Item 22 as the building is to be delivered on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council, who intend to hold the property as a long-term lease.

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

To agree that the public be excluded from the private session.

There are no items to be discussed in Private Session.

Land and Property Investment Fund – PORTERSFIELD PHASE 1 (SEPPL55) - Grant Agreement Approval

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is the first phase of the Portersfield Development Scheme and comprises of the demolition of Cavendish House, the former B&Q Building, and the former Scout Hut building. It is a request for £664,725 of grant support towards the overall £82m Portersfield, Dudley Scheme, which is the subject of a separate Initial Proposal. The masterplan project will deliver 5,613 sq. m. of retail space, a 1,400 sq. m .cinema, 189 apartments, 222 car parking spaces, bars, restaurants and a health club. This will create 324 new jobs.

The project is subject to conditions referred to in the report 3.6 and 3.8.

Decision 18/0078

It was resolved that the BCJC approve for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Avenbury (Dudley) Ltd to the value of £664,725 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the Portersfield phase 1 Project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – ADDITIONAL FUNDING – MILL LANE GRIP & ALDRIDGE LINE AQUEDUCT GRIP 3 STUDY (SEPPL13) - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Stuart Everton was present and referred to the report previously circulated. The scheme was approved at the November 2016 Black Country Joint Committee. Following on from the project approval, a further £70,000 was awarded in 2017 to drive the development works forward. Work has recently been completed, exploring the options for running a service and a location for a platform and associated facilities. These works have concluded that a train station and service is feasible. The project currently has a £70,000 Growth Deal contribution in this current financial year. The request is to move Transport Development Funding from the Dudley train stations project and combine them with the existing Mill Lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study & Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study £70,000 allocation, increasing the 2018/19

Transport Funding allocation to £107,500. This will aid in moving the project through GRIP stages 2-3 and cover preliminary highway design / investigative work. Any shortfall from the cost of the study will be met by Combined Authority and Walsall Council funds.

Decision 18/0079

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Internal Agreement to increase the value of the grant by £37,500 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Mill Lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study & Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study Project with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2 This relates to an additional funding request in 2018/19.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – i9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON (SEPPL94) - Grant Agreement Approval

Councillor Lawrence did not participate in discussions or the decision for this item as he had previously declared an interest.

Tim Johnson was present and referred to the report previously circulated. The scheme was approved by the Black Country Joint Committee (BCJC) in September 2018 under the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) programme. Since the approval of the project, it has been discussed and agreed to remove this project from the LPIF programme with the aim to fund this from the Growth Deal programme instead. I9 is a project that is available to start on site shortly, delivering high quality commercial outputs, enabling them to complete spend within the time period required.

Technical advisors have confirmed that i9 was appraised with both Growth Deal and LPIF in mind, making it a good fit and removing the need for re-appraisal.

Decision 18/0080

It was resolved that the BCJC approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Ion Property Developments Limited (IPDL), to the value of £3,722,477 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.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – CHANGE REQUEST – WOODS LANE (SEPPL30) - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Cllr Eling was present and referred to the report previously circulated which details a Change Request in the Outputs of the LGF approved in June 2018.

Decision 18/0081

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Woods Lane project, with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This Change Request includes a change in outputs.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – PK ENGINEERING LTD (SEPB1) – WEST BROMWICH - Approval to Move to Contracting

Cllr Eling and Sarah Middleton were present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a request for £124,500 for a £415,000 project to purchase of a new Vertical Milling Machine CNC.

The machines will allow much more diverse machining and allow the organisation to attract more companies both in the UK and overseas.

Six new jobs will be created with an average salary of £28,800 pa and five apprenticeships.

Decision 18/0082

It was resolved that the BCJC approve for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with PK Engineering Ltd for a funding allocation of £124,500 (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 PK Engineering Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – HARCO ENGINEERING LTD (SEPB1) – BRIERLEY HILL - Approval to Move to Contracting

Cllr Eling was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a request for £68,400 for a £228,000 project to purchase the assets and property of a previous company, Fellows Precision Grinding Ltd, which has ceased trading.

Seven new jobs will be created with an average salary of £26,500 pa and one apprenticeship.

Decision18/0083

It was resolved that the BCJC approve for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Harco Engineering Ltd for a funding allocation of £68,400 (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 Harco Engineering Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – SANT PRODUCTS LTD (SEP1) – TIPTON
– Approval to Move to Contracting**

Cllr Eling was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a request for £83,850 for a £279,500 project to invest in plant and equipment.

Nine new jobs will be created with an average salary of £24,500 pa and two apprenticeships.

Decision 18/0084

It was resolved that the BCJC approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Sant Products Ltd for a funding allocation of £83,850 (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 Sant Products Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – CORRUGATED BOX SUPPLIES LTD
(SEP1) – WEST BROMWICH - Approval to Move to Contracting**

Cllr Eling was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a request for £100,000 for a £500,000 project to invest in the purchase of a new Eterna Cardboard Box Die Cutting Machine.

Thirteen new jobs will be created with an average salary of £28,385 pa and two apprenticeships.

Decision 18/0085

It was resolved that the BCJC approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Corrugated Box Supplies Ltd for a funding allocation of £100,000 (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 Corrugated Box Supplies Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – THE LABEL CENTRE LTD (SEP1) –
DUDLEY - Approval to Move to Contracting

Cllr Eling was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a request for £50,000 for a £410,000 project to purchase a new Focus d-Flex Servo 250 Inkjet/ Flexo/ Auto Register Press machine.

Three new jobs will be created with an average salary of £26,600 pa and four apprenticeships.

Decision 18/0086

It was resolved that the BCJC approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with The Label Centre Ltd for a funding allocation of £50,000 (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 The Label Centre Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – P & R ENGINEERING LTD (SEP1) –
WOLVERHAMPTON - Approval to Move to Contracting

Cllr Eling was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a request for £200,000 for a £1,515,500 project to invest in the purchase of a new factory base Alpha One.

Seventeen new jobs will be created with an average salary of £23,400 pa and five apprenticeships.

Decision 18/0087

It was resolved that the BCJC approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with P&R Engineering Ltd for a funding allocation of £200,000 (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 P & R Engineering Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – PHOENIX MATERIALS TESTING LTD
(SEPB1) – BRIERLEY HILL - Approval to Move to Contracting**

Cllr Eling was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a request for £110,000 for a £657,500 project to support an R&D Test Lab expansion.

Decision 18/0088

It was resolved that the BCJC approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Phoenix Materials Testing Ltd for a funding allocation of £110,000 (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 Phoenix Materials Testing Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

**LEP REVIEW IMPLICATIONS – BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND SIZE,
COLLABORATION AGREEMENT, SINGLE ACCOUNTABLE BODY
APPOINTMENT AND SCRUTINY - Approval of LEP Board Membership, Size,
Collaboration Agreement, Single Accountable Body Appointment and
Scrutiny**

Sarah Middleton was present and referred to the report previously circulated which picks up the recommendations from the Mary Ney Review in July 2016 and the LEP Best Practices guidance January 2018 and Strengthened LEP publication in July 2018.

Decision 18/0089

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approve the proposed change to appoint Walsall Council as the single Accountable Body that is responsible for all Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership funding, directly allocated by Government.
- 2.2 Approve that the Board size be increased from 15 to up to 20 voting members with this change being incorporated into the revised local Assurance Framework, with the provision for the Board to appoint up to 5 additional co-opted members on an annual basis.
- 2.3 approve the current LEP Advisory Board Memberships – Chair of the Employment and Skills (People) Theme Advisory Board and Active Black Country Partnership Board – be made full voting members of the Board, effective with the increase in Board size, with this change being incorporated into the revised local Assurance Framework.
- 2.4 approve the single Accountable Body co-ordinate the work for a new Collaboration Agreement between the four BCJC authorities, the BC LEP and the WMCA, for completion by the end of February 2019.

- 2.5 Approve that the BC LEP work with the Monitoring Officers of Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC, Walsall MBC and the City of Wolverhampton Council, to develop an Annual Programme of Reporting through to each local authority's respective scrutiny panel, providing an update on schemes being undertaken in the respective areas, an overview of regional LEP activity and being responsive to any questions from the panel.

BLACK COUNTRY LEP ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED BLACK COUNTRY LEP ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - Approval of revised LEP Assurance Framework

Sarah Middleton was present and referred to the report previously circulated that details the revisions to the Black Country LEP Assurance Framework following the programme of continuous improvement.

Decision 18/0090

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework, following the programme of continuous improvement to further enhance the BC LEP governance and transparency above and beyond published government standards.
- 2.2 approves that the Board size be increased from 15 to up to 20 voting Members with this change being incorporated into the revised local Assurance Framework, with the provision included for the Board to appoint up to 5 additional co-opted members on an annual basis.
- 2.3 approves that the current Advisory Board Memberships – Chair of the Employment and Skills (People) Theme Advisory Board and Active Black Country Partnership Board be made full members of the Board effective with the increase in Board size, with this change being incorporated into the revised Assurance Framework.
- 2.4 Note all Appendices are updated with version control.
- 2.5 Note that legal opinion is being sought on the interpretation of the LEP Board quorum.
- 2.6 Note and approve the revision detailed in 1.3.

**Delegated Authority Decision - Black Country Local Growth Deal –
GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS (GPS) PROJECT CENTRAL RPL LTD – Grant
Agreement Approval for Noting**

Decision 18/0091

The BCJC noted that :

- 2.1 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 approve for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Central RPL Ltd for a funding allocation of £100,000 (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 Central RPL Ltd. project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year. Approval of this project was achieved by the BC LEP Board on 17th December 2018 (Ref. no. 183/18).
- 2.2 The need to use delegated authority was identified to enable the project to commence in January 2019, to secure spend in the 2018/19 financial year.

**Delegated Authority Decision - Black Country Local Growth Deal –
GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS (GPS) PROJECT WOLBRIDGE LTD – Grant
Agreement Approval for Noting**

Decision 18/0092

The BCJC noted that :

- 2.1 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 approve for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Wolbridge Ltd. for a funding allocation of £53,029 (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 Wolbridge Ltd. project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year. Approval of this project was achieved by the BC LEP Board on 17th December 2018 (Ref. no. 185/18).
- 2.2 The need to use delegated authority was identified to enable the project to commence in January 2019, to secure spend in the 2018/19 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL - BLACK COUNTRY TRAIN STATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (SEPPL13) – For Noting

Decision 18/0093

The BCJC noted the withdrawal of the Black Country Train Stations Development Funding (Dudley MBC) project from the Local Growth Deal (LGF) Programme.

Land and Property Investment Fund - PROJECT WITHDRAWAL – i9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON (SEPPL94) – For Noting

Decision 18/0094

The BCJC noted :

2.1 the withdrawal of the i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton project from the Land and Property Investment Fund.

2.2 the removal of the scheme will create capacity of £3,722,477 for future Land and Property Investment Fund bids.