

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 26 June 2019, 9.30am

Dudley Council Committee Room 1 & 2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC
Councillor Yvonne Davies, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall MBC (sub)
Councillor Ian Brookfield,
City of Wolverhampton (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

Sarah Middleton,
The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP (sub)

INVITED GUESTS

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

Apologies

Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Bird, Walsall
Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019-20

Decision 19/0033

It was resolved that :

Cllr Mike Bird (Walsall) be appointed as Chairperson for 2019/20.

Cllr Ian Brookfield (Wolverhampton) be appointed as Vice Chairperson for 2019/20.
Cllr Brookfield Chaired this meeting in the absence of Cllr Bird.

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 17 April 2019

Decision 19/0034

It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 17 April 2019 be confirmed as a true record.

Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting.

None

19/0035 Declarations of Interest

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP Board declared an interest in Item 11 as he is a Board Governor at the University of Wolverhampton

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

Decision 19/0036

Agreed that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of Agenda Item 18 – Notes of Previous Meeting held on 17 April 2019 – Private Session

Constitution and Timetable of Meetings for 2019-20

Helen Paterson referred to the BCJC Constitution which had been revised along with the Protocols.

Decision 19/0037

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 Note that the City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority Advisory Board now be known as Joint Committee Advisory Board with the Constitution updated as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Note that the City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority Working Group now be known as Heads of Regeneration Working Group with the Constitution updated as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.3 Note the Protocols now include updated templates for Reports and Consultation Sheets and new templates for Access to Information Notice, Key Decisions notified after

publication and Protocol 3 General Exception and Special Urgency as set out in Appendix B of this report.

- 2.4 Approve the Forward Plan publication dates for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix C of the report.
- 2.5 Approve the Timetable of meetings for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix D of the report.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – NATIONAL BROWNFIELD INSTITUTE SEED FUNDING (SEPPL60)

Tim Johnson was present and referred to the report previously circulated which recommends to transfer the National Brownfield Institute SEED Funding project from the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), to be funded through the Local Growth Deal Programme. This enables the LPIF programme to deliver all of the committed projects within the first tranche of funding.

Decision 19/0038

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 to the value of £500,000, with University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the National Brownfield Institute SEED Funding project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2. Notes the withdrawal of the National Brownfield Institute SEED Funding project, to the value of £500,000, from within the Land and Property Investment Fund.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – TRANSPORT MAJOR ROUTE NETWORK (MRN) DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (SEPPL135)

Stuart Everton was present and referred to the report previously circulated which will be progression towards major funding submissions to access MRN funding worth an estimated £150m in total, as well as access to a further £1.6m in development funding from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM). The funding will be allocated to the following major schemes:

- A4123 – Major Scheme Business Case Development;
- A454 – Major Scheme Business Case Development;
- A449 – Major Scheme Business Case Development.

Decision 19/0039

It was resolved that the BCJC that approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to the value of £250,000, to deliver the Local Growth fund (LGF) funded elements of the Transport Major Road Network (MRN) Development Funding project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – SPRINGFIELD PHASE 1 INFRASTRUCTURE AND REMEDIATION (SEPPL114)

Tim Johnson was present and referred to the report previously circulated which recommends to transfer the Springfield Phase 1 Infrastructure and Remediation project from the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), to be funded through the Local Growth Deal Programme. This enables the LPIF programme to deliver all of the committed projects within the first tranche of funding.

The project that will deliver 2.28 hectares of serviced and remediated development land within the Springfield Campus site.

Decision 19/0040

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 to the value of £4,420,000, with University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Springfield Phase 1 Infrastructure and Remediation project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2. Notes the withdrawal of the Springfield Phase 1 Infrastructure and Remediation project, to the value of £4,420,000, from within the Land and Property Investment Fund.

Black Country Growth Hub Funding – SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT (SEPPL91)

Tim Johnson was present and referred to the report previously circulated which recommends to transfer the School of Architecture and Built Environment project (SOABE) from the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), to be funded through the Local Growth Deal Programme. This enables the LPIF programme to deliver all of the committed projects within the first tranche of funding.

The funding relates to the renovation of a currently derelict Grade II listed building, located towards the southern end of the former Springfield Brewery site within the Canalside Regeneration Area of Wolverhampton City Centre.

Decision 19/0041

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 to the value of £3,520,000, with University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the School of Architecture and Built Environment project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2. Notes the withdrawal of the School of Architecture and Built Environment project, to the value of £3,520,000, from within the Land and Property Investment Fund. Environment project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

Black Country Growth Hub Funding – CHANGES TO THE GROWTH DEAL PROGRAMME

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated and advised that an amendment had been made to the Appendix contained within the report and a revised document was circulated for consideration at the meeting.

Simon advised that the report 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 LEP Board meeting (15th April 2019). As the programme is entering its final two years, the Accountable Body and the PMO, with guidance from BEIS, have undertaken a thorough risk analysis exercise of all projects which has resulted in a number of actions taken to ensure the programme is fully committed and able to achieve spend and output targets – further details are contained within the report.

Decision 19/0042

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 attachment 1 of the report.

Black Country Growth Hub Funding – BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM: FORGING AHEAD (SEPPL70)

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated which recommends to transfer the Black Country Living Museum: Forging Ahead project from the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), to be funded through the Local Growth Deal Programme. This enables the LPIF programme to deliver all of the committed projects within the first tranche of funding.

This project relates to a site which forms part of the Dudley Visitor Attraction cluster. The site is currently occupied by the Black Country Living Museum (BCLM), with site boundary adjustments relating to the existing overflow car park, it will be released to facilitate the location of the new University Centre Dudley. A new access way and car parking will be provided, off the recently delivered shared access / gateway to the Castle Hill visitor attractions.

Decision 19/0043

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Black Country Living Museum, to the value of £9,000,000, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Black Country Living Museum: Forging Ahead Project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.
- 2.2 Notes the withdrawal of the Black Country Living Museum: Forging Ahead project, to the value of £9,000,000, from within the Land and Property Investment Fund programme.

19/0044 Black Country Growth Hub Funding – VERY LIGHT RAIL PROGRAMME CHANGES

Simon Neilson advised that this Item has been withdrawn and deferred to the next meeting on 31 July 2019.

Black Country Growth Hub Funding – DUDLEY BROWNFIELD LAND PHASE 1 (SEPPL56)

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated which is a Change Request to amend the scope and number of outputs to be delivered on the remaining undeveloped sites. This includes the Stewarts Road and Portway Close sites. The area of land remediated will increase from 0.16ha to 0.228ha and the number of units will be reduced from 16 to 14.

There will be no impact on delivery or timescales. There are also no plans to revisit the costs as the Council anticipate that one change will offset the other, albeit differing outputs.

Decision 19/0045

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land Phase 1 Project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.
- 2.2 This Change Request relates to a change in outputs.

Land and Property Investment Fund – DUDLEY BROWNFIELD LAND PHASE 2 (SEPPL36)
– CHANGE REQUEST

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated which explains that the application of grant funding was approved to support the remediation of 3.19 hectares of land across nine sites within the ownership of Dudley MBC to then deliver residential units. There will be an increase (by 3) in the number of housing units to be delivered which will not require any additional funding and timescales for delivery and drawdown of the grant funding will not be affected. In addition to the change in outputs and scope, it has been highlighted that a clerical error was made in submission of the reporting and approving of the Grant Award amount to the LEP board and Black Country Joint Committee in 2018. The funding amount requested by the applicant was £2,718,447, but the recommended and contracted amount is £2,711,111.

Decision 19/0046

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to the value of £2,711,111 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land Phase 2 – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2 This Change Request relates to change in scope.

Land and Property Investment Fund – APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTABLE BODY AND APPROVAL TO TRANSFER APPROVED PROJECTS

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated which explains that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) released its Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) report in July 2018, stating that 'LEP's will want to identify a Single Accountable Body (SAB) that is responsible for all LEP funding'.

Walsall Council had been appointed as Accountable Body for the City Deal Housing, Jobs and Prosperity Pilot, the Growth Deal and the BC LEP Core & Strategic Funds. Appointment of the Single Accountable Body for funds secured by the BC LEP, and directly allocated by the Government, will necessitate to transfer the functions from Sandwell MBC, Accountable Body for Growing Places Fund, and from Wolverhampton City Council, Accountable Body for BC Enterprise Zone. Discussions are due to take place and further clarifications on the arrangements and functions will be sought.

Decision 19/0047

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 endorse the appointment of Walsall Council as the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund Programme.
- 2.2 endorse the transfer of previously considered and approved LPIF projects by the Local Enterprise Partnership Board and the Joint Committee from Wolverhampton City Council to Walsall Council, and recommends Walsall Council proceed to enter into individual grant agreements (as listed in Appendix 1 of the report).

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 17 April 2019 – Private Session

Decision 19/0048

It was resolved that the notes of the Private Session meeting held on 17 April 2019 be confirmed as a true record.