

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 31 July 2019, 9.30am

Walsall Council Conference Room 3

PUBLIC MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC - Chair
Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC
Councillor Yvonne Davies, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Ian Brookfield,
Wolverhampton CC

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP (sub)

IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC
Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley MBC
David Stevens, Sandwell MBC
Tim Johnson, City of Wolverhampton

INVITED GUESTS

Lara Cragg,
The Black Country Consortium Ltd(sub)
Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

Apologies

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP
Sarah Middleton, BC Consortium Ltd

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 26 June 2019

Decision 19/0049

It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 26 June 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):

Decision 19/0050

Agreed that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of Agenda Item 7 - Black Country Local Growth Deal - Very Light Rail Programme Changes

Black Country Local Growth Deal – A34 Corridor Development Funding (SEPPL14) – Project Withdrawal

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated that explains the A34 Development project was approved at the March 2018 Black Country Joint Committee for a sum of £70,000 to be spent in the 2018/19 financial year. For the reasons contained in the report, following on from the approval of the project, it has been agreed that the WMCA will now fund the full scheme and this Development Funding is no longer required. This will create a further £70,000 capacity within the Transport element of the Growth Deal.

Cllr Bird referred to ongoing conversations with Sandwell and the CWG2022. He had made it clear that the consultation for removing the fly-over is flawed. From a Black Country point of view, there are many people that use the fly-over and if 4 to 5 projects on A34 will all be running at the same time Black Country residents will be disadvantaged.

Cllr Davies agreed and said there would be detrimental effect on residents and can only see that this will make it pretty but nothing else.

Decision 19/0051

It was resolved that the BCJC approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to terminate the existing Grant Agreement of £70,000 for the A34 Corridor Development Funding project from within the Growth Deal Programme

Black Country Local Growth Deal - Very Light Rail Programme Changes

Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session report

Decision 19/0052

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to terminate the existing Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies project and instructs the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to inform Dudley Council of the decision.

- 2.2 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into the appropriate Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies project - Development Phase, totalling £1,145,747, for works carried out during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 LGF programme periods.
- 2.3 notes the approval of the Black Country LEP Board held on 22 July 2019 as detailed in the Private report. An amendment was moved by Councillor Bird as Chair and duly approved in the Private Session