

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 12 February 2020 at 9.30am

To Be Held at Walsall Council House in Conference Room 3

PUBLIC 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)

NON VOTING MEMBERS

PRESENT

David Stevens, Sandwell MBC
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC

Tim Johnson, City of Wolverhampton

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country
Consortium Ltd
Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Dr Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Richard Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC
Stuart Everton, Black Country Director of
Transport

Apologies

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall
Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 4 December 2019

Decision 20/0001

It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 4 December 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. There are no items to be discussed in Private Session.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – BILSTON URBAN VILLAGE EAST SITE INVESTIGATION - PROJECT CHANGE REQUEST - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Richard Lawrence referred to the report previously circulated that details approval in November 2017 by the Black Country Executive Joint Committee of a grant for site investigation of £69,059. As part of the project closure process, the final costs were reviewed and there was a positive outcome of the Site Investigation, which resulted in reduced costs

and enabled the underspend to be returned to the LEP. The LEP funds were underspent by £10,834

Decision 20/0002

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 Wolverhampton City Council from £69,059 to £58,225 and revise leverage from £44,000 to £37,097, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Bilston Urban Village East Site Investigation project from within the Growth Deal Programme.

2.2 notes that there was a positive outcome of the Site Investigation which resulted in reduced costs and enabled the underspent to be returned to the LEP. The LEP funds were underspent by £10,834 and the applicant's leverage reduced by a further £6,903.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – CITY LEARNING QUARTER SITE INVESTIGATION - CHANGE REQUEST - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Richard Lawrence referred to the report previously circulated that is requesting additional funding for Site Investigation works at the Bilston Campus in order to continue design work for the new technical and engineering facility – rebranded CoWTECHC.

Decision 20/0003

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council for an additional £88,025 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the City Learning Quarter Site Investigation project with delivery in the 2019/20 financial year.

2.2 note that this additional funding request relates to the City of Wolverhampton Technical Centre (Bilston Campus) and is to be underwritten by Wolverhampton City Council. Any Site Investigation funding is considered revenue and is subject to standard clawback conditions, until such time as: an asset/main scheme is delivered on site, evidenced by either a built asset or by a fully funded approved Business Case in support of the main scheme.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – i9 WOLVERHAMPTON - PROJECT CHANGE REQUEST - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Richard Lawrence referred to the report previously circulated explaining that the proposed change is to amend the spend profile as detailed in the report to reflect the slippage in the construction related elements of the project – the overall Grant amount does not change. The project is confident that all eligible expenditure will be claimed before the Local Growth Fund deadline of March 2021.

Decision 20/0004

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 Projects Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the i9 Wolverhampton project from within the Growth Deal Programme.

2.2 notes that this change request relates to a revised financial spend profile.

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT - Request to approve the changes to the Black Country Collaboration Agreement

Simon Neilson referred to the report previously circulated explaining that this follows approval at the BCJC meeting in January 2019 for Walsall Council to become the Single Accountable Body for all funds received by the Black Country LEP. Amendments have now been made to the Collaboration Agreement and the Constitution and functions of the BCJC.

Decision 20/0005

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves the proposed amendments, as highlighted in yellow, to the Collaboration Agreement, included as Attachment 1 to this report, covering the widening of the scope of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, its roles and responsibilities, and the Constitution and Terms of Reference.

2.2. Note that this recommendation was approved at the following meetings:

- Dudley Council Cabinet on 6 January 2020
 - Sandwell Council Cabinet on 22 January 2020
 - Walsall Council Cabinet on 18 December 2019
 - BC LEP Board on 20 January 2020
 - City of Wolverhampton Council is due at Cabinet 19 February 2020
- (changes to the Collaboration Agreement were approved on 17 December 2019, however widening of the scope of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee and its roles and responsibilities are due for recommendation to Cabinet on 19 February 2020).

BLACK COUNTRY LEP ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - Approval of revised LEP Assurance Framework

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated which reflects the national changes that have been made to roles and responsibilities.

Decision 20/0006

It was resolved that the BCJC:

Approve the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework, following the implementation requirements of the new National Local Growth Assurance Framework, and the programme of continuous improvement to further enhance the Black Country LEP governance and transparency above and beyond published government standards, included as Attachment 1 to this report.