

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 9.30am

To be held via a Teams Virtual Meeting

PUBIC MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC
Councillor Maria Crompton, Sandwell MBC (sub)
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC (Chair)
Councillor Ian Brookfield, City of Wolverhampton

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Tom Westley, Black Country LEP

INVITED GUESTS

Paul Mountford, Dudley MBC
Dr Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Richard Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC
Lara Smith, Black Country Consortium Ltd

Councillor Bird welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting which was being held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Councillor Bird advised that the requirement for meetings to be quorate still applied and should the meeting become inquorate (less than 3) due to technological issues, then the meeting would be adjourned for a defined period to allow for reconnection.

Councillor Bird then asked each participant to confirm that they could see and hear proceedings.

Apologies

None.

Notes of Meeting held on 24 June 2020

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Decision 20/0035

Resolved (unanimously)

That the notes of the meeting held on 24 June 2020 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 20/0036

It was resolved:

The public be excluded from the private session during consideration of items 25 and 26.

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM :
FORGING AHEAD – Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement**

Lara Smith (supported by Paul Mountford) referred to the report previously circulated and explained since BCJC approval, the project commenced later than had been forecast due to a delay in receiving permission by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and initially being unsuccessful to award the contract. No further investigative works are required and as a result a Change Request has been submitted by the project manager due to the project concluding under budget, with a cost saving.

Decision 20/0037

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the project grant profile for the Black Country Living Museum to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Black Country Living Museum: Forging Ahead Project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

**Black Country Local Growth Deal - GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS
PROGRAMME- Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement**

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the amendment to the grant agreement was requested to capture the project's final expenditure and original output for commercial floorspace constructed from 13,041sqm to 5796sqm target.

Decision 20/0038

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors programme.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - HALESOWEN COLLEGE – BUSINESS AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CENTRE - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented the report supported by Paul Mountford. She explained that the BCJC was asked to agree to the re-profiled the in-year grant allocation (as described at 3.1 of the report) due to the impact of COVID 19 lockdown on construction and delays in furniture delivery.

Decision 20/0039

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for Halesowen College Corporation to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Halesowen College – Business and Construction Management Centre Project delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – HATHERTON STREET PHASE 2 - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented the report (supported by Simon Neilson). She said that the project had reported a delay in completion due to the impact of COVID-19 and the BCJC was asked to agree the re-profile of grant allocation as outlined at 3.1 of the report.

Decision 20/0040

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the Jessup Brothers Ltd to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hatherton Street Phase 2 Project delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – I9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith (supported by Richard Lawrence) referred to the report and said that due to delays in completing sewer works diversion and the impact of COVID-19, the BCJC was asked to agree the grant re-profile as outlined at paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Decision 20/0041

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the ION Projects Ltd to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the I9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton Project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – MILL LANE BRIDGE AND ALDRIDGE LINE AQUEDUCT GRIP 2-3 STUDY - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented this item supported by Simon Neilson. She explained that the project had reported a change in work packages and commissioning which had created a slippage in expenditure. The BCJC was there asked to agree to the re-profile of in-year allocation as outlined at 3.2 of the report.

Decision 20/0042

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the Walsall Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Mill Lane Bridge and Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 2 – 3 Study Project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - NARROWBOAT WAY SITE INVESTIGATION - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented the report supported by Paul Mountford. She explained that the site investigation had identified a number of challenges for the site which required a further site investigation to determine the underlying issues with the site and create a suitable remediation strategy to take forward. This work was now complete and as the investigative works came within budget, there was a small underspend of the LPIF grant.

Decision 20/0043

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was

Resolved (unanimously) that:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Blackacres Properties Ltd to deliver the Land and Property

Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Narrowboat Way Site Investigation Project.

2.2 The approval of a project underspend of £6,402.18.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - NATIONAL BROWNFIELD LAND INSTITUTE SEED FUNDING Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented the report supported by Richard Lawrence. She requested that the BCJC approve the re-profile of the grant in-year allocation as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report which had resulted in a slippage of 2019-20 claimed expenditure into 2020-21 expenditure. This would assist the 2019-20 over programming.

Decision 20/0044

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the 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 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - PHOENIX 10 PHASE 1 - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith supported by Simon Neilson and explained that BCJC was requested to agree to re-profile the grant in-year allocation as outlined at paragraph 3.2 of the report. This re-profile was due to the contract being finalised with the contractor. It was noted that further expenditure would be incurred in 2020/21.

Councillor Bird said that it had taken many years to develop this complex project and thanked all officers involved in progressing it to this stage.

Decision 20/0045

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for Walsall Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Phoenix 10 Phase 1 project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - SANDWELL AQUATIC CENTRE INFRASTRUCTURE PHASE 1 - Grant Agreement approval

Decision 20/0046

This report was presented in private session and a decision was made following consideration of the confidential information.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - SPRINGFIELD CAMPUS PHASE 1 INFRASTRUCTURE AND REMEDIATION - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith supported by Richard Lawrence presented this report. She explained that this project required a re-profile to due slippage of the 2019-20 claimed expenditure into the 2020-21 financial year as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report. This re-profile in turn would assist with the management of the 2019-20 Growth Deal programme.

Councillor Brookfield said that this was an excellent facility for the region and nationally. Councillor Bird agreed and said the injection of capital into the listed building was excellent news for the University.

Decision 20/0047

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the University of Wolverhampton to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Springfield Campus Phase 1 Infrastructure and Remediation Project delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - TRANSPORT MAJOR ROUTE NETWORK (MRN) DEVELOPMENT FUNDING - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented this item supported by Richard Lawrence. She explained that to enable the project to be completed and payments made to contractors, BCJC was requested to agree slippage of funding into 2020/21 as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Decision 20/0048

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was: Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Transport Major Route Network (MRN) Development Funding Project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - ULTRA LOW EMISSION VEHICLES TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented this report supported by Richard Lawrence. She said that the project had experienced delays in the execution of the grant agreement which had resulted in delays for the onset of works. This in turn will impact on the delivery timeframes of the programmed milestones. Therefore BCJC was asked to agree the re-profile the grant in year allocation as outlined at paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Decision 20/0049

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Ultra Low Emission Vehicles Transport Development Funding Project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - HUB TO HOME TRANSPORT INNOVATION CENTRE AND TEST TRACK PROJECT: VERY LIGHT RAIL AND AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGIES – TEST TRACK – PROJECT CHANGE REQUEST - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented the report supported by Paul Mountford. She said that the BCJC was requested to agree the re-profile of the grant for 2019-20 into 2020-21 as outlined in paragraph 3.2 which would be in line with the project's current cashflow.

Councillor Bird said that he had recently attended a presentation on this project which and been very informative and he recognized the benefits of this new technology for the future.

Decision 20/0050

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the 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 – Test Track project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal - GROWING THE CITY CENTRE, CULTURAL AND BUSINESS EVENTS OFFER - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith supported by Richard Lawrence referred to the previously circulated report. She explained that due to the delay with the opening of the Civic Hall, the BCJC was requested to agree the re-profile output achievement date and reduction in the Learner Assists output target as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Decision 20/0051

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing the City Centre Cultural and Business Events project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT – Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith presented the report supported by Richard Lawrence. She explained that this project required a re-profile to due slippage of the 2019-20 claimed expenditure into the 2020-21 financial year as outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report. This re-profile in turn would assist with the management of the 2019-20 Growth Deal programme.

Decision 20/0052

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves the changes to the grant profile for the 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 2020/21 financial year.

Delegated Authority Decision - Black Country Local Growth Deal - HATHERTON STREET PHASE 2 - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement for Noting

Simon Neilson presented the report regarding the decision he had undertaken under Delegated Authority to grant a re-profile request for this project as outlined at paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Decision 20/0053

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee note that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of the Chair of the Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Jessup Brothers Ltd to reprofile the grant award, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hatherton Street Phase 2 Project - with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. Approval of this change was achieved by the BC LEP Board on 15th May 2020 (Ref No: 69/20).

Delegated Authority Decision - Black Country Local Growth Deal - WOODS LANE PHASE 2 - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement For Noting

Simon Neilson presented the report regarding the decision he had undertaken under Delegated Authority to grant a re-profile request for this project as outlined at paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Decision 20/0054

Resolved (unanimously)

That the Joint Committee note that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of the Chair of the Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Vistry Partnerships Limited to reprofile the grant award, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Woods Lane Phase 2 Project - with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. Approval of this change was achieved by the BC LEP Board on 15th May 2020 (Ref No: 69/20).

LOCAL GROWTH DEAL PROGRAMME - APPROVAL OF THE 2019/20 YEAR END SPEND

Sarah Middleton presented to the BCJC the expenditure and output profiles for the Growth Deal projects for 2019/20. She explained that the report details the position of all Growth Deal projects and the final year position as outlined at paragraph 3.3 together with the output targets at paragraph 3.6. Sarah Middleton added that the spend target for 2019/20 had been achieved with a final figure of £24.10m.

Decision 20/0055

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves of the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and to maximise the 2019/2020 Growth Deal allocation expenditure for various changes, as detailed in Attachment 1 of the report.

PRIVATE SESSION

(Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))

Councillor Bird asked each person in attendance to ensure and verbally declare that there were no other persons present who were not entitled to be either hear or see the proceedings.

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 24 June 2020 – Private Session

Decision 20/0056

Councillor Bird moved that the recommendation which was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously)

That the Private Session notes of the meeting held on 24 June 2020 be confirmed as a true record.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – SANDWELL AQUATIC CENTRE INFRASTRUCTURE PHASE 1 – Grant Agreement Approval

Lara Smith presented the report supported by Alison Knight. She explained that the BCJC was asked to approve a grant to assist the delivery of highways works to enable the delivery of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre. The details of each highway project is detailed at paragraph 3.3 of the report.

Decision 20/0057

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations which were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Joint Committee approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council for a sum detailed in the Private report to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre Infrastructure Phase 1 project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.