

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 10am

To be held via a Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Maria Crompton, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall MBC
(Sub)
Councillor Ian Brookfield, City of
Wolverhampton (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Martin, Dudley MBC (sub)
David Stevens, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC (sub)
Tim Johnson, City of Wolverhampton

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country
Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Tom Westley, Black Country LEP

INVITED GUESTS

Richard Lawrence, City of Wolverhampton
Stuart Everton, Black Country Director for
Transport
Lara Smith, Black Country Consortium Ltd

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

Apologies

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC
Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC
Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley MBC
Alison Knight

Notes of Meeting held on 29 July 2020

Decision 20/0058

Councillor Brookfield 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 notes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020 be confirmed as a true record.

Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting

None.

Declarations of Interest

Tom Westley declared that he is currently a Governor of Dudley College Institute of Technology and therefore would not participate in any discussion on that item.

Decision 20/0059

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

It was resolved:

The public be excluded from the private session during consideration of items 14 to 17.

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

Constitution and Timetable of Meetings 2020/21

Simon Neilson referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the report sets out the amendments made to the Constitution and Protocols of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee to reflect the changes agreed at its meetings on 12 February 2020 and 24 June 2020. The report also includes the Forward Plan publication dates and the timetable of meetings to be adopted for the municipal year 2020/21.

Decision 20/0060

Councillor Brookfield 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:

- 2.1 Note the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Constitution (Appendix A) has now been updated (highlighted in yellow) to reflect the changes agreed at its meeting on 12 February 2020 and 24 June 2020 regarding:
- i. widening of the scope of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee In particular with regard to making decisions in relation to the approval of all Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership funding applications, together with submissions for all external funding on behalf of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and Collaboration Agreement partners.
 - ii. that the Head of the Programme Management Office at the Black Country Consortium Ltd will author and present all of the reports regarding funding at meetings of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee supported by the relevant Head of Regeneration/Senior Responsible Officer from the Local Authority.
 - iii. that information on the Benefit Cost Ratio (Value for Money) will be included in all future funding reports to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee.
 - iv. that the report Consultation process is undertaken by the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) / Sponsoring Senior Responsible Officer (SSRO).

- v. the Chair of the Heads of Regeneration Working Group job title has changed to Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities and the delegation referred to in the Constitution has been updated and also now includes authority to Approve an immaterial change.
- 2.2 Note the Protocols have now been updated and include updated templates for Reports and Consultation Sheets. (Appendix B).
- 2.3 Approve the Forward Plan publication dates for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix C of the report.
- 2.4 Approve the Timetable of meetings for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix D of the report.
- 2.5 Note that due to Government Regulations the AGM has been postponed until after the Local Elections take place in 2021 and therefore the current Chair, Cllr Mike Bird and Vice-Chair, Cllr Ian Brookfield remain until the AGM is convened.
- 2.6 Approve that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee meeting should continue to meet virtually until such time that it is considered that physical meetings can convene safely in line with Government guidance or that existing Regulations cease to apply.
- 2.7 Approve deleting from YouTube the Live Stream recordings of the meetings after a 6 month period.

Get Britain Building Fund - GET BRITAIN BUILDING PROGRAMME APPROVAL

Lara Smith (supported by Simon Neilson) referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the report request that Walsall Council as Accountable Body administer all elements of the Get Britain Building Fund (GBBF) on behalf of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP).

Decision 20/0061

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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 Subject to confirmation from West Midlands Combined Authority that the funding has been achieved from BEIS, the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to manage the Get Britain Building Fund and all associated elements of this fund, on behalf of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – HUB TO HOME TRANSPORT INNOVATIONS CENTRE AND TEST TRACK PROJECT: VERY LIGHT RAIL AND AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGIES – TEST TRACK PROJECT

Decision 20/0062

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

BCJC 30-9-20 Minutes

Black Country Local Growth Deal – ADVANCED SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Lara Smith (supported by Helen Martin) referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the Advanced Science, Engineering and Technology Centre project was approved in 2015 and is the creation of a centre based at the Coombs Wood Business Park, offering a variety of learning pathways. The applicant, Halesowen College provided the premises as the basis for refurbishment with assistance from the BC LEP to complete the facility. The funding has been spent and claimed but following the recent Monitoring, Compliance and Audit Visit, the output of 'Follow on Investment' was discussed. It was agreed that it would be very difficult to evidence it and it should be removed from the project and the grant agreement however the project is still good Value for Money.

Decision 20/0063

Councillor Brookfield 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:

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Local Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Halesowen College to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Advanced Science, Engineering & Technology Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.2 Notes that this change request relates to the removal of the Follow-on Investment output.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – WOLVERHAMPTON INTERCHANGE PROJECT - CHANGE REQUEST

Lara Smith (supported by Richard Lawrence) referred to the report previously circulated and explained that Since the original bid was approved by the LEP Board, a number of challenges to the programme and its costs have arisen, which is expected for a project of this scale. This has affected the ability to deliver the outputs as anticipated and agreed in 2014. Lara confirmed that this is a very successful project that will be completed early next year however some of the commercial outputs associated with the site need to be removed.

Decision 20/0064

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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:

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Local 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 Wolverhampton Interchange Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.2 Note that this change request relates to the changes in outputs.

Black Country Growth Hub – GROWTH HUB ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Lara Smith (supported by Simon Neilson) referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the request was to amend the Growth Hub Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Programme to include the additional award of £134,000 from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. A breakdown setting out what the additional funding will be spent on is contained within the report.

Decision 20/0065

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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 Black Country Growth Hub (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing grant agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd for the additional award of £134,000 from Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to fund the Black Country Growth Hub from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Delegated Authority Decision - Black Country Local Growth Deal - NATIONAL BROWNFIELD INSTITUTE SEED FUNDING – PROJECT NAME CHANGE REQUEST

Simon Neilson referred to the report previously circulated for noting and explained that the change request was for an immaterial change to the name of the project.

Decision 20/0066

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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, Environment and Communities within Walsall Council in his role of the Chair of the Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve an immaterial change to the project name from National Brownfield Institute SEED Funding to National Brownfield Institute Phase 1 – Development Project.

Black Country Transport Team – Governance Arrangements

Stuart Everton referred to the report previously circulated and advised that this was an update regarding the creation of a Black Country Transport Team. The report explains the discussions that have taken place with the four Local Authorities and the Black Country LEP

Decision 20/0067

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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:

2.1 note that the Black Country Director for Transport will co-ordinate the work for a new Collaboration Agreement between the four Local Authorities, to create a Black Country

Transport Team hosted by City of Wolverhampton Council. Approval of the Collaboration Agreement will be sought from each of the four Local Authority Cabinets by the end of December 2020.

- 2.2 note that the Black Country Director for Transport will continue to work with key officers across the four Black Country Local Authorities on governance proposals for schemes that will be developed by the Black Country Transport Team. These Governance proposals will be reported to the Joint Committee in December for approval.
- 2.3 approves in principle, (subject to the Governance being approved by the Joint Committee in December 2020) the proposal for the Black Country Executive Joint Committee to be the decision maker on selected Transport Strategy and Policy issues alongside development of future major transport schemes.

PRIVATE SESSION

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

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

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 29 July 2020 – Private Session

Decision 20/0068

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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 Private Session notes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020 be confirmed as a true record

Get Britain Building Fund – NATIONAL BROWNFIELD INSTITUTE PHASE 2 – CONSTRUCTION AND DELIVERY PROJECT

Lara Smith (supported by Richard Lawrence) referred to the report previously circulated.

Decision 20/0069

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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) following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session report, that:

Subject to confirmation from West Midlands Combined Authority that the funding has been achieved from BEIS, the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Get Britain Building Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to entering a Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton for a sum detailed in the Private report to deliver the Get Britain Building

Fund (GBBF) funded elements of the National Brownfield Institute Phase 2 - Construction and Delivery project, with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.

Get Britain Building Fund – HUB TO HOME TRANSPORT INNOVATION CENTRE AND TEST TRACK PROJECT: VERY LIGHT RAIL AND AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGIES – NATIONAL INNOVATION CENTRE PROJECT

Lara Smith (supported by Helen Martin) referred to the report previously circulated.

Decision 20/0070

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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) following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session report, that:

Subject to confirmation from West Midlands Combined Authority that the funding has been achieved from BEIS, the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Get Britain Building Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council for a sum detailed in the Private report to deliver the Get Britain Building Fund (GBBF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Innovation Centre project. Delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – HUB TO HOME TRANSPORT INNOVATIONS CENTRE AND TEST TRACK PROJECT: VERY LIGHT RAIL AND AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGIES – TEST TRACK PROJECT

Lara Smith (supported by Helen Martin) referred to the report previously circulated.

Decision 20/0071

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that 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) following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session report, that:

the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Local Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council for a sum detailed in the Private report 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.