

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**Wednesday 12 February 2020, 9.30am**

To Be Held at:

Walsall Council
Conference Room 3**DRAFT 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

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1. **Apologies**
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall
Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley
 2. **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 4 December 2019**

20/0001 It was resolved that:
The notes of the meeting held on 4 December 2019 be confirmed as a true record.
 3. **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting**

None.
 4. **Declarations of Interest**

None
 5. **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.
 6. **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

ITEM 2

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

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.

7. **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.

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.

8. **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.

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.

9. **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.

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).

10. **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.

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.



REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Growing Places Fund

DAISY BANK SITE INVESTIGATION - PROJECT CHANGE REQUEST

Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approves the change request for the Daisy Bank Site Investigation project, from within the Growing Places Fund Programme.
- 1.2 This Change Request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 8 January 2020 via email, approved by the LEP Board on 20 January 2020 (Minutes Ref: 8/19) and endorsed by the Working Group on 13 February 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed via email on the 20 March 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to **proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council** for the Growing Places Fund funded elements of the Daisy Bank Site Investigation project.
- 2.2 Notes that there was a positive outcome of an underspend on the Site Investigation. The LEP funds were underspent by £3,005 and the applicant's leverage reduced by a further £5,563.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 Daisy Bank, as the whole site is known, contains a former Victorian school building latterly used as a community centre. The building is now derelict and the other part of the site was formerly occupied by a junior school, is now demolished. The site is generally overgrown and is prone to anti-social behaviours such as fly tipping. It is proposed that the site be developed with housing by WV Living, the Council’s wholly owned development company.
- 3.2 This bid supports the ambition to build 1000 plus new homes and Wolverhampton City Council’s own ambitions to increase the number of homes and choice of housing tenure in the borough. If WV Living do not develop the site, with the assistance of this grant, it is likely to remain as brownfield as the site issues below make it unattractive to private developers. Reclaiming this site will enable up to 24 new homes to be built, for market sale and affordable rent, dependent upon size and layout and standoff zones. The development will bring a longstanding vacant site back into use.
- 3.3 The site investigation has now been completed and copies can be provided on request. The request for grant funding was approved by the LEP board in April 2019 with the below spend profile:

Funding Breakdown	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
LEP Funding	£0	£13,107.50	£0	£13,107.50

- 3.4 Since the project approval, the Site Investigation has progressed well with the initial findings submitted to the PMO in December 2019. 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. The final costs to the project are detailed below:

Funding Breakdown	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
LEP Funding	£0	£10,101.62	£0	£10,101.62
Applicant’s Own Funds	£0	£4,329.27	£0	£4,329.27
TOTAL	£0	£14,430.89	£0	£14,430.89

- 3.5 As Site Investigation and development costs are essentially revenue costs, a capital asset will be required in the near future, in this case the anticipated new housing units. The Programme Management Office and the Single Accountable Body will monitor the development of the capital scheme.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the Growing Places Fund programme and will be covered by allocations from Government associated with this programme.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement is in place and will be varied by the Single Accountable Body and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of writing.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Ward Member regarding the redevelopment of the Daisy Bank site. Further consultation will be held and include neighbouring residential properties, once designs are further progressed.

8.2 Legal and Finance Officers at City of Wolverhampton Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documentation can be provided on request:

- Daisy Bank Change Request;
- January 2020 FSG paper.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Growing Places Fund

**WOLVERHAMPTON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE SITE INVESTIGATION - PROJECT CHANGE
REQUEST**

Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approves the change request for the Wolverhampton Environment Centre Site Investigation project from within the Growing Places Fund Programme.
- 1.2 This Change Request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 8 January 2020 via email, approved by the LEP Board on 20 January 2020 (Minutes Ref: 9/20) and endorsed by the Working Group on 23 January 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed via email on 20 March 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to **proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council** for the Growing Places funded elements of the Wolverhampton Environment Centre Site Investigation project.
- 2.2 Notes that there was a positive outcome of an underspend on the Site Investigation. The LEP funds were underspent by £2,323 and the applicant's leverage reduced by a further £995.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 This site lies within the larger Wolverhampton Environment Centre (WEC) and is under the ownership of Wolverhampton City Council. The development site sits wholly within the area previously occupied by glasshouses, ancillary buildings and bungalow. The area outside the development site has received planning permission for a change of use to public open space/nature reserve whilst the area for development has agreed outline planning permission.
- 3.2 Earlier research suggests that this is a relatively “clean” site for the area, with no known or obvious abnormalities. However, given that it stands on the edge of the Black Country, an intrusive site investigation into the development area is considered prudent. The site has recently undergone an exercise to trap and relocate Great Crested Newts. This will be followed by demolition of the glasshouses, ancillary buildings and bungalow as well as an architect being appointed to begin design work for the scheme. It is estimated that, following public consultation, this development will commence in mid-2019, dependent upon the findings of the site investigation and other surveys.
- 3.3 Consultation with the local community has led to the agreement that this 1.87 acre site will be developed with 14 new family homes, specifically aimed at local families. These new housing units will be 2 storey units and will be built to complement the locale. This development will bring an otherwise derelict site back into use and contribute another 14 units of market sale homes. This contributes to the ambition to build 1000 plus homes and Wolverhampton City Council’s own ambitions to increase both numbers and choice of tenure.
- 3.4 The site investigation has now been completed and copies can be provided on request. The request for grant funding was approved by the LEP Board in April 2019 with the below spend profile:

Funding Breakdown	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
LEP Funding	£0	£7,421.26	£0	£7,421.26

- 3.5 Since the project approval the Site Investigation has progressed well with the initial findings submitted to the PMO in December 2019. No further investigative works are required and as a result a Change Request has been submitted by the project manager as the project has been concluded under budget, with a cost saving. The final costs to the project are detailed below:

Funding Breakdown	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
LEP Funding	£0	£5,097.58	£0	£5,097.58
Applicant’s Own Funds	£0	£2,184.68	£0	£2,184.68
TOTAL	£0	£7,282.26	£0	£7,282.26

As Site Investigation and development costs are essentially revenue costs, a capital asset will be required in the near future, in this case the anticipated new housing units. The Programme Management Office and the Single Accountable Body will monitor the development of the capital scheme.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the Growing Places Fund programme and will be covered by allocations from Government associated with this programme.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement is in place and will be varied by the Single Accountable Body and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are none at the time of writing

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Legal and Finance Officers at City of Wolverhampton Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

8.2 Extensive consultation regarding the development of the WEC has taken place with Ward Members, the general public and other interested bodies.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- Wolverhampton Environment Centre SI - Change Request;
- January 2020 FSG paper.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Growing Places Fund

WM5G PROJECT BLACK COUNTRY LEP DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION

Grant Agreement Approval

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated Private report and its recommendations.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve the WM5G Project – Black Country LEP Development Contribution, from within the Growing Places Fund Programme.
- 1.3 This project was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on 1 April 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 20 April 2020 (Decision 60/20) and endorsed by the Working Group on 14 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement with WM5G Ltd for a sum detailed in the Private report** to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF), funded elements of the WM5G Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.2 That the Joint Committee notes that this contribution is to be funded from the Broadband Gainshare element of the Growing Places Fund Programme.

3. REPORT DETAIL

WM5G Black Country LEP Development Contribution

- 3.1 The WMCA has successfully bid for regional 5G test bed status as part of the Government's Urban Connected Cities (UCC) programme, which is a DCMS-led programme to accelerate the deployment of 5G next-generation mobile connectivity in the UK.
- 3.2 The aim of the DCMS 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme is to develop ways to accelerate the deployment of 5G in the UK, and to support industry and public services to exploit the potential benefits of 5G connectivity to improve productivity growth. 5G has the potential to support new products and services. A key requirement of the DCMS 5G programme is that the market delivers these innovations, by investing private resources to match the public investment.
- 3.3 For the past 12 months, the Black Country has been developing its proposed testbed, which focused on the Construction Sector. A steering group comprising of Local Body colleagues and the University of Wolverhampton was been set up. The Black Country proposal had been refined, and was submitted to DCMS and WM5G. Currently, the construction testbed is not featured to be further developed. Feedback from WM5G has been requested as to the reasons why.
- 3.4 Due to recent changes, as listed below, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) are now observers on the WM5G board, which has been useful to have sight, and to exercise influence and understanding around the development of the various testbeds and accelerators.

Support from the WM5G

- 3.5 WM5G was the independent limited company that was set up to deliver the West Midlands 5G testbed. WM5G's purpose is to demonstrate the value of 5G technology across a number of market verticals in an urban environment. WM5G are utilising fifth generation mobile technology to make a real and positive difference to the people and businesses of the West Midlands by increasing productivity, accelerating digital adoption and improving public services.
- 3.6 WM5G operates a number of testbeds and accelerative initiatives to deliver a wide range of use cases and ideas to support our vision for the West Midlands. The current testbeds include Citizen Wellbeing (health & social care), Mobility and Industry 4.0; and will allow participants to drive innovation and instigate sector reform.
- 3.7 WM5G acts as a convener, encouraging market participation and driving investment into 5G technologies. This can only be achieved by aligning the interests of the technology players (data platforms, security, etc.), market players (SMEs, global businesses, systems integrators, etc.) and users (the public/citizens).
- 3.8 Ultimately, WM5G is accelerating the adoption of 5G technology to bring opportunities and improvements to the West Midlands and across the UK. The aim is to show the way

- by creating a digital hub, services for citizens and businesses and creating prosperity and growth for the region.

Funding Request from WM5G

3.9 The mobilisation phase for WM5G has involved a number of steps, including:

- Developing a PID;
- Project planning;
- Developing project strategy;
- Developing long term plans;
- Developing work packages and stakeholder engagement;
- Developing the financial plan;
- Developing the different testbeds and accelerators.

Other Testbed Updates

3.10 *Citizen Wellbeing Testbed* has been progressing well, it has already had a showcase event looking at a use-case from the testbed involving a connected ambulance.

3.11 *Mobility testbed* – this is currently being developed as part of the CWLEP testbed. The initial focus is looking at using a 5G enabled data collection to provide a constant understanding of the traffic network. The granular level data generated will help towards enhanced traffic management for optimum traffic flows. Other use-cases will look at using sensors to help with activity in the highways, with the aim on minimising digging up the street.

3.12 *Application Accelerator* - Birmingham City University held a pop-up demonstrator for the 'Application Accelerator' (AA) testbed in September. The 3-day event provided colleagues with an insight into the type of innovations that 5G technology will be able to accelerate in the region. The event was heavily published on social media, and many political leaders attended. The contract opportunity for the full application accelerator was recently put out for tender. Colleagues from the 3 LEP's have been working with WM5G to help them develop an ERDF funding application for the AA. As many of the outputs will be similar to an ERDF project (business assists). The current ERDF funding call (deadline 30 September) provides a timely opportunity for WM5G to seek the public sector (LEP) funding commitment from ERDF funding.

3.13 *Infrastructure Accelerator (IA)* - has been working with Local Authorities (LA's) across the 7 MET region. The barrier busting team that forms the bedrock of the IA, has been claiming support and assistance that it is providing to LA's around the new electronic communication code, and other activity around removing barriers that stop the deployment of 5G masts. WM5G is seeking 'sizable' funding for the continued work of the IA from partners.

In summary key points for the Black Country are as follows:

- There have been major changes to the funding model for the UCC 5G project. WM5G have removed the requirement for LEP's to provide funding towards the actual testbeds. This was previously in the millions for the LEP's. They have proposed asking WMCA for this funding.
- LEP's are now observers on the WM5G board, which has been useful to have sight, and to exercise influence and understanding around the development of the various testbeds and accelerators.
- The only tangible outcomes that the Black Country will receive for this funding contribution, are the mobilisation documents (business case documentation to take the scheme forward) from the mobilisation activity for the 5G project.
- There is an initial gainshare payment from the BDUK / BT superfast broadband project (that was originally funded from the Growing Places Fund programme) that is due to be repaid back in regular payments once the project is brought to a formal closure – which is expected during July – Sep 2020. There is a requirement to reinvestment these funds into further Digital Projects.
- The BCLEP 5G contribution will be funded from the gainshare payment, once this payment is received by the Single Accountable Body.

4. BENEFITS COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Benefit-cost ratios (BCRs) are utilised in capital budgeting to analyse the overall value for money of undertaking a new project. It is an indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed project, expressed in monetary or qualitative terms. For the purposes of BC LEP funding, the Economic Intelligence Unit has developed the formula, deployed by the Programme Management office, to identify the BCR for a project requiring public sector funding. The threshold for any project that has been assessed, is 1.5 and would be considered 'good value for money' should this threshold be exceeded. The BCR calculation however does not take into consideration the Strategic fit and proposition of a project.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the Growing Places Fund programme and will be covered by allocations from Government associated with this programme.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement will be in place and will be utilised by the Single Accountable Body and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

Legal and finance officers at Walsall Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following background papers can be provided on request:

- April 20 Funding Sub Group Paper GPF Report v1.0;
- GPF Project Approval Recommendation – WM5G Project.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

**Land and Property Investment Fund
IRON PARK MOXLEY**

Grant Agreement Approval

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated Private report and its recommendations.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approves the Iron Park Moxley Project from within the Land and Property Investment Fund programme.
- 1.3 This project was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on 6 May 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 18 May 2020 (Decision Ref: 79/20) and endorsed by the Working Group via email on 25 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement with Parkhill Estates Ltd for £6,500,000** to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Iron Park Moxley Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.2 Note the funding sum of £6,500,000 has been requested to be re-allocated to this project from the Phoenix 10 project LPIF allocation.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The former Moxley Tip site is in a highly accessible location immediately adjacent to the Black Country New Road ('New Road') and Black Country Route, and has direct access within 2 miles to M6 J10. Similarly, there is direct access to M5 J1 within 6 miles via the A41. This central location within the UK motorway network means the site can offer easy access to companies within the Midlands. The full 'Iron Park' project site extends to 11.26 ha of which only 0.11 ha are occupied and in use as an MOT testing centre. Some 10.12 ha comprising the former Moxley Tip is owned by Parkhill Estates and is vacant.
- 3.2 The applicant, Parkhill Estates Ltd, submitted a Full Business Case (FBC) for the remediation of its 10.40 ha landholding comprising of the former Moxley Tip (including 0.89 ha of land to be acquired from three landowners by private treaty and backed by a proposed Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to be made by Walsall Council) for the subsequent construction of an estimated 45,360 sq. m of high quality industrial, logistics and manufacturing floorspace by Autumn 2021.
- 3.3 The development is expected to form a single 440,000 sq.ft building and a separate 25,000 sq.ft building for a Trade Counter outlet, together with vehicle parking, landscaping and signalised road to provide access and egress from the A4038 Moxley Road.
- 3.4 Occupiers are to be sought for the built space, and pre-letting agreements are required by the applicant before the single remediation and building contract is executed. Parkhill Estates Ltd proposes to sell the built development leasehold interests (and freehold land) to institutional investors with an on-site management company set up to manage common areas (including site roads, paths and lighting).
- 3.5 Outputs to be delivered are in the table below:

<u>Output</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Land remediated	11.26 ha
Commercial floorspace	43,664 sq.m
Jobs created	900
Jobs safeguarded	50
Businesses assisted	2
Businesses created	2

- 3.6 The applicant commissioned Savills to produce a review on benefits in an 'Economic Benefits Assessment' report in October 2018, that concluded that overall, the proposed scheme is expected to generate:

- 220 jobs during construction;
- 1,030 jobs during operation (compared to 3 jobs currently on-site);
- £57 million per annum in GVA to the economy;
- Cumulative income to local government (from Business Rates) over 20 years of £9.4 million.

The impact of the once completed Iron Park scheme on the Regional economy is therefore assessed as very positive.

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Benefit-cost ratios (BCRs) are utilised in capital budgeting to analyse the overall value for money (VfM) of undertaking a new project. It is an indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed project, expressed in monetary or qualitative terms. For the purposes of BC LEP funding, the Economic Intelligence Unit has developed the formula, deployed by the Programme Management Office, to identify the BCR for a project requiring public sector funding. The threshold for any project that has been assessed, is 1.5 and would be considered 'good value for money' should this threshold be exceeded. For transport related schemes, the main metric considered for the BCR is reduced transport journeys, any transport schemes seeking LEP funding will require a BCR higher than 2 in order to demonstrate high VfM. The BCR calculation however does not take into consideration the strategic fit and proposition of a project – this is considered as part of the project assessment against the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan and associated frameworks.

Project Name:	Iron Park Moxley
BCR calculation:	14.22 > 1.5
Project Additionality / Strategic Fit	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This site is strategic priority for the Local Authority and the West Midlands wider region• The project will stimulate market activity and interest in this area• Aligns with the LPIF objectives of bringing derelict/vacant sites back into economic use	

**1.5 being the threshold indicator for a VfM project*

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LPIF programme and will be covered by allocations from WMCA associated with this programme.
- 5.2 In the event that the scheme does not complete and outputs are not achieved, but grant has been paid to the applicant, the Accountable Body reserves the right to claw back grant from the applicant. This will be covered by provisions in the Grant Agreement relating to claw back, plus additional security will need to be provided by the applicant, in the form of a legal charge, performance bond or charge over bank account.

- 5.3 The form of security and financial vetting of the applicant will form part of the due diligence process, prior to signing of the grant agreement.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement will be place and will be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with West Midlands Combined Authority and put into place by the LEP Board and Black Country Joint Committee.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

Legal and Finance officers at Walsall Council were consulted in the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- LPIF Project Approval Recommendation – Iron Moxley Park.
- May 2020 LPIF Report v1.0.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Land and Property Investment Fund
PHOENIX 10 - CHANGE REQUEST

Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated Private report and its recommendations.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve the Change Request for the Phoenix 10 project, from within the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) programme.
- 1.3 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 4 March 2020, endorsed in principle by the Working Group on 9 April 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 20 April 2020 (Decision Ref: 55/20) and ratified by the Working Group on the 14 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the change request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to **proceed to amend an Internal Agreement with Walsall Council** to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Phoenix 10 Project.
- 2.2 Approve a reduction in LPIF funds to the value of £6,500,000, already awarded to the Phoenix 10 project, to be reallocated to the Iron Park, Moxley scheme.

- 2.3 Approve that future business rates generated from Phoenix 10 can be utilised by Walsall Council to recover their borrowing costs (capital payments plus interest) associated with funding in line with the financial model.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Phoenix 10 site in Walsall is the largest employment site in the Black Country and one of the largest brownfield employment opportunities in the West Midlands. It is part of the Black Country Enterprise Zone (BCEZ) and is located near to significant investments that the Black Country LEP (BC LEP) and its partners are making in new transport infrastructure. This includes the M6 Junction 10 improvements and the re-opening of the Walsall to Wolverhampton passenger rail line, which includes a dedicated railway station at Darlaston. This station will serve the BCEZ sites in Walsall and link the area to Birmingham with a commuter time of under 20 minutes. The WMCA and the BC LEP are supporting this through funding towards re-opening of the rail line including the acquisition of land for the station at Darlaston, working closely with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and other key partners including Network Rail.
- 3.2 On the 26 September 2018, the Black Country Joint Committee (BCJC) approved a Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) award for the Phoenix 10 project, conditional upon due diligence being completed.
- 3.3 The BCEZ has the ability to provide significant industrial floor space as well as providing a flagship location for inward investment. The successful remediation and development of the Phoenix 10 site will generate major benefits while also acting as a catalyst for further investment in the wider area. The landowners, Walsall Council and Homes England (HE), have selected Henry Boot Developments Ltd (HBD) as their development partner following an OJEU compliant procurement process.
- 3.4 Funding Phoenix 10 from LPIF will release value back to the BC LEP through the retained BCEZ business rates receipts which can subsequently be re-invested in key priorities. Whilst the value of these receipts is considered to be significant over the longer term, precise details about the specific investments which this income will fund, are currently under review as part of the Black Country pipeline.
- 3.5 Following the site remediation, the output from the Phoenix 10 scheme is anticipated as:

- 18ha of remediated land.

With the outcomes as:

- 57,575 sq. m. of floor space (comprising of 7 units);
- 1,100 full-time jobs;
- 1,000 temporary construction jobs.

- 3.6 The direct output is remediated land while all the other impacts listed above are outcomes. It should be noted that the outcomes are indicative as this stage and the scale of these will ultimately be determined by the specific occupiers that are attracted to the site.
- 3.7 The BC LEP will see a return on its investment in the Phoenix 10 project through the retained business rates that will be generated from occupation of the completed development. It was agreed at the September 2019 BCJC to share the future business rate surplus (over and above recovery of borrowing costs) generated, with HE in proportion to their investment in the project. It was agreed that should a business rate surplus be generated from the Phoenix 10 site, only at the expiry of the BCEZ on 31 March 2038, then this surplus is to be split between HE and the BC LEP proportionally to final investment in the project.
- 3.8 Previous reports noted that the grant application related to a high-level cost estimate and that actual costs will only be established when HBD has appointed a remediation contractor. Based on the current investment figures BC LEP is providing 79% of the overall cost, while HE's contribution amounts to 21%, but the final split can only be calculated once final investment in the project is known. It should be noted that HE is committed to providing £9.6m to the project regardless of the total investment provided by the BC LEP and will not seek to reduce this contribution should the contractors cost be below the current estimates.
- 3.9 Due to delays with future funding being accessible to the BC LEP for the allocation of funding for new projects, the delivery of the pipeline of priority projects has become more urgent. In order to facilitate and support the delivery of key projects, a proposal has been put forward to reduce the LPIF allocation for the Phoenix 10 project by £6,500,000 and re-allocate this to another key commercial scheme - Iron Park Moxley. The Iron Park Project was approved at the May's 2019 Funding Sub Group and BC LEP Board meetings, however, this approval was subject to funding becoming available. The reduction of the Phoenix 10 project grant will be substituted by funds from the BCEZ. The project falls under the Walsall Council geographical area and Walsall Council, as Local Authority, will be required to borrow £6.5m, which will be recovered from future business rates generated from the site. Walsall Council will require approval from their Cabinet to borrow at a later date.
- 3.10 An additional separate paper requesting the approval of the reallocation of funding for the Iron Park will be brought forward for consideration by board members.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The BCEZ funding model requires the Local Authorities to borrow to fund schemes within their own geographical area, with borrowing costs (capital payments plus interest)

being recovered over the life of the BCEZ (to 31 March 2038) through the business rates that are generated.

- 4.2 Phoenix 10 geography falls under Walsall Council, as the Local Authority, the Council will be required to borrow £6,500,000, which will be recovered from future business rates generated from that site alone. Walsall Council will require approval from the Cabinet to borrow to fund this project at a later date. The proposed split of surplus business rates and outputs will be incorporated into an appropriate form of contractual agreement between all parties.
- 4.3 The BCEZ financial model forecasts that, over the life of the Walsall-Wolverhampton Enterprise Zone to March 2038, a net surplus of £7,562,000 will be realised. This means that it is anticipated that after reimbursing Walsall Council the capital and interest costs associated with funding this grant, the project will return a net cash surplus £7,562,000 to the BC LEP to distribute to other schemes in line with its priorities.
- 4.4 The BCEZ financial model has the appropriate contingencies and provisions applied (i.e. bad debt, rebates and business rate relief) to ensure that the forecasts are robust and adequately prudent. However, as with all forecasts, there is a risk that assumptions change over time and the actual future business rates and forecast surpluses are not realised as modelled. In the event that that the borrowing required to fund the Phoenix 10 project should increase, Walsall Council would have to request any further funding asks from the BC LEP and in its Cabinet report would have to consider the risk exposure related to borrowing.
- 4.5 In the event that the scheme does not complete and outputs are not achieved, but LPIF grant has been paid to the applicant, the Accountable Body reserves the right to claw back the grant back from the applicant. This is covered by provisions in the Grant Agreement relating to claw back, plus additional security in the form of Letter of Guarantee has been provided.
- 4.6 The proposed utilisation of business rates and reallocation of funding will be incorporated into an appropriate form of contractual agreement between all parties.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The appropriate Land and Property Investment Fund Grant Agreement is in place and will be varied by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.
- 5.2 The proposed arrangement for Black Country Enterprise Zones is that individual Local Authorities will enter into grant agreements with third party applicants, but there will be an overarching Collaboration Agreement between the four Local Authorities setting out the specific principles and governance arrangements of Enterprise Zones. Although this work has commenced it is not complete at the time of this report. Therefore, for this

project the Single Accountable Body will work with Walsall Council to ensure that spend and governance is fully compliant with the Black Country Assurance Framework and EZ governance principles that are to be proposed. However, going forward the intention is that this will all be set in a Collaboration Agreement (or similar in a legally binding form).

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with West Midlands Combined Authority and put into place by the LEP Board and Black Country Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

8. CONSULTATION

Legal and finance officers at Walsall Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- Phoenix 10 March 2020 FSG;
- March 20 LPIF Report v 1.0.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

**Land and Property Investment Fund
SANDWELL HOUSING GAP FUNDING - PHASE 1**

Grant Agreement Approval

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated Private report and its recommendations.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1 Project from within the Land and Property Investment Fund programme.
- 1.3 This project was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on 1 April 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 20 April 2020 (Decision 57/20) and endorsed by the Working Group on 14 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda:

That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council** to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding Phase 1 Project – with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 Sandwell Council have submitted a project bid to the Black Country LEP, relating to three council owned sites, in support of their ambitious plans for new, good quality, low cost housing within the region.

The three sites are located at Mounts Road Wednesbury, Stanhope Road Smethwick and King Street Wednesbury, all of which are considered suitable for residential development but which have remained vacant and under-utilised for a considerable number of years, due to site constraints and market failure through low values attainable.

- 3.2 Sandwell MBC is a Local Authority with significant experience in the delivery of site remediation projects, with the assistance of external grant funding programmes. In addition, the Council has recently delivered housing stock on a number of sites within the borough, including at Ladbury Road, Monmouth Drive, Gladstone Street and Hilton Road, to name a few.

Mounts Road, Wednesbury

- 3.3 This site is within a historic coal mining area with untreated mineshafts and has also been used as a refuse tip. Significant remediation works are therefore required. The proposal is to create 28 units, which comprise of 2-bedroom semi-detached bungalows and 2-bedroom detached bungalows. SMBC aim for these to be delivered by means of a site disposal process with a developer subsequently to develop the new homes through use of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) techniques.

Stanhope Road, Smethwick

- 3.4 This site was partially occupied by a laundry business and there is the presence of a considerable amount of contaminated made ground. Due to the site topography, there is a requirement for significant retaining wall structures. The applicant proposes to construct 32 units comprising of 2-bedroom houses and 4-bedroom houses on the remediated site.

King Street, Wednesbury

- 3.5 This site is located within an area of historic mining and untreated mineshafts, such that a considerable amount of remediation is required to facilitate redevelopment of the overall site. The applicant proposes to construct 5 new units of 2-bedroom houses on part of the site and a health facility in partnership with the NHS on the remainder of the remediated site – which is outside the scope of this project.
- 3.6 Site investigation reports, together with costs and valuation reports have been provided for each individual site. The order of costs and values identified have been verified as providing a reasonable representation based on the stage of design. These costs and values have been used to prepare summary development appraisals, which confirm that the sites do have significant viability gaps.
- 3.7 The funding request, as detailed in the Full Business Case, supports the delivery of all 3 sites, however it is understood that Stanhope Road and Kings Street are further

developed than Mounts Road. A case could also potentially be made to support the Mounts Road site, in the event that the delivery of housing can be guaranteed.

The Council has stated that it is prepared to consider direct delivery; however, this cannot at this stage be confirmed and as referred above, it is considered unlikely that the private sector would be able to deliver a scheme without further funding assistance.

3.8 Core Outputs to be delivered by the project:

Output	Number
Land Remediated (Ha)	1.16
Housing units (New)	37

3.9 Any proposed conditionality may include:

- No drawdown of grant in respect of the Stanhope Road site until planning consent has been obtained for the proposed housing scheme.
- Qualifying expenditure to relate to physical construction works on site (Remediation and Construction).
- Drawdown to be supported by certificates of value prepared by an appropriately qualified Quantity Surveyor, acting with a duty of care to Walsall MBC (as Single Accountable Body to the BCLEP).
- Restrictions on disposal of the properties to be agreed, together with associated Clawback provisions.

*Note that the applicant must enter into a grant agreement with the Single Accountable Body within 3 months from the cooling off period of the Black Country Joint Committee decision.

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Benefit-Cost Ratios (BCRs) are utilised in capital budgeting to analyse the overall value for money of undertaking a new project. It is an indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed project, expressed in monetary or qualitative terms. For the purposes of BC LEP funding, the Economic Intelligence Unit has developed the formula, deployed by the Programme Management Office, to identify the BCR for a project requiring public sector funding. The threshold for any project that has been assessed is 1.5 and would be considered 'good value for money' should this threshold be exceeded. The BCR calculation however does not take into consideration the Strategic fit and proposition of a project.

Project Name:	Sandwell Housing Phase 1
BCR calculation:	0.31 < 1.5
Project Additionality / Strategic Fit:	

- New Housing is a priority for the Black Country.
- The project will stimulate market activity and interest in this area.
- Aligns with the LPIF objectives of bringing derelict/vacant sites back into economic use.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LPIF programme and will be covered by allocations from WMCA associated with this programme.
- 5.2 In the event that the scheme does not complete and outputs are not achieved, but grant has been paid to the applicant, the Single Accountable Body reserves the right to claw back grant back from the applicant. This will be covered by provisions in the Grant Agreement relating to claw back, plus additional security will need to be provided by the applicant, in the form of a Letter of Guarantee.
- 5.3 The form of security and financial vetting of the applicant will form part of the due diligence process, prior to signing of the grant agreement.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement will be in place and will be utilised by the Single Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by West Midlands Combined Authority, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from West Midlands Combined Authority or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with West Midlands Combined Authority and put into place by the LEP Board and Black Country Joint Committee.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

Legal and Finance officers at Sandwell Council have been consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

The following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- LPIF Sandwell Housing Gap Funding forecast.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

**Land and Property Investment Fund
MUSIC INSTITUTE - PROGRAMME CHANGE REQUEST**

Report For Noting

Key Decision: No
Forward Plan: No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) notes the Change Request for the Music Institute project, from within the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) programme.
- 1.2 This change request was considered by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 4 March 2020, as quorum was not achieved, the LEP Funding Sub Group agreed to submit this change request for the LEP Board consideration only (Min. No. 17/20). The Working Group endorsed this change request in principle on 9 April 2020, it was approved by the LEP Board on 20 April 2020 (Dec. Ref: 56/20). The report was ratified by the Working Group on 14 May 2020. The advisory Board endorsed the change request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee **notes the reduction of the original outputs** forecast for the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Music Institute project due to project outcomes being now counted as 4 units to 1 (4 student accommodation units counted as 1 residential unit) within the LPIF programme.
- 2.2 Note a reduction of the Student Accommodation forecast from 600 units to 150.
- 2.3 Note a reduction on the Housing Output forecast of the LPIF Tranche 1 funding from 1600 down to 1150.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Music Institute will create a world-class higher education establishment at the Waterfront Business Park, Brierley Hill, Dudley, specialising in music. It will provide the opportunity to develop a 'Music Village' or 'campus' (similar in concept to SPARK Business Incubation Centre at the University of Wolverhampton Business Park) with the institute at its heart, driving innovation, enterprise and research for the industry.
- 3.2 This unique project includes the purchase and refurbishment of an existing building - Cable Plaza (previously owned by INTU and unoccupied for circa eight years), and the construction of new high-quality student accommodation which has the potential to unlock an investment opportunity of approximately £37m.
- 3.3 The feasibility studies and development work for the project were concluded in 2016 and was funded via the Local Growth Deal programme. This enabled the capital scheme to come forward and successfully secure grant funding from the LPIF programme. To date all LPIF funds have been drawn down and the building refurbishment works have been completed to an exceptionally high standard, on time and within budget. The college is now commencing promotional work and seeking to enrol students ahead of the next academic year, starting in September 2020.
- 3.4 As this was a baseline project, included in the initial bid for the Black Country LPIF programme, the anticipated outputs were forecasted as follows:

Output	Number
Land remediated (Ha)	1
Housing units	600
Jobs created	138

- 3.5 It was always anticipated that the residential units would be delivered by the private sector, once the earlier phases (development and launching of the college) were delivered with the aid of Public Sector investment.
- 3.6 The outputs as specified in the grant agreement are as follows:

Output	Number
Jobs created	43.5 FTE
Commercial Floorspace (Sqm)	4,800
Learners Assisted	4,730

- 3.7 As the new residential units were targeted towards student accommodation, and these are counted as 4 units to 1, a change request is required to reduce the original forecast from 600 units to 150. It has been confirmed that the developer has submitted an updated planning permission for the new housing units to Dudley Council.

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Benefit-Cost Ratios (BCRs) are utilised in capital budgeting to analyse the overall value for money of undertaking a new project. It is an indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed project, expressed in monetary or qualitative terms. For the purposes of BC LEP funding, the Economic Intelligence Unit has developed the formula, deployed by the Programme Management Office, to identify the BCR for a project requiring public sector funding. The threshold for any project that has been assessed is 1.5 and would be considered 'good value for money' should this threshold be exceeded. The BCR calculation however does not take into consideration the Strategic fit and proposition of a project.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications are anticipated to arise from the publication of this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement is in place and will be amended by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with West Midlands Combined Authority and put into place by the LEP Board and Black Country Joint Committee.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

Legal and financial services at Dudley MBC have been consulted in the development of this change request report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documentation can be provided on request:

- March 2020 Funding Sub Board paper.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

**Enterprise Zone
BOXPOOL**

Grant Agreement Approval

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated Private report and its recommendations.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve the Boxpool project, from within the Black Country Enterprise Zone Programme.
- 1.3 This request was noted by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 4 March 2020, as the LEP Funding Sub Group agreed to submit this request for the LEP Board consideration only (Min. Ref. 26/20). The Working Group endorsed the request in principle on 9 April 2020, LEP Board approved the request on 20 April 2020 (Decision Ref: 61/20) and the Working Group ratified on 14 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves Walsall Council (being the Local Authority area in which the applicant falls geographically) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement with Darlaston Builders Merchants** to deliver the Black Country Enterprise Zone (BC EZ) funded elements of the Boxpool project – with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.

- 2.2 Approve that future business rates generated from Boxpool can be utilised by Walsall Council to recover their borrowing costs (capital payments plus interest) associated with funding in line with the financial model.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Box Pool site in Darlaston (Walsall) forms part of the Black Country Enterprise Zone and is owned by Darlaston Builders Merchants. The site is currently vacant, having been previously levelled by Severn Trent Water, subsequent to installation of major flood tanks and associated infrastructure. Much of the site is restricted in terms of development, through underground Severn Trent infrastructure and associated easements, which reduces the net developable area to around 1.1 hectares (the overall area is of circa 1.46 hectares).
- 3.2 The site is located to the south of and fronting onto Darlaston Road/Walsall Road (A4038) Walsall, directly opposite the intersection with Cemetery Road. The immediately surrounding areas are mixed use in nature, including residential and Severn Trent land to the eastern side of the River Tame, industrial to the western side of the railway line (Bescot Sidings to Willenhall) and cleared industrial land to the north on the opposite side of the A4038.
- 3.3 The project relates to the development of the site in order to create a builder's merchants depot and headquarters for Darlaston Builders Merchants, who are the applicant for funding assistance, owners of the site and promoters of the project. The proposed development is understood to relate to delivery of a portal framed unit with part cavity brick/block (internally painted) and part double skin insulated metal sheet elevation walls, under an insulated double skin metal sheet pitched roof, incorporating translucent roof lights.
- 3.4 Expected Outputs to be delivered from the scheme:

Output	Total
Commercial Floorspace (direct)	998 Sqm
Land Remediated (direct)	0.81Ha
Jobs Created (direct)	15
Apprenticeships (direct)	10
Jobs Safeguarded	24
Businesses Assisted	1
Learners Assisted	17

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Benefit-Cost Ratios (BCRs) are utilised in capital budgeting to analyse the overall value for money of undertaking a new project. It is an indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed project, expressed in monetary or qualitative terms. For the purposes of BC LEP funding, the Economic Intelligence

Unit has developed the formula, deployed by the Programme Management Office, to identify the BCR for a project requiring public sector funding. The threshold for any project that has been assessed is 1.5 and would be considered 'good value for money' should this threshold be exceeded. The BCR calculation however does not take into consideration the Strategic fit and proposition of a project.

- BCR for this project is 24.53.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Black Country Enterprise Zone (BCEZ) funding model requires that the Local Authorities borrow to fund schemes within their own geographical area, with borrowing costs (capital repayments plus interest) being recovered over the life of the BCEZ (to 31 March 2038) through the business rates that are generated.
- 5.2 Walsall Council being the Local Authority in which Boxpool falls and will be required to borrow in order to fund the grant to the applicant. The EZ financial model at the date of this report forecasts that Boxpool is a "surplus" site, meaning that there is sufficient forecast business rates to recover the borrowing costs, then create a net surplus for the BC LEP to reinvest. Walsall Council will take the risk that borrowing costs may not be recovered if actual future business rates are less than modelled, and will require approval from their cabinet to borrow to fund this grant to the applicant, at a later date.
- 5.3 The BCEZ financial model has the appropriate contingencies and provisions applied (i.e. bad debt, rebates and business rate relief) to ensure that the forecasts are robust and adequately prudent. However, as with all forecasts, there is a risk that assumptions change over time and the actual future business rates and forecast surpluses are not realised as modelled. In the event that that Boxpool becomes a "net deficit" site and the borrowing costs cannot be fully recovered by Walsall Council through the business rates generated from the Boxpool site alone, Walsall Council may have to request the shortfall from the BCLEP and would have to fund the shortfall should this additional request not be approved. Walsall Council in its Cabinet report would therefore have to consider this risk exposure.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Walsall Council will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the applicant. This grant agreement must ensure that the applicant complies with the Black Country Assurance Framework and captures any conditions as set out in the Technical Appraisal. It must also specifically ensure that there is onus on the applicants to deliver on the business rates payable, which is ultimately funding the scheme.

The proposed arrangement for Black Country Enterprise Zones is that individual Local Authorities will enter into grant agreements with third party applicants, but there will be an overarching Collaboration Agreement between the four Local Authorities setting out the specific principles and governance arrangements of Enterprise Zones. Although this

work has commenced it is not complete at the time of this report. Therefore, for this project the Single Accountable Body will work with Walsall Council to ensure that the grant agreement is fully compliant with the Black Country Assurance Framework and EZ governance principles that are to be proposed. However, going forward the intention is that this will all be set in a Collaboration Agreement (or similar in a legally binding form).

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Walsall Council will carry the risk of the borrowing not being recovered should actual business rates generated be less than modelled. There is no guarantee that the Enterprise Zone model will fund any shortfalls and this would require additional approvals. This risk is mitigated via robust financial modelling with prudent provisions against business rates.
- 7.2 The BC LEP risks that the forecast surplus will not be realised, which it may be relying on for future investments for Black Country Priorities. This risk has been mitigated via robust financial modelling with prudent provisions against business rates.
- 7.3 Overall risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of EZ projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme through the financial modelling across all Black Country Local Authorities.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

Legal and finance officers at Walsall Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- Boxpool March Funding Sub Group Paper 2020;
- March 20 FSG EZ Report V1.0.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

GROWTH HUB GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT APPROVAL 2020/21

Grant Agreement Approval

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve for Walsall Council to receive £328,000 from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd, to fund and deliver the Black Country Growth Hub from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- 1.2 This project was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 6 May 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 18 May 2020 (Decision Ref: 68/20) and endorsed by the Working Group via email on 25 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee approves for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Growth Hub (Walsall Council) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement, with the Black Country Consortium Ltd**, to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2020/21.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Growth Hubs were established in April 2015 by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in each Local Enterprise Partnership area, following a successful pilot in 2014. Growth Hubs are local public/private sector partnerships which join up national and local business support, so it is easy for businesses to find the help they need.

- 3.2 The Growth Hubs were funded from the Regional Growth Fund, and then received a direct allocation from BEIS to fund the project from April 2016 to March 2018. This funding was received by Walsall Council and was managed on its behalf by the City of Wolverhampton Council.
- 3.3 Following a publication of the Industrial Strategy White Paper, further funding until March 2021 and at the same level as the previous allocation from BEIS was confirmed by Ministers in a letter to all LEP chairs in January 2020. Walsall Council will receive Grant Funding of £328,000 per annum from BEIS to operate the Black Country Growth Hub until March 2021, with the prospect of further funding beyond that date to be agreed through the Black Country LEP.
- 3.4 During the 2020 Budget, the Chancellor renewed commitment to funding Growth Hubs beyond 2021 and committed an additional £10million to increase Growth Hub capacity across all 38 Growth Hubs. Full details of this additional funding is yet to be confirmed.
- 3.5 The Black Country Growth Hub is a partnership made up of Dudley Council, Sandwell Council, Walsall Council, City of Wolverhampton Council, the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, the Black Country Consortium (BCC Ltd) and the University of Wolverhampton. Previously the City of Wolverhampton Council managed the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 budgets on behalf of Walsall Council through the Black Country Growth Hub Strategic Board, administered by the Head of the Black Country Growth Hub, employed by the City of Wolverhampton Council.
- 3.6 BCC Ltd now manages the Grant on behalf of Walsall Council through the Black Country Growth Hub Strategic Board, which reports into the Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board. Day to day activity is administered by the Head of the Black Country Growth Hub, employed by the Black Country Consortium. In April 2020, Walsall Council received and accepted the official offer letter from BEIS confirming the Funding for 2020/2021 financial year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Arrangements for managing the Growth Hub are already in place at BCC Ltd. The BCC Ltd took on the responsibility of managing the project and funds as principal grant recipient from the City of Wolverhampton Council in 2018/2019. There are no financial implications as BCC Ltd will continue to hold the responsibility for the management of the funds.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no further legal implications to the continuation of the project in 2020/2021 following its successful implementation in 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20.

- 5.2 The appropriate grant agreement will be put in place, which will include all necessary conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the conditions received from Government.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The principal risk is a requirement to repay the grant funding to BEIS if there is noncompliance with the requirements of its terms of funding, as set out in its letter to Walsall Council.
- 6.2 Since the 2019/20 contract, BCC Ltd have taken the responsibility of the single delivery agent role, following an approval of a new Growth Hub Delivery Plan at the Growth Hub Strategic Board which took place on 18 December 2018. This new delivery plan has been in effect since 1 April 2019 and has significantly improved the effectiveness and reach of the Black Country Growth Hub, which now employs 5 advisors, all with prior business and commercial experience.
- 6.3 During 2018-19 and 2019-20, scrutiny of the performance of partners (see paragraph 3.4) against requirements set out in the grant funding agreements is undertaken by the Black Country Growth Hub Strategic Board. For the 2020-21 contract, in order to better streamline governance, it is recommended that the Growth Hub activity should report directly into the Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board, which will retain valued participation from business partners as well as supporting the development of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). The Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board meetings are chaired by a Black Country LEP Board Member and attended by senior representatives from Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils, BCC Ltd, the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Wolverhampton.
- 6.4 The Black Country Growth Hub continues to successfully meet the requirements as set out in the BEIS grant award letter.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Black Country Growth Hub's mission is to provide guidance and support to all individuals seeking to start a new business; micro and SMEs looking for growth support as well as employees of any existing business, free of charge.
- 7.2 Business-facing officers operating across Black Country Growth Hub partners are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.
- 7.3 The separate partners of the Black Country Growth Hub each have their own equality policies in place, covering officers' conduct and approach to inclusive engagement.

8. CONSULTATION

Legal and finance officers at Walsall Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- Growth Hub – Grant Agreement Approval 2020/21.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Black Country Local Growth Deal

WOODS LANE PHASE 2 - PROJECT CHANGE REQUEST

Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approves the change request for the Woods Lane Phase 2 project, from within the Growth Deal Programme.
- 1.2 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group via email on 4 February 2020, endorsed by the Working Group on 13 February 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 24 February 2020 (Decisions ref: 41/20) and ratified by the Working Group via email on 2 March 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed via email on 20 March 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Galliford Try Partnerships Limited to change the company name to Vistry Partnerships Limited** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Woods Lane Phase 2 Project.
- 2.2 Notes that this change request relates to a change of company name and registered office address.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Woods Lane Phase 2 project, relates to the construction of 105 new affordable homes on land cleared and serviced by Sandwell Council with previous Growth Deal funding. Phase 2 is for the southern aspect of the area for which Growth Deal grant funding (Woods Lane Phase 1) was awarded to the Council. The Applicant is currently utilising the funding allocation to address the financial deficit of the project between the costs of assembling land, constructing new affordable homes for transfer to Accord Housing Association, letting within the Affordable Rent tenure that are founded on piled foundations together with a substantial retaining wall to the western boundary of the development area.
- 3.2 The site benefits from hybrid planning consent (including outline planning permission for up to 350 new homes for the wider Woods Lane project area) and have been instrumental in providing land that can be taken forward into future project phases for delivery of residential accommodation.
- 3.3 In early January 2020, it was made public knowledge that Bovis Homes had completed a £1.1bn deal to buy Galliford Try's housing and regeneration businesses. The shareholders of each company voted to approve the deal valued at approximately £1.1bn, including shares, debt transfer and a £300m cash payment.
- 3.4 It has also been announced that Galliford Try have changed its name to Vistry Group PLC, saying the proposed new corporate name will be used for both the enlarged group's housebuilding and partnerships businesses. The enlarged housebuilding business will continue to operate with both the Bovis Homes and Linden Homes brands.
- 3.5 These changes in no way impact the final outcome of the Woods Lane Phase 2 project. The construction is well underway with a number of new housing units already completed onsite. Vistry have provided the necessary documentation required to the Programme Management Office and the Accountable Body, which is currently under review with legal advice being sought to verify the security provided for the grant funding.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LGF Programme and will be covered by allocations from Government associated with this programme. This includes use of any interest accrued by the Accountable Body to cover costs associated with the delivery of Accountable Body functions, as approved by its (Walsall Council) Cabinet on the 29 October 2014.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement is in place and will be varied by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

8. CONSULTATION

Legal and Finance officers at Sandwell Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- February 2020 Funding Sub Group Paper;
- Woods Lane Phase 2 Change Request;
- Woods Lane - Change in company registration.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Local Growth Deal

CITY LEARNING QUARTER SITE INVESTIGATION - CHANGE REQUEST

Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated Private report and its recommendations.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC), approve the change request for the City Learning Quarter Site Investigation project from within the Growth Deal Programme.
- 1.3 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group via email on the 8 April (following the meeting on the 1 April 2020), approved by the LEP Board on 20 April 2020 (Decision 59/20) and endorsed by the Working Group on 14 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the change request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda:

- 2.1 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 City Learning Quarter Site Investigation project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.2 That the Joint Committee notes this change request relates to an additional funding request relating 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, which is required to be evidenced by either a built asset, or by a fully funded approved Business Case in support of the main scheme.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 As part of the ongoing support for the new Wolverhampton College proposal, two locations for the college have been identified – the City Learning Quarter (City Centre Campus) and the City of Wolverhampton Technical Centre (Bilston Campus). Site investigations have recently been concluded at the City Centre Campus to better understand the complexities before a full application for the main scheme was to be submitted (the original grant award of £120,000 was allocated to the City Centre campus).
- 3.2 Following on from this, it has been established that site investigations and further development work is required at the Bilston Campus in order to continue design work for the new technical and engineering facility which sits outside of the city centre, rebranded as CoWTechC.
- 3.3 The City of Wolverhampton Technical Centre (CoWTechC) will create the opportunity to deliver a focused and ambitious skills offer with respect to Engineering and Motor Vehicle to the employers and learners of Wolverhampton and the Black Country. The Campus will deliver technical excellence in new workshops equipped with the latest machines, rigs and equipment. The facilities will include a 'mixed reality' suite so that engineering and manufacturing professionals and learners can work alongside colleagues from the construction sector to visualize the next generation of Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Building Information Modelling (BIM).
- 3.4 The total investment required to complete the investigative works for the Bilston campus element of the new College infrastructure is £383,450. This investment will enable the project to bring forward the Full Business Case and bid for the £5,000,000 required to bring the new facility to fruition.
- 3.5 CoWTechC will unlock barriers that the region's employers face with their growing demand for multi-skilled workers by creating an innovative campus where construction and engineering work together. The investment will unlock opportunities in four of the 'transformational sectors' identified by the BC Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) in their respective Strategic Economic Plans (SEP's) – advanced manufacturing, building technologies, transport technologies, and environmental technology.
- 3.6 Should the LEP's development investment enable the college to successfully secure any future skills capital funding, relating to the new college facilities, an option must be made available to explore a repayment of the development funds to the BC LEP.

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Benefit-cost ratios (BCRs) are utilised in capital budgeting to analyse the overall value for money of undertaking a new project. It is an indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed project, expressed in monetary or qualitative terms. For the purposes of BC LEP funding, the Economic Intelligence Unit has developed the formula, deployed by the Programme Management office, to identify the BCR for a project requiring public sector funding. The threshold for any project that has been assessed, is 1.5 and would be considered 'good value for money' should this threshold be exceeded. The BCR calculation however does not take into consideration the Strategic fit and proposition of a project.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LGF Programme and will be covered by allocations from the government with this programme. This includes use of any interest accrued by the Accountable Body to cover costs associated with the delivery of Accountable Body functions, as approved by its (Walsall Council) Cabinet on 29th October 2014.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement is in place and will be varied by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

Legal and finance officers at Wolverhampton City Council have been consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- CLQ SI – April 2020 FSG;
- GD Project Change Request – CLQ SI.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Local Growth Deal

FAB KIT FAB LAB - CHANGE REQUEST

Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve the change request for the Fab Kit Fab Lab project from within the Growth Deal Programme.
- 1.2 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 4 March 2020 (Minutes Ref: 22/20), endorsed in principle by the Working Group on 9 April 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 20 April 2020 (Decision Ref: 58/20) and ratified by the Working Group on 14 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the change request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell College** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Fab Kit – Fab Lab project.
- 2.2 Notes that this change request relates to a revision of Outputs.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 Three combined skills projects were approved in 2015, to form the Fab Kit Programme, these included Fab Lab Sandwell College, Performance Through People (PTP Training Ltd) and In-Comm Aldridge (In-Comm Training Services Ltd). The desire was to achieve the following three aims:

1. To enhance the training capacity and infrastructure through improved training provision of skills for the engineering / manufacturing / advanced digital technologies supply chain and associated toolmaking companies.
 2. The concept to build capacity to supply advanced manufacturing skills, environment, skills, advanced materials and technology to train and inspire people and entrepreneurs.
 3. Secure and fit out of training facilities at In-comm and Performance Through People will support the STEM agenda and meet the needs of the Advanced Manufacturing sector.
- 3.2 The Fab Lab at Sandwell College was awarded £36,300 which assisted with the upgrading of an existing facility, which in addition to the training of apprentices will facilitate the:
- Multi-skilling of the existing workforce with new and enhanced technologies;
 - Increase the number of intermediate and advanced apprentices;
 - Up skilling the workforce in new product innovation;
 - Access to state of art equipment for delivery of bite size courses and modules of learning;
 - Delivery of HVM vocational skills to 14-19-year old's in schools, Key Stage 4 and 5 ("Qualifications for 14-16 Year old's Performance Tables");
 - Unemployed customer delivery industry specific training.
- 3.3 The Fab Lab element will turn ideas into new products and prototypes by granting access to a range of advanced digital manufacturing technology. The idea was conceived by renowned inventor and scientist, Professor Neil Gershenfeld, at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- 3.4 The project completed in 2016, the funding is fully claimed and the project is at output monitoring stage.

Baseline outputs which were approved are detailed as follows:

<u>Outputs</u>	<u>Number</u>
New Jobs Created	3
Jobs Safeguarded	20
Businesses Assisted	120
Businesses Assisted (entrepreneurs)	300
Learners Assisted	1,080
Apprenticeship starts	120
Apprenticeship completed	90
Refurbished floorspace (sqm)	83
Constructed floorspace (sqm)	60
Visitors	1,000

- 3.5 A change request has been submitted by the Sandwell College to revise the outputs in line with expected results. The initial targets were over ambitious and disproportional to the scale of the funding received. For example, one of the 10 targets were 120 business assists, which has to offer 12 hours assistance or the equivalent of £1000 to count as eligible. This equates to £120,000 worth of assistance, which is three times more than the funding. This is in addition to the £120,000 plus spent on equipment and the project running costs over £60,000 per year. To achieve all the targets more resources would be required, which is not financially viable.

Proposed revised outputs are as follows:

Outputs	Number
New Jobs Created	3
Jobs Safeguarded	20
Businesses Assisted	42
Businesses Assisted (entrepreneurs)	118
Learners Assisted	831
Apprenticeship starts	120
Apprenticeship completed	90
Refurbished floorspace (sqm)	83
Constructed floorspace (sqm)	60
Visitors	1,000

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Benefit-Cost Ratios (BCRs) are utilised in capital budgeting to analyse the overall value for money of undertaking a new project. It is an indicator showing the relationship between the relative costs and benefits of a proposed project, expressed in monetary or qualitative terms. For the purposes of BC LEP funding, the Economic Intelligence Unit has developed the formula, deployed by the Programme Management Office, to identify the BCR for a project requiring public sector funding. The threshold for any project that has been assessed is 1.5 and would be considered 'good value for money' should this threshold be exceeded. The BCR calculation however does not take into consideration the Strategic fit and proposition of a project.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LGF Programme and will be covered by allocations from the government with this programme. This includes use of any interest accrued by the Accountable Body to cover costs associated with the delivery of Accountable Body functions, as approved by its (Walsall Council) Cabinet on 29th October 2014.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement is in place and will be varied by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

Legal and Finance officers at Sandwell Council have been consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- Fab Kit Fab Lab March FSG 2020;
- March 20 FSG GD Report V 1.0;
- Fab Lab Change request - March 2020.

Attachments

None.

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Not applicable

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

Local Growth Deal

M6 JUNCTION 10 - CHANGE REQUEST

Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report (and its appendices) should be read in conjunction with the associated Private report and its recommendations.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve the change request for the M6 Junction 10 project from within the Growth Deal Programme.
- 1.3 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on 6 May 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 18 May 2020 (Decision Ref: 80/20), endorsed by the Working Group via email on 25 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the Change Request on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session of the agenda:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee **approves the changes to the project grant profile.**
- 2.2 Note the progress update for the M6 Junction 10 project and that this change request relates to the spend profile.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The M6 Junction 10 Major Scheme will deliver a new, increased-capacity circulatory carriageway at M6 J10. It will provide two new, widened bridges over the motorway,

enlarging the circulatory carriageway to address congestion and accommodate future traffic growth.

Project Aims

3.2 The aims of the scheme are to: -

- Reduce congestion, rat-running and queues to create a freer-flowing road network;
- Support economic growth by improving access to motorways and Walsall Enterprise Zone sites, attracting new business and development to the area;
- Provide a safe, well maintained road network;
- Avoid future major maintenance by replacing life-expired bridges;
- Improve conditions for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders at the junction.

3.3 Programme schedule: -

- Start of works February 2020;
- Completion June 2022.

3.4 Summary of progress on J10 in the past 12 months: -

- July 2019: John Sisk and Son appointed as D&B contractor, bringing with them Capita Pell Frischmann (JV) as design partners;
- November 2019: Commencement of first phase of the enabling works (SGAR stage 5a) – works included non-intrusive surveys and small-scale vegetation removal.
- Early-January 2020: Conclusion of the CPO process and all land required to construct the scheme vested to either WMBC or HE.
- Late-January 2020: Series of successful ‘Start of Works’ events held, with dignitaries attending the main event held at the Village Hotel on 31 January see appendix 1 attached
- Early-February 2020: Successful discharge of 5no pre-commencement planning conditions and ‘green’ rating at SGAR to enable progression to phase two of the enabling works.
- Mid-February 2020: Commencement of phase two the enabling works – full site clearance, survey of all on-site infrastructure, GPR, trial holes, probe drilling and treatment of mineshafts/mine workings. Lane 1 of the M6 northbound and southbound at Junction 10 removed and used as a working area to facilitate this work. See appendix 2 and 3 attached.
- March 2020: Various community engagement events including site wide litter picks. See appendix 4 attached.

3.5 Upcoming Works: -

- April to June: Junction preparation works – removal of traffic islands and creation of working areas for main works.

- July 2020: Commencement of main construction phase with completion earmarked for late spring 2022.

Highways England Project Website for further information –

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m6-junction-10-improvement/>

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LGF Programme and will be covered by allocations from the government with this programme. This includes use of any interest accrued by the Accountable Body to cover costs associated with the delivery of Accountable Body functions, as approved by its (Walsall Council) Cabinet on 29th October 2014.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreement is in place and will be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

8. CONSULTATION

Legal and finance officers at Walsall Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

Copies of the following supporting documents can be provided on request:

- May 2020 FSG GD Report V1.0.
- GD Project Change Request – M6 Junction 10.

Attachments

None.

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Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Appendix 3



Appendix 4





REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

24 JUNE 2020

BC LEP ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

CHANGE CONTROL AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY (REVISED APPENDIX 25)

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) approve changes to the Change Control Process and Delegated Authority governance.
- 1.2 These changes were approved by the LEP Board on the 20 April 2020 (Dec. No. 49/20) and endorsed by the Working Group on 14 May 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed the changes on 8 June 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework Change Control and Delegated Authority governance, attached as **Attachment 1** of this report (Black Country LEP Assurance Framework Appendix 25).

3. REPORT DETAIL

Change Control

- 3.1 Change Control Process allows changes to be considered and agreed to current 'in-flight' projects which are approved by the Joint Committee and in the delivery phase, allowing the effective annual change management of each project cash flow, outputs and milestones.
- 3.2 It is requested that the Joint Committee approves to widen the scope of instances that would trigger a Request for Change submission (via the PMO) to the LEP Board and Joint Committee for approval.

- 3.3 It is requested that the Joint Committee approves a new tolerance measure, which if exceeded will trigger Change Control Process, on completion of the project where total project costs (match and grant) change by more than 5%.
- 3.4 It is requested that the Joint Committee approves the reduction on core outputs deviation tolerances to the approved projects' outputs baseline from 10% to zero tolerance and additional outputs from 30% to 10% tolerance.

Table 1. Change Control Process –Additions and changes

Type	Current	<i>New requirements/ Proposed Change</i>
New triggers		<p>Additional instances that would trigger change control :</p> <p><i>Material changes to the nature or purpose of the Project;</i></p> <p><i>Material changes to the ownership, control and nature of business of the Grantee;</i></p> <p><i>Immaterial changes such as a change of Company name.</i></p>
Financial deviations from the approved project baseline		
New		<i>Total project costs (match and grant) change by more than 5%.</i>
Non-financial deviations from the approved project baseline		
Revised	Outputs decrease by 10% (core outputs) or 30% (additional outputs).	<i>Any decrease of core outputs or decrease by 10% on all additional outputs;</i>

Delegated Authority

- 3.6 Delegated authority to approve changes within agreed thresholds has been given to the Chair of the FSG and Chair of the Heads of Regeneration Working Group on behalf of the BC LEP board and BCJC. The following additional delegations are proposed:
- 3.7 It is requested that the Joint Committee notes the BC LEP delegated authority to deploy a year end Change Control in line with the current year end thresholds deployed by the BCJC Delegated Authority; 15% of individual grant value or up to £500,000 whichever is lower. This will assist in the management of cashflow changes at year end and prevent delays in making grant payments. Note, cumulative in year changes are capped at 10% of the in year Programme allocation.
- 3.8 It is requested that the Joint Committee notes BC LEP Delegated Authority to be applied to an immaterial change to the grantee or to an administrative error within a report recommendation, as detailed in table 2.

Table 2. Changes to BC LEP Delegated Authority (Chair of the Funding Sub Group)

Type	Current	New requirements/ Proposed Change
New Year End changes		<i>Deploy a year-end Change Control process to approve changes up to a maximum of 15% of individual grant value or up to £500,000 whichever is lower (e.g. if a project grant allocation is £2m up to £300000k of changes can be agreed in the current financial year under delegated authority).</i>
New Immaterial Changes		<i>Approve an immaterial change to the grantee or an administrative error within a report recommendation under delegated authority.</i>

3.9 It is requested that the Joint Committee approves BCJC Delegated Authority to be applied to an immaterial change to the grantee or to an administrative error within a report recommendation, as detailed in table 3.

**Table 3. Changes to BCJC Delegated Authority
(Chair of the Heads of Regeneration Working Group)**

Type	Current	<i>New requirements/ Proposed Change</i>
New Immaterial changes		<i>Approve an immaterial change to the grantee or an administrative error within a report recommendation under delegated authority.</i>

3.10 A full Change Control Process and Delegated Authority has been reviewed by the PMO and the Single Accountable Body and is attached to this report (Black Country LEP Assurance Framework Appendix 25).

3.11 It must be noted that these measures can only allocate the resources available and approved by Government, so must remain within the values approved both overall for the LGF programme and those set as annual allocations. The amended delegations and tolerances will allow the effective management of the final year of the Growth Deal programme to ensure that Black Country meet agreed outputs targets and spend the allocations granted by government. It also allows should we be granted any additional resources, the ability to take these up quickly.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no additional costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

4.2 The use of Delegated Authority and Change Control Process Tolerances are designed to reduce potential underspend of LGF grant and provide an agile response to under-utilisation of grant. There is significant financial risk associated with not having these delegations in place and this may include project stalling, loss of funding and/or reputational damage.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Walsall Council in its role as Accountable Body for the Growth Deal Programme and secretariat for the Joint Committee will utilise the existing Grant Agreement processes and procedures, together with the Programme Management Office to implement changes, which will be in consultation with the appropriate legal and financial services input, advice and approval.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Without these measures there is a significant risk that a lack of flexibility will undermine our ability to deliver a successful Growth Deal Programme in terms of both spend and outcomes that meet those expected by Government, resulting in a loss of income and outcomes that benefits local people and businesses.
- 6.2 Risk will be managed through the continuation of the consultation process for each Delegated Authority decision required, to ensure that appropriate stakeholders are consulted on any request to utilise his delegated authority.
- 6.3 Mechanisms are in place to ensure that for all requests the agreed processes are followed and the limits of the Delegations and Tolerances are adhered to and reported on.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

8. CONSULTATION

Legal and Finance officers at Walsall Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

Background papers

None.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – BC LEP Assurance Framework, Appendix 25 '*Change Control and Delegated Authority*'

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Black Country LEP Assurance Framework
Appendix 25
Growth Deal Change Control and Delegated Authority Processes

1. Change Control Definition

Change control is the process through which all requests to change a project baseline are captured, evaluated and then approved, rejected or deferred.

2. The Change Control Process

Change control is deployed to enable changes requested by a project that deviate beyond the tolerance boundaries that have been set. A clear audit trail must be put in place to ensure that the reason for the change from the baseline is transparent.

The following are instances that would trigger change control / a request for change:

1. A proposal to accelerate funding from a subsequent financial year into the current financial year (when the value of a project exceeds the agreed tolerance);
2. A proposal to passport funding from the current financial year into the subsequent financial year/s when the value exceeds the agreed tolerance;
3. Increases to a Grant Award;
4. Scope creep / change in scope from the baseline. This can sometimes result in changes to costs (including match) and outputs; and
5. When the outputs agreed to be delivered by a project change;
6. Material changes to the nature or purpose of the Project;
7. Material changes to the ownership, control and nature of business of the Grantee;
8. Immaterial changes such as a change of Company name.

Change Control is the process. The 'Request for Change' form is the documentation used to request the actual change, which will result in a change request.

The project manager will use the 'Request for Change' form to document the request and submit this to the Programme Management Office (PMO). The formal change request should be triggered as soon as the changes are known.

Depending on the nature of the request it may be subject to technical appraisal using the BC LEP's professional property/technical advisors (i.e. if changes to property / land elements of scope). The PMO will make the decision as to whether this further appraisal is required. The Change Request, and any technical recommendations (if applicable), will be considered by the Funding Sub Group.

The Funding Sub Group will make a recommendation to proceed / not to proceed to the main LEP Board at the next available BC LEP Board meeting.

The applicant will be informed of the outcome of the LEP Board decision via the agreed protocols.

The change will then be subject to endorsement by the Heads of Regeneration Working Group and the Advisory Board. If both these groups endorse / make a recommendation to proceed, the change will then be considered by the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC).

The applicant will be informed of the outcome of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee decision via the agreed protocols.

3. Change requests

A Request for Change must be submitted to the LEP Board and Black Country Executive Joint Committee for approval (via the PMO) when the following thresholds are passed:

A. Thresholds:

- Grant accelerated into current year by >10% of grant value or an increase greater than £300,000;
- Grant slipped into subsequent years by > 10% of grant value or by greater than £300,000;
- Any decrease of core outputs or decrease by 10% on all additional outputs;
- There is addition or omission from scope.

B. On Completion of the Project Expenditure

- Total project costs (match and grant) change by more than 5%.

4. Reforecasting

It's very rare that a project will be executed exactly to plan. Changes to original cost estimates, issues uncovered causing delays, or other variables may have been introduced. Any one of these situations will cause a deviation from a project's original estimate (the baseline). When deviations from the baseline occur the Project Manager will reforecast, or re-estimate the project, delivery plan, spend profile, outputs, risk and issues, etc. This is an iterative process, forecasts are continually refined throughout the project lifecycle.

A. Thresholds:

- Grant accelerated into current year by < 10% of grant value or an increase greater than £300,000;
- Grant slipped into subsequent years by < 10% of grant value or by greater than £300,000;
- Decrease by < 10% on all additional outputs;

B. On Completion of the Project Expenditure

- Total project costs (match and grant) change by less than 5%.

Re-forecasting will still need approval by both the BC LEP and Black Country Executive Joint Committee via the programme change report. Approval needs to be in place prior to implementing the revised forecast and making any grant payments which are dependent on the programme change report's approval.

Where a financial change to the grant forecast is less than 10% of total project value and does not require grant payment prior to being reported to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee within the 'Changes to the Programme' report usually submitted at year end, is considered a reforecast and will not require any separate approval prior to the programme change report.

5. Additional Funding

It is to be noted that a request for additional funding in response to an increase to costs by any amount will be processed via an Additional Funding Request form (provided by the PMO) and will need to be approved by the LEP Board and Black Country Executive Joint Committee via the normal channels (outlined in section 2 above).

6. BC LEP Board - Delegated Authority Change Control

The BC LEP has delegated authority to the Chair of the BC LEP Funding Sub Group to:

- **Deploy an in year Change Control process** (all grant changes excluding year end) to approve changes up to a maximum of 10% of individual grant value or up to £300,000 whichever is lower (e.g. if a project grant allocation is £2m, up to £200k of changes (10%) can be agreed in the current financial year under delegated authority);
- **Deploy a year-end Change Control process** to approve changes up to a maximum of 15% of individual grant value or up to £500,00 whichever is lower (e.g. if a project grant allocation is £2m up to £300,00k of changes can be agreed in the current financial year under delegated authority).

The cumulative maximum of projects approved via delegated authority being no more than 10% of the total value of the in year grant (e.g. in 2019/20, 19,044,119 x 10% = £1.904m).

- **Approve an immaterial change** to the grantee or an administrative error within a report recommendation under delegated authority.

The Chair of the Funding Sub Group will then report the decision at the next available BC LEP Board meeting, which is then recorded in the minutes of that meeting (published on the BC LEP website <http://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/about-us/our-board/lep-board-meetings/>).

A summary report on all changes at year-end will be brought to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee each June.

7. BCJC - Delegated Authority Change Control

BCJC Delegated Authority should only be used when:

- the existing approval process is not possible due to impact on delivery times and the need to get spend underway prior to the next available Black Country Executive Joint Committee;
- the existing provisions of Special Urgency and General Exception within the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Protocols are not available.

The Black Country Executive Joint Committee has delegated authority to the Chair of the Heads of Regeneration Working Group to:

➤ **Deploy an in year Change Control process** (all grant changes excluding year end) to approve changes up to a maximum of 10% of individual grant value or up to £300,000 whichever is lower (e.g. if a project grant allocation is £2m, up to £200k of changes can be agreed in the current financial year under delegated authority);

Change Control decisions taken under Delegated Authority taken by the Chair of the Working Group must be made in consultation with the SAB 151 and with the BCC Ltd Chief Executive only.

The Chair of the Working Group will then report the decision at the next available Black Country Executive Joint Committee meeting, which is then recorded in the minutes of that meeting (published on the BCJC website <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/bcjc-reports-minutes>).

➤ **Deploy a year-end Change Control process** to approve changes up to a maximum of 15% of individual grant value or up to £500,00 whichever is lower (e.g. if a project grant allocation is £2m up to £300,00k of changes can be agreed in the current financial year under delegated authority).

The cumulative maximum of projects approved via delegated authority being no more than 10% of the total value of the in year grant (e.g. in 2019/20, 19,044,119 x 10% = £1.904m).

Change Control decisions taken under Delegated Authority taken by the Chair of the Working Group must be made in consultation with the BCC Ltd Chief Executive, the SAB S151, Sponsoring Heads of Regeneration Working Group member and the Chair of the BCJC.

The Chair of the Working Group will then report the decision at the next available Black Country Executive Joint Committee meeting, which is then recorded in the minutes of that meeting (published on the BCJC website <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/bcjc-reports-minutes>).

➤ **Approve an immaterial change** to the grantee or an administrative error within a report recommendation under delegated authority.

Change Control decisions taken under Delegated Authority taken by the Chair of the Working Group must be made in consultation with the BCC Ltd Chief Executive, the SAB S151, Sponsoring Heads of Regeneration Working Group member and the Chair of the BCJC.

The Chair of the Working Group will then report the decision at the next available Black Country Executive Joint Committee meeting, which is then recorded in the minutes of that meeting (published on the BCJC website <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/bcjc-reports-minutes>).

A summary report on all *changes at year-end* will be brought to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee each June.

8. Delegated Authority – Changes Control Scenarios

There are three types of Change:

I. A Change up to 10% of individual grant value or up to £300,000 – will be approved under Delegated Authority and reported to the BC LEP Board and/or the Black Country Executive Joint Committee only as a Delegated Authority Decision for Noting.

II. A Change of up to 15% of individual grant value or up to £500,000 (end of the financial year only) - will be approved under Delegated Authority and reported to the BC LEP Board and/or the Black Country Executive Joint Committee only as a Delegated Authority Decision for Noting.

III. Immaterial changes (i.e. Name Change, or name correction of the Grantee) can be approved or an administrative error (i.e. a typo or transposition to grant value of less than 5% up to and not greater than £10,000), within the recommendation of the report can be rectified under Delegated Authority. The decision will be reported to the next BC LEP Board and/or Black Country Executive Joint Committee only as a Delegated Authority Decision for Noting. The PMO in consultation with the SAB will record the rationale in support of categorising the change as immaterial.

9. BCJC - Delegated Authority New Projects

The Black Country Executive Joint Committee has delegated authority to the Chair of the Heads of Regeneration Working Group to approve new projects:

➤ Whereby the grant funding to be approved is within 10% of the total delegated authority award for a financial year, e.g. in 2019/20, this is £190,441 per project.

Decisions to award grant to new projects taken under DA must be made in consultation with the BCJC Chair, Chief Executive BCC, Section 151 Officer and the Sponsoring Heads of Regeneration Working Group member.

The Chair of the Working Group will then report the decision at the next available Black Country Executive Joint Committee meeting, which is then recorded in the minutes of that meeting (published on the BCJC website <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/bcjc-reports-minutes>).