

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 28 April 2021 2021 at 10.30am

To be held via a Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

In attendance:

VOTING MEMBERS

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

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Tom Westley, Black Country LEP

INVITED

Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley MBC
David Stevens, Sandwell MBC
Tim Johnson, City of Wolverhampton
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country
Consortium Ltd
Lara Smith, The Black Country Consortium
Ltd
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Helen Martin, Dudley MBC
Richard Lawrence, City of Wolverhampton

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

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

Councillor Bird then asked each participant to confirm that they could see and hear proceedings. Cllr Bird confirmed that the meeting was quorate and welcomed any members of the public viewing the meeting online.

Apologies

Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall Council
Stuart Everton, Black Country Director for Transport

Notes of Meeting held on 31 March 2021

Decision 21/0018

Councillor Bird moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 31 March 2021 which was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting

None.

Declarations of Interest

None

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

To agree that the public be excluded from the private session.

Decision 21/0019 Resolved (unanimously)

The public be excluded from the private session during consideration of Item 9.

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

Black Country Growth Hub - GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT APPROVAL 2021/22

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the report was seeking approval for the core funding for the Black Country Growth Hub for the new financial year. Due to increased capacity required they have increased the funding.

Decision 21/0020

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

Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approves 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 the value of £462,000, to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2021/22.

Black Country Growth Hub - PEER NETWORKS PROGRAMME APPROVAL 2021/22

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that further funding has been secured from BEIS for 2021/22 following the success of last year's programme.

Decision 21/0021

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

Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approves for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd up to the value of £210,000 to deliver the Growth Hub Peer Networks programme in 2021/22.

Black Country Enterprise Zone - Enterprise Zone PARALLEL 9-10 (SEPPL138)

Decision 21/0022

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

PRIVATE SESSION (Public Summary)

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

Black Country Enterprise Zone - Enterprise Zone - PARALLEL 9-10 (SEPPL138)

Decision 21/0023

Councillor Bird moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) Following consideration of the confidential information in the Private Session report, that the Joint Committee :

- 2.1 approves Walsall Council to enter into a grant agreement with Cayborn Limited for a grant to deliver the Parallel 9/10 project, with delivery to commence in the 2021/22 financial year.
- 2.2 approves Walsall Council to utilise business rates generated from the Black Country Enterprise Zone to repay the borrowing costs associated with this grant as follows:
 - (a) Business rates generated from the Parallel 9-10 site, and
 - (b) Business rate surpluses from the wider BCEZ to fund the Parallel 9-10 deficit.
- 2.3 approves The Parallel 9/10 project to be confirmed as the next priority project in respect of the allocation of the Black Country Enterprise Zone business rates, after Categories 1 – 6 as set out in the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement