



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 9 December 2020, 10.30am

To be held via a Teams Virtual Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES - PUBLIC

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

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 PRESENT

Tom Westley, Black Country LEP

IN ATTENDANCE

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

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.

1. **Apologies**

Dr Alison Knight

2. **Notes of Meeting held on 30 September 2020**

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

20/0072 **Resolved (unanimously)**

That the notes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 be confirmed as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting**

None.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

5. 20/0073 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**

To agree that the public be excluded from the private session

It was resolved:

The public be excluded from the private session during consideration of items 12 to 14.

Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

6. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – BIRCHLEY ISLAND SITE ASSEMBLY (DEVELOPMEENT FUNDING – Grant Agreement Approval**

20/0074 **This report was presented in private session and a decision was made following consideration of the confidential information.**

7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND SINGLE ACCOUNTABLE BODY (SAB) ADMINISTRATION COSTS**

Lara Smith (supported by Simon Neilson) referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the report detailed a request for the approval of the administration costs up until 2023. Outputs will still be counted up until March 2025 and it should be noted that some projects will require additional time due to the delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

20/0075 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

2.1 approves the capital allocations from the identified Growth Deal over programming (formerly the Growing Places Fund) of:

- £550,000 to Walsall Council to carry out its role as Single Accountable Body to the Growth Deal and other LEP programmes;

- £204,000 to the Black Country Consortium Ltd. for the Management and Administration functions of the Black Country Local Growth Deal, and;
- £80,000 to Walsall Council to cover the costs of the external legal and technical fees in support of managing the programme.

2.2 Endorse that the administrative costs of supporting effective programme delivery and ongoing monitoring of schemes continue and are funded through the Growth Deal over programming (as set out in **Table 3**).

8. Black Country Growth Hub – **GROWTH HUB PEER NETWORKS** – Programme Approval

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that funding was made available in 2020/21 following the Productivity Review carried out by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for peer networks. These are to be based on a successful peer-led model developed in Ireland called PLATO plus. The Black Country LEP has been compiling sector action plans as part of the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy (WM LIS). The Black Country LEP is responsible for the following sector action plans:

- Rail;
- Aerospace;
- Construction;
- Metals and Materials;
- Health and Social Care

it is intended to create one peer network for each of the sectors and they will each receive approximately £15,000

20/0076 Councillor Bird moved the recommendation that 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 Joint Committee

approves for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a grant agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to deliver the Growth Hub Peer Networks programme.

9. Black Country Enterprise Zone – **SUPPLEMENTAL DEED OF VARIATION TO BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT APPROVAL (ENTERPRISE ZONE'S)**

Lara Smith (supported by Simon Neilson) referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the supplemental Deed of Variation has already

been approved by Council's Cabinet (Walsall will take it today) and therefore this was to add it to the BCJC Collaboration Agreement.

20/0077 Councillor Bird moved the recommendation that 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 Joint Committee

approves the Supplemental Deed of Variation relating to the Collaboration Agreement in relation to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal and Growth Deal dated the 7 May 2014, at **Appendix A** to the report and in doing so, approves the Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones (at **Appendix B** to the report).

This recommendation was approved at the following meetings:

- o Dudley Council Cabinet on 29 October 2020.
- o Sandwell Council Cabinet on 18 November 2020.
- o City of Wolverhampton Council Cabinet on 11 November 2020.
- o BC LEP Board on 19 October 2020.
- o Walsall Council is due at Cabinet 9 December 2020

10. Black Country Enterprise Zone – HISTORIC REVENUE COSTS – Approval of Actual Historic Revenue Cost and Recovery Proposal

Lara Smith (supported by Simon Neilson) referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the report details that the Accountable Body has completed an Audit of all historic costs and now requires that revenue costs are paid to Dudley and Walsall Council, the Single Accountable Body and Wolverhampton City Council. Details of which are contained in the report.

20/0078 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

- 2.1 Approve that Dudley Council actual historic revenue costs of £571,207 are recovered in the year that they were incurred.
- 2.2 Approve that Single Accountable Body (SAB) actual revenue costs of £41,665 are recovered in the year that they were incurred.
- 2.3 Approve that historic revenue costs of Walsall Council (£1,470,316) and Wolverhampton Council (£967,694) are recovered over a 10-year period, from 2020/21 to 2029/30.

11. 20/0079 Black Country Enterprise Zone – FUTURE REVENUE COSTS – Approval of Future Revenue Costs

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

PRIVATE SESSION (Public Summary)

12. **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 30 September 2020 – Private Session**

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

- 20/0081 **Resolved (unanimously)**

That the Private Session notes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 be confirmed as a true record.

13. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – BIRCHLEY ISLAND SITE ASSEMBLY (DEVELOPMENT FUNDING) – Grant Agreement Approval**

- 20/0082 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, it was resolved unanimously that the Joint Committee :

approve the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a grant agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Birchley Island Site Assembly project with delivery to commence and be fully spent in the 2020/21 financial year.

14. **Black Country Enterprise Zone – FUTURE REVENUE COSTS – Approval of Future Revenue Costs**

- 20/0083 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, it was resolved unanimously that the Joint Committee :

- 2.1 Approve that each Local Authority may claim up to a maximum of £250,000 per annum from 2020/21 to 2024/25 development funding. This is a maximum of £1,250,000 per local authority over the five years and £5,000,000 in total.
- 2.2 Approve that the SAB may claim up to a maximum of £100,000 per annum from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for programme management costs. This is a maximum of £500,000 over the five years.
- 2.3 Approve that the PMO may claim up to a maximum of £34,000 per annum from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for programme management costs. This is maximum of £170,000 over the five years.
- 2.4 Approve that from 2025/26 onwards each Local Authority, the SAB and the PMO (the “entities”) may claim a reduced maximum of £10,000 per annum to the end of the relevant EZs to cover monitoring and compliance costs. This will end at 31 March 2038 for Walsall Council, Wolverhampton Council and Sandwell Council, and end at 31 March 2042 for Dudley Council, the SAB and the PMO.
- 2.5 Approve that from 2021/22 to 2024/25, Wolverhampton Council can claim towards the Transport Director costs, on behalf of all Local Authorities.



REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

17 FEBRUARY 2021

Black Country Local Growth Deal

ACCESSING GROWTH SPRINGFIELD INTERCHANGE (SEPPL44) - Project Change Request

Amendment to the existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee approves of the change request for the Accessing Growth Springfield Interchange project from within the Growth Deal Programme.
- 1.2 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on 2 September 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 21 September 2020, endorsed by the Working Group on 3 December 2020 and by the Advisory Board on 1 February 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for the Growth Deal to **proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council**, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth Springfield Interchange project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.2 Notes that this change request relates to a change in outputs for the Springfield Interchange scheme.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 Public realm was identified as an important element of the City Centre Regeneration Strategy in the 2012 Prospectus for the City of Wolverhampton, aiming to enhance the connection of the various parts of the City Centre.
- 3.2 The aim of this project was to substantially enhance and create a sustainable access from the Wolverhampton interchange to the new campus. This will enable students from the wider area to access the new learning opportunity. The project will considerably revitalize this part of the City centre. In particular, it is proposed that the pedestrian environment between the Campus and the rail and bus stations (Interchange area) be considerably improved to ensure a safer and more attractive public realm for students to move along.
- 3.3 The Springfield Interchange scheme was carried out in 3 phases and enabled time urgent works to be commissioned and carried out prior to the opening of the new UTC facility on the Springfield site. The project was completed in 2017 with Phase 1 being delivered by means of Accessing Growth Funds from the BC LEP, the two further phases of the project were delivered with contributions from the Council and ERDF funding.
- 3.4 Phase 1 covered the area from Cambridge Street (outside the main entrance to the Springfield campus), along Grimstone Street, to the Victoria Halls development. The baseline outputs are tabled below:

Outputs/Outcomes	Metric	2015 / 16	2016 / 17	2017 / 18
Land Remediated	Ha	0	0	1

- 3.5 Following on from the most recent audit and project closure visit by the Accountable Body, it has been highlighted that Land Remediation as a direct output was incorrectly captured at the time of project bidding. At that point in time in the Growth Deal Programme, the Initial proposal form did not capture any Transport related Outputs. The project application forms were revised shortly after this project was approved, as further rounds of Growth Deal were announced (Growth Deal rounds 2 and 3).
- 3.6 A change request has now been submitted by the applicant, City of Wolverhampton Council, to amend the measure of land remediated (1 Hectare) to length of new cycle way (0.5 km). This change is required due to a clerical error in declaring the 1 hectare of land associated with the Springfield Campus Development as a direct output when it should have been identified as an indirect output. In addition, the development has resulted in further outputs being achieved that were not originally identified, these being:
- 0.2 km of road resurfaced;
 - 0.412 km of footway resurfaced.

3.7 Final outputs delivered by the project

Outputs/Outcomes	Metric	2015 / 16	2016 / 17	2017 / 18
Resurfaced road	Km	0	0	0.2
Length of cycleways	Km	0	0	0.571
Footways resurfaced	Km	0	0	0.412

**only cycleways have been verified by the Accountable Body at this point in time*

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.

**No BCR has been calculated for this project as Accessing Growth funding outputs are not taken into account when calculating a project BCR.*

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 29 October 2014.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriate Grant Agreements are 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.

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.

Background papers

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

- September 2020 FSG LGF Report V1.0;
- GD Springfield Interchange Change Request.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

17 FEBRUARY 2021

**Black Country Local Growth Deal
FAB KIT – PTP LTD (SEPP11) - Project Change Request**

Amendment to the existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee approves of the change request for the Fab Kit – PTP Ltd (SEPP11) project from within the Growth Deal Programme.
- 1.2 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 4 November 2020 and was approved by the LEP Board on 23 November 2020. The Working Group endorsed this request on 21 January 2021 and the Advisory Board endorsed on 1 February 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for the Local Growth Deal to proceed **to amending the Grant Agreement with Performance Through People (PTP) Ltd**, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Fab Kit – PTP Ltd project with delivery to continue up to the 2023/24 financial year.

This change relates to reprofiling the business assists over a longer time period and the reduction of the match funding for the project.

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 project provided capital investment in high-tech equipment increasing Performance Through People's (PTP) capacity to deliver high value manufacturing training that meets the skills needs of local businesses. Specifically, the provision of CNC machines, to meet the training needs of local businesses and to deliver Bite Sized Training for employers/staff. The original bid was to support investment in manual Press Brakes as advised by PTP's Engineering Manager at the time. Since recruiting a new (more experienced) Engineering Manager it was evidenced that the manual machines were not fit for purpose and did not fit with the organisation's High Value Manufacturing strategy. The Black Country Skills Factory visited PTP and endorsed the recommendation to replace the manual machine for an Amada CNC Press Brake; aligning with market demand whereby currently 80% of Black Country Companies are using this brand. On this basis an additional £23,788 grant was awarded upgrade the offering and purchase the Amada CNC Press Brake.

3.3 Building upon the success of the FAB KIT Programme, as further request was brought forward to develop PTP's learning offer further to deliver engineering ICT based qualifications and courses. The basis of this bid was from consultation with local employers in the Black Country. The consultation led to the conclusion that local businesses needed additional skills to those currently offered by PTP in the Engineering and manufacturing sector. This request of £40,000 was approved in 2015.

3.4 A summary of the overall funding is tabled below:

Funding source	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2019-20	2020-21	Totals
BC LEP LGF – Fab Kit programme	£75,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£75,000.00
BC LEP LGF – additional funding	£23,788.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£23,788.00
BC LEP LGF – Fab Kit expansion (IT Academy)	£40,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£40,000.00
Applicants own funds	£1,182.85	£119,154.00	£0.00	£38,389.99	£43,273.16	£202,000.00
Total:	£139,970.85	£119,154.00	£0.00	£38,389.99	£43,273.16	£340,000.00

3.5 Outputs which were approved and to be achieved by March 2021 are detailed as follows:

<u>Output</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Achieved to date</u>
New Jobs Created	5	5
Jobs Safeguarded	3	4
Businesses Assisted	175	115
Learners Assisted	196	300
Apprenticeship starts	145	170
Apprenticeship completed	75	124
Refurbished training floorspace (Sqm)	143	143

3.6 In March 2020, the UK went into formal lockdown forcing a large proportion of the workforce to close businesses or work remotely from home. This has had quite a significant impact on PTP's ability to deliver their remaining contracted outputs and have brought forward a change request to address some of these issues that now remain. The project has been successful to date with the applicant having overachieved on all of their outputs, with the exception of business assists. The proposed change is requesting an extension to enable the project to fully deliver the contracted target.

<u>Output</u>	<u>Original Target Overall</u>	<u>Claimed to March 2020*</u>	<u>Remaining Outputs to Achieve</u>	<u>Revised Proposed Forecast of Output Delivery</u>				
				<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>Revised Proposed Total</u>
Business Assists- Number of new enterprises supported	175	115	60	11	25	15	9	60

3.7 The financial targets of this grant funding were achieved very early in the process and were audited and signed off by the Accountable Body. The only outstanding financial element of this project is the applicant's match funding and in addition to the output change, PTP wish to reduce their match funding commitment. During December 2018, the organisation were the subject of a zero-day event virus attack on their IT system. Unfortunately, although they were able to restore the majority of the systems from back up, the Sage financial system was lost. There are no records from that period now that could verify the balance of the match funding to be claimed. To date £156,728.84 has been verified leaving a deficit of £43, 273.16.

3.8 The project has always been found to be good value for money and as the project has consistently over-achieved on all other aspects of the scheme, it is recommended to remove the outstanding balance of match funding. An updated Benefits Cost Ratio (BCR) has been provided to ensure that the proposed changes are not detrimental to the Value for Money element of the scheme.

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 – this is considered as part of the project assessment against the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan and associated frameworks.

BCR/Value for Money

The original BCR was based on the entire Fab Kit programme and was 205.53.

A BCR has been calculated for this project taking into consideration proposed changes, and counting apprenticeships as jobs, the BCR is as follows:

30.71 > 1.5

*BCR above 1.5 is considered good value for money.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications, as the recommendations in this report relate to match funding and output profiles. The funding awarded to Performance Through People (PTP) Ltd has not changed and has already been paid from the Local Growth Fund Grant.

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.

Background papers

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

- November 2020 FSG GD Report V1.0;
- Fab Kit PTP Change Request.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

17 FEBRUARY 2021

Growing Places Fund

DUDLEY CANAL TRUST (TRIPS) LTD (SEPPL125) – Project Change Request

Amendment to the 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 approves the change request for the Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Ltd project within the Growing Places Programme.
- 1.3 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on 4 November 2020, approved by the LEP Board on 23 November 2020 and endorsed by the Working Group on 3 December 2020 and by the Advisory Board on 1 February 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves Sandwell Council to proceed to **amending the funding repayment schedule with the Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Limited**, funded from within the Growing Places Fund (GPF), with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.

2.2 Note that this change request relates to a repayment holiday and change to the current loan repayment arrangements due to the impact that COVID-19 has had on the organisation.

3. REPORT DETAIL

3.1 In 2013, a proposal was put forward for the Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Limited to replace dated and inadequate timber buildings adjacent to the canal towpath, and used to provide shelter for people waiting for the boat trips and ticketing facilities. Growing Places Funding (GPF) was sought to contribute towards the costs of constructing the new facility, particularly those elements which were ineligible for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funding, which included the car park, retail and café elements of the scheme. At time of project approval, about 80,000 visitors passed through this facility each year, and was anticipated to increase to over 112,000 by 2022.

3.2 A loan was approved at the Funding Sub Board in January 2014. The completed development is owned and managed by the applicant, and has constructed on land which the applicant holds a 90-year lease. The freehold is owned by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

3.3 The tourism and Visitor economy has been one of the sectors largest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in much lower tourism numbers for the Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Ltd. A change request has been brought forward to address some of the issues that impact of the pandemic have had on the business. The current loan final payment date is March 2034.

3.4 Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust have requested a repayment holiday and change to the current loan repayment arrangements due to the impact that Covid19 has had on the organisation. Four options have been calculated which are:

1. A repayment holiday until March 2022, increasing the repayment amount to keep the repayment end date of March 2034.
2. A repayment holiday until March 2022, keeping repayments the same as the current agreement, therefore extending the term of the loan to a repayment end date of March 2038.
3. A repayment holiday until March 2022, reducing the interest rate, but increasing the repayments to keep the repayment end date of March 2034.
4. A repayment holiday of March 2022, reducing the interest rate and keeping the repayments the same as the current arrangement, therefore extending the term of the loan to a repayment end date of September 2035.

3.5 Any changes to the repayments do not affect any milestones as the project completed in 2015 and has been repaying the loan as contracted since this time.

- 3.6 Option four with the reviewed interest is the Trust's preferred option. Prior to lockdown they had a bad trading year that put them in a difficult position and making increased payments would add to the business stress. With lockdown affecting the business further they now need to rebuild, so keeping any costs as low as they can will be essential for several years to come. It is appreciated that this increases the term of the loan but they hope to get to a position (given the cost cutting and new business modelling) where they could over pay in the future, giving them greater flexibility.
- 3.7 As many other organisations, the Trust had to close its doors to visitors during the various lockdown periods and the impact of this is still being felt. They were briefly open over the summer of 2020 but to reduced visitor numbers for compliance with COVID-19 and some activities that the Trust offered have had to be temporarily shelved due to the virus. They had begun to implement a number of cost-cutting and income generation measures at the beginning of 2020 and were hoping to see returns on this, however COVID-19 hit during this period.
- 3.8 They have reviewed their current position and concluded that they need to hone in on the more successful areas and are in the process of revising their business model with support of a business advisor that they were able to secure with funding from National Lottery. This should support them to be more sustainable and ensure their finances are robust and able to support this period of change.

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

Not applicable for this request, as any changes to the repayments do not affect any milestones as the project completed in 2015 and has been repaying the loan as contracted since this time.

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 is in place and will be utilised by the Sandwell 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

- Dudley Canal Trust GPF Change Request;
- November 2020 FSG paper.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

17 FEBRUARY 2021

**Land and Property Investment Fund
SANDWELL HOUSING GAP FUNDING – PHASE 1 (SEPPL87) – Project Change Request**

Amendment to the existing Grant Agreement

Key Decision: Yes
Forward Plan: Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee approves of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1 change request from within the Land and Property Investment Fund programme.
- 1.2 This change request was endorsed by the LEP Funding Sub Group on 6 January 2021, approved by the LEP Board on 18 January 2021 and endorsed by the Working Group on 21 January 2021 and by the Advisory Board on 1 February 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for the Land and Property Investment Fund to proceed to **amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council** to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1 project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.2 Notes that this change request relates to the financial forecast for the grant award being changed and differs to what is scheduled in the contract with the Accountable Body.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 In March 2020, the BC LEP approved a project funding allocation for Sandwell Council, relating to two Council owned sites, in support of their ambitious plans for new, good

quality, low-cost housing within the region. The sites are located at Stanhope Road Smethwick and King Street Wednesbury, both 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. 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 but a few.

Stanhope Road, Smethwick

- 3.2 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

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 There has been some delay in finalising the Grant Agreement, however the project has continued to progress at risk and good progress has been made. A change request has been brought forward, as the financial forecast for the grant award has changed, and differs to what is scheduled in the contract with the Accountable Body.
- 3.6 Sandwell Council are forecasting the following profile:

LPIF Award	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	TOTAL
Original Profile	£1,680,294	£0	£0	£1,680,294
Revised Profile	£0	£1,300,000	£380,294	£1,680,294

The match funding for this project will be captured as follows:

Match funding	2021/22	2022/23	TOTAL
Updated profile	£4,174,098	£1,221,065	£5,395,163

3.7 The delivery timescales for the outputs have changed slightly, captured in the below table:

Output	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
Land Remediated (Ha)	1.16	0	0	0	1.16
Revised profile	0.49	0.78	0	0	1.27
Housing units (No.)	0	37	0	0	37
Revised profile	0	0	5	32	37

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.

*There is no change to the BCR calculation for this 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 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 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 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 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

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

- January 2021 LPIF Report V1.0;
- Sandwell Housing Gap Funding – Phase 1 Change Request.

Attachments

None.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

17 FEBRUARY 2021

Growth Hub

GROWTH HUB EU TRANSITION BUSINESS READINESS

Grant Agreement

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Department for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS) is making a grant available to the Black Country LEP Growth Hub for the purpose of delivering EU Transition Business Readiness for the Black Country region.
- 1.2 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee approves for Walsall Council to enter into an agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd who will be managing the Growth Hub EU Transition Readiness fund.
- 1.1 This programme was recommended for approval by the LEP Board on 18 January 2021. The Working Group endorsed this request on 21 January 2021 and the Advisory Board endorsed on 1 February 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee approves for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to **enter into a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd for the additional award of EU Transition Business Readiness Growth Hub Grant Funding up to £136,050** with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 This award of 2020-2021 EU Transition Business Readiness Growth Hub Grant funding (the "Grant") by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is

additional revenue funding to the 2020-2021 core grant funding awarded to Accountable Bodies for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) for their Growth Hubs.

- 3.2 The Grant can only be spent on certain agreed Growth Hub activities set out in the Project Activity Information tables below for issues connected with the ending of the transitional period for the UK leaving the EU on 31st December 2020 (“EU Transition issues”).
- 3.3 Those activities are to provide outreach and engagement with businesses on EU Transition issues, and to further improve business resilience in the period leading up to the ending of the EU Transition Period on 31st December 2020 and the period afterwards up to and including 31st March 2021.
- 3.3 All advisors and specialist advisors recruited for EU Transition issues related to outreach and business advice should not be employed by LEPs as permanent employees and should only be recruited on a temporary or similar non-permanent basis. Any roles to be funded beyond the 31st March 2021 by the LEPs and/or Growth Hub providers will need to be funded using other sources of local funding. The Grant does not create any recurring liabilities on BEIS to provide further EU Transition funding for Growth Hubs after 31st March 2021.
- 3.4 The total Grant allocation for the Black Country LEP under this programme is up to £136,050. The maximum amount of funding allocated for individual activities are as follows:

Activity	Funding Allocation (up to)
Advisors for Outreach and Advice	£54,000 (Ringfenced)
Specialist & General Advisors	£67,500
Intelligence, Analysis, Monitoring & Evaluation	£5,000
Regional Coordination & Targeting	£9,550

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 additional financial implications as BCC Ltd will continue to hold the responsibility for the management of the funds and can fund this from existing resources, and activities as set out in paragraph 3.4 will be funded from the grant.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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. This will be managed via the claims process which will confirm that spend is eligible and evidenced.

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.

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**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
TO
BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON**

17 FEBRUARY 2021

CONSTITUTION AND TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2020/21

Review of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Black Country Executive Joint Committee approves the options set out for change that could be applied to the current Black Country Joint Committee approval stages, to improve efficiency and timeframes for approvals of funding awards.
- 1.2 This request was endorsed by Association of Black Country Authorities (ABCA) Chief Executives on 5 November 2020 and by Association of Black Country Authorities (ABCA) Leaders on 9 December 2020. The Advisory Board endorsed on 1 February 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee approves:

- 2.1 the removal of the Advisory Board, with Black Country Heads of Regeneration taking responsibility for wider consultation, including briefing Cabinet Portfolio Holders
- 2.2. the addition of 3 extra Black Country Executive Joint Committee meetings in 2021 as shown in **Appendix 2** to approve key projects. Noting that if there are no items on the Forward Plan, the associated Black Country Executive Joint Committee meetings will be cancelled.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 All projects requiring approval of funding awarded to the Black Country LEP are required to follow the processes and approval routes outlined within the Black Country Assurance

Framework, in compliance with national arrangements as set by Government through the National Assurance Framework.

On the 17 April 2013, the Association of Black Country Authorities agreed that each Black Country Council would seek the agreement from their Cabinet’s to establish an Executive Joint Committee for the Black Country (BCJC).

On 7 May 2014, a ‘Collaboration Agreement’ was set into place setting out these arrangements; since that date, the BCJC has considered and approved projects totaling almost £300million. These projects continue to be successfully contracted and managed by Walsall Council acting as the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership’s (BC LEP) Single Accountable Body (SAB), in partnership with the BC LEP’s Programme Management Office (PMO).

These arrangements have successfully administered a number of complex government programmes over the past five years, with all annual spend profiles set by Government (Growth Deal) met in full, with all funding claimed, audit requirements fulfilled and government evaluations met.

At its meeting on 5 November 2020, ABCA Chief Executives considered proposals for streamlining the BCJC governance arrangements and processes. The following sections of this report set out background and the options considered, with the subsequent recommendations set out above.

The following diagram sets out the current project lifecycle process, starting with the LEP’s Funding Sub Group (FSG).

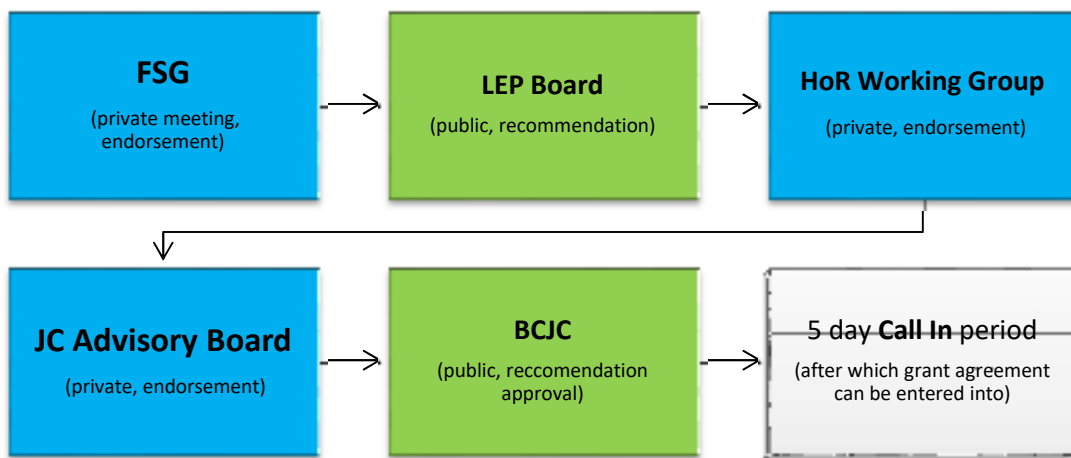


Table 1. Project approval lifecycle

3.2 Current Approval Timescales

The 2020/21 period has been particularly challenging due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to put alternative, robust and satisfactory arrangements in place for public meetings, through for example, new technologies.

Looking back over the past year, officers have calculated that the timeframes for projects to achieve approval. These range from 28 days for the School of Architecture and Built Environment project, to a maximum of 231 days for the i54 Project; noting that 145 days of this

scheme related to waiting for funding confirmation, with a further 49 days being due to cancellation of the April BCJC due to COVID-19.

The key factors influencing delays are:

- Additional information requirements from applicant, usually at FSG stage;
- Funding availability (as with i54 project);
- Frequency of BCJC and Advisory Board meetings, which are less frequent than FSG, LEP Board and Heads of Regeneration Group.

Team members have evaluated project timeframes moving through the approval processes during 2020 and provided a summary at **Appendix 1**. This indicates a combined average of around 68 days, increasing from 60 to 77 as a direct result of COVID-19.

3.3 Options Considered by ABCA Chief Executives on 5 November 2020:

Task 1 – In considering how the process could be refined to improve both the process and the time taken to achieve approval, the following options have been developed for consideration by ABCA.

Option 1 – to increase the number of Advisory Board and BCJC meetings

Currently the schedule of meetings requires one Advisory Board meeting for each BCJC meeting. An option could be to increase the number of both meetings from 6 to 9 per year. This could reduce average approval periods but likely to create more inefficiencies and costs as there would be fewer agenda items per meeting, increasing the levels of administration, officer and Member time.

Option 2 – Removal of Advisory Board, with Heads of Regeneration Group taking responsibility for wider consultation, including briefing all appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

This would result in the removal of the Advisory Board, with the following responsibilities moving to the Heads of Regeneration:

- Heads of Regeneration would have visibility through the BCJC Forward Plan and hold responsibility for consultation on all reports including with their Cabinet Portfolio Holders;
- Heads of Regeneration would be responsible for fully briefing their Cabinet Portfolio Holders, and signing consultation sheets to confirm this;

This may have a limited impact on reducing approval timeframes if BCJC continue to meet only 6 times per year, but creates additional efficiencies as the number of meetings / reports that officers and Advisory Board members would have to attend / review would be reduced.

- The PMO would send the LEP agenda to Heads of Regeneration for early visibility on recommendations coming forward, and give early sight to report consultees and Cabinet Portfolio Holders;
- Finalised papers for Heads of Regeneration Group will be circulated 10 working days before the meeting along with the Consultation Sheets for each report;

- Heads of Regeneration will be responsible for consulting with Legal and Finance for their own report BUT ALSO briefing their Regeneration Cabinet Portfolio Holder on ALL REPORTS to ensure visibility and transparency on all of the projects coming forwards across the Black Country. Consultation Sheets will need to be signed by Heads of Regeneration and returned to the Single Accountable Body (SAB) and copied to the PMO ahead of the Heads of Regeneration Group meeting;
- Reports will be available to Cabinet Portfolio Holders at the same time as Heads of Regeneration, distributed via email by the Heads of Regeneration Secretariat.

It is considered that consulting with Cabinet Portfolio Holders in this way will ensure that they are briefed appropriately. It should be noted that during the last 12/18 months, the Advisory Board has struggled to achieve quorum for meetings and most of the decisions taken have been via email approvals.

It is considered that private sector engagement will still take place through the LEP Funding Sub Group and the LEP Board.

Option 3 – Building on Option 2, the addition of up to 3 additional BCJC meetings scheduled (from 6 to 9 per year) to approve key projects (Appendix 2)

This would ensure that key time-bound projects can receive approvals as required, reducing any delays, as currently there can be 2 months between meetings. However if there are no items on the Forward Plan, meetings will be cancelled.

Task 2 – How can we ensure that short time-bound specific project application approvals are met?

Possible solution – Reconsider the Delegated Authority granted to the Chair of the Working Group by BCJC

The potential for changes in delegation levels are under consideration, any proposals will be taken first to the Heads of Regeneration (Working Group) for discussion and agreement therefore, this is an ongoing task and members are being asked to note it only.

4. BENEFIT COST RATIO (VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 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.

4.2 Not applicable for this report (required for funding recommendations only).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial cost implications associated with this report. All costs associated with the delivery of the SAB functions by Walsall Council and the PMO at the Black Country Consortium, including amendments to the Black Country Collaboration Agreement and Assurance Framework, are covered from top-slicing of the grants managed, or from the interest generated from funding held, or a mixture of both as agreed by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Board and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The amendments to the Black Country Assurance Framework and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance have been reviewed by BCC Ltd and the Accountable Body (including a review by Walsall Council Head of Law of the Delegated Authority proposals) to ensure that it is robust, consistent with the requirements of the National Growth Assurance Framework, which was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in January 2019.
- 6.2 If the recommendations in this report are approved by the BCJC, then the Assurance Framework and BCJC Collaboration Agreement will be amended, most likely by way of a Deed of Variation, to reflect these changes. A future report will be presented to the BCJC seeking approval for these changes.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk will be managed through open dialogue and regular meetings of the SAB Working Group (between the Black Country Consortium and Walsall Council as Single Accountable Body) focused on the programme of continuous improvement.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None at the time of drafting.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 ABCA Chief Executives considered the proposal at its meeting on 5th November 2020 and recommended to proceed with Option 2 and Option 3.
- 9.2 ABCA Leaders endorsed ABCA Chief Executives recommendation at the Association of Black Country Authorities meeting on the 9th December 2020.
- 9.3 Heads of Regeneration Working Group had an early sight of this report at its meeting on 3rd December 2020.
- 9.4. Legal and Finance Officers at Walsall Council were consulted as part of the development of this report.

9.5 Legal and Finance Officers at parties' organizations to the BCJC Collaboration Agreement were briefed on the proposed governance changes and its impact on their roles and responsibilities at the Collaborative Working Group meeting on 27th January 2021.

Background papers

- None.

Attachments

- I. Average approval timeframes for 2020;
- II. Removal of Advisory Board and additional 3 BCJC meetings.

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Appendix 1

Average approval timeframes for 2020

On average in 2020, the decision from FSG to BCJC (“turnaround”) were as follows:

Turnaround	Days	Comments
Average including Covid	77	April BCJC cancelled and urgent meeting in May (additional 49 days), with non-urgent decisions deferred to June (additional 84 days).
Average excluding Covid	60	
Average combined $77+60 = 137 / 2 = 68$	68	
Best case	28	Relates to the School of Architecture and Built Environment project, endorsed subject to LEP Board approval by Heads of Regen on 2 nd July 2020 and Advisory Board on 9 th July 2020 and approved by the LEP Board on 13 th July 2020. The decision was then ratified by Heads of Regen on 15 th July 2020 via email, and ratified by Advisory Board on 16 th July 2020 via email, prior the July’s BCJC.
Worst case* no funding available	231	Relates to i54 project, delay of 145 days incurred due to funding not being available (time between 2nd October 2019 FSG and 24th February 2020 LEP Board). Further 49 days delay in securing approval incurred due to April BCJC being cancelled (Covid 19). Project was considered at the urgent BCJC meeting arranged in May.

* Note: The project must be on the published BCJC Forward Plan for 28 consecutive days, which can be one of the reasons for the delay.

The key factors influencing delays are:

- Additional information requirements from applicant, usually at FSG stage;
- Funding availability;
- Frequency of BCJC and Advisory Board meetings, which are less frequent than FSG, LEP Board and Heads of Regen;
- Covid 19.

Appendix 2

Removal of Advisory Board and additional 3 BCJC meetings (highlighted in yellow)

LEP FSG	LEP Board	WG	BCJC
03-Feb	22-Feb	11-Mar	31-Mar-21
03-Mar	22-Mar	08-Apr	28-Apr-21
07-Apr	19-Apr	20-May	23-Jun-21
05-May	17-May	10-Jun	
02-Jun	14-Jun	8-July	28-July-21
07-Jul	19-Jul	12-Aug	25-Aug-21
04-Aug	16-Aug	9-Sept	29-Sept-21
01-Sept	20-Sept	14-Oct	03-Nov-21
06-Oct	18-Oct	11-Nov	01-Dec-21