

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 10.30am

**To be held at Walsall Council House and via a Teams Virtual Meeting
and Webcast**

MINUTES – PUBLIC

MEMBERS - In person

Dudley MBC - Councillor Patrick Harley (Voting)
Sandwell MBC - Councillor Bob Piper (Voting sub), Kim Bromley-Derry
Walsall MBC - Councillor Adrian Andrew (Voting sub), Dr Helen Paterson (**Secretary**)
City of Wolverhampton Council - Councillor Ian Brookfield (**Chair**), (Voting), Tim Johnson

ATTENDEES – via Teams

Black Country LEP – Tom Westley
The Black Country Consortium Ltd – Sarah Middleton and Lara Smith
Dudley MBC - Kevin O’Keefe
City of Wolverhampton Council - Tim Johnson and Richard Lawrence
Sandwell MBC - Tony McGovern
Walsall MBC - Simon Neilson

Councillor Brookfield welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting with voting members being present in Walsall Council Chamber with appropriate social distancing requirements in place and non-voting members joining the discussions online via the use of Microsoft Teams.

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

1. Apologies

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall Council
Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Sandwell Council
Dudley MBC - Helen Martin

2. Notes of Meeting held on 03 November 2021

Decision 22/0001

Councillor Brookfield moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 03 November 2021 which was seconded by Councillor Harley. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 03 November 2021 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.

None.

6. Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement Amendments.

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that contained in the report are a number of changes that have been made over the last few months and they now have been brought together in one report for final approval by the BCJC. The changes where necessary have been approved by all 4 Black Country Local Authority Cabinets and the Black Country LEP Board. The changes have been made to improve processes by streamlining where appropriate and also updating the Joint Collaboration Agreement. Section 3.9 of the report details all of the changes.

Decision 22/0002

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

2.1 Approve proposed amendments, as highlighted in light blue, to the Collaboration Agreement covering the removal of the Advisory Board and revised Black Country Executive Joint Committee governance, and Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones, included as Appendix A to this report.

2.2 Note that once agreed, all approved changes are recorded by a Deed of Variation.

**7. Land and Property Investment Fund
Globe House, Walsall – Grant Agreement Approval**

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that they have been working with the applicant for some time to bring this project forward. West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) are also providing funding for this project and this was approved by their Investment Board. This is a very strategic site in Walsall Town Centre and will deliver 35 residential units. WMCA has asked for 20% (7) of the units to be let as affordable housing. The applicant hopes to commence work on site at the end of August beginning of September.

Councillor Brookfield feels it is right that these strategic sites are brought forward and local authorities should support them. Pleased that they have an element of affordable housing.

Councillor Andrew advised that Walsall are very supportive of this site that will provide housing where it is needed and was confident that Leaders of each Council are knowledgeable of what is needed within their Town Centres.

Decision 22/0003

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approve the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to **enter into a grant agreement with Globe Asset Management Limited, to the value of £627,519** to deliver the Land and Property Investment (LPIF) funded elements of the Globe House, Walsall project, with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.

8. Local Growth Fund Individual Project Changes for (i) Hatherton Street Phase 2; (ii) i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton - Amendment to the existing Grant Agreements

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained details to project changes:

Hatherton Street Walsall was completed June 2020. Overall cost saving on the Project and therefore grant funding element was reduced last year and now seeking to reduce match funding. Final unit on the site was sold last year and the Project is now in output monitoring stage.

i9 project completed successfully and will have the Government Departments of BEIS and DLUP located there. West Midlands Pension Fund also moving into the building. Seeking approval to reduce the jobs output and also to add additional output.

Councillor Brookfield advised that they do expect the growth in jobs to continue.

Decision 22/0004

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

2.1 Approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **amend the grant agreement with Jessup Brothers Limited, to reflect the reduction in match funding of £506,056 and re-profiled outputs** as set out in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 respectively for Hatherton Street Phase 2 Project.

2.2 Approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **amend the grant agreement with Ion Projects Limited, to reflect the change in indirect outputs** as set out in paragraph 3.10 for i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton Project.

9. **Land and Property Investment Fund**
Individual Project Change for Sandwell Housing GAP Funding Phase 1 –
Amendment to the existing Grant Agreement

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the project had experienced delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic but is now progressing well on site. The report seeks to update spend profile for grant and match funding and update the Outputs taking into account the move in timescales on remediation and procurement contract.

Decision 22/0005

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approve the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Grant Agreement with Sandwell MBC**, to deliver the Land and Property Investment (LPIF) funded elements of the **Sandwell Housing Gap Funding – Phase 1 project** with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.

Note that change request relates to a change in the grant funding profile.

Meeting closed.