



**Black Country Executive Joint Committee**  
Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**INAUGURAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 26 March 2014, 3.15pm**

**Held at:**

**Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,**  
**The Council House, Committee Room 2**

**MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC  
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC  
Councillor David Sparks, Dudley MBC  
Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC

**NON VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC  
Simon Warren, Wolverhampton CC  
John Polychronakis, Dudley MBC  
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC  
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

**INVITED GUESTS**

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

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1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Appointment of Chair for 2013/14**

A Nomination for the Chairperson and vice-chairperson for the current municipal year was discussed.

14/0001 **It was resolved that:**

Councillor Mike Bird, The Leader of the Council at Walsall Council be nominated as the Chair person for the current municipal year 2013/14.

14/0002 **It was resolved that:**

Councillor Darren Cooper, The Leader of the Council at Sandwell Council be nominated as the Vice-Chairperson for the current municipal year 2013/14 and subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting be Chairperson for the next municipal year 2014/15.

**3. Constitution and Terms of Reference**

Councillor Bird drew everyone's attention to the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Black Country Executive Joint Committee that had been previously circulated.

**14/0003 It was resolved that:**

the Constitution and Terms of Reference as circulated and agreed by each local authorities Full Council be adopted.

Contained within the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Black Country Executive Joint Committee was the Constitution and Terms of Reference for a City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board.

**14/0004 It was resolved that:**

the substitute voting and non-voting members of the Committee are:

- Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall
- Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton
- Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell
- Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley
- Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP

**14/0005 It was resolved that:**

the Joint Committee set up a City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board as detailed in the body of the report.

**14/0006 It was resolved that:**

the Constitution and Terms of Reference of the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board as set out in Appendix B of the report be approved and Walsall Council will be the Secretary of the Board.

**14/0007 It was resolved that:**

each Council will continue as it currently does, with its own Scrutiny structure. Where a Scrutiny Committee chooses to look into the performance of the City Deal and Growth Deal and its impact on that Scrutiny Committees Council, it can do and report under the normal structure to its Full Council and Cabinet on its findings. The findings will then be reported back to the next available Joint Committee as appropriate.

**4. Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2015/16 - (Executive Summary)**

Simon Neilson, Executive Director at Walsall MBC and Sarah Middleton, Chief Executive at The BC Consortium Ltd presented the report that had been previously circulated.

Stewart Towe commented that the Challenge Session on the SEP that he attended with Ministers was very disappointing. The Ministers were referring to version 1 of the draft SEP document and the current document that had been circulated to them

was version 5 which they did not have. Stewart Towe made the point that the Ministerial Advisers should ensure that Ministers have the most current documents available to them.

Simon Warren commented that the Chancellor had been in Wolverhampton recently and following this the Leader would be writing to him. Simon Warren agreed to ensure that the SEP Priority Projects list was included in the letter to be sent to the Chancellor.

14/0008 **It was resolved :**

to support the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Boards decision of 24 March 2014 to approve the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan for submission to Government at the end of March 2014.

A report was also tabled at the meeting by Sarah Middleton, that identified the 16 Priority Projects approved by the Black Country LEP Board to be included in the 2015/16 Strategic Economic Plan.

14/00009 **It was resolved:**

to support the 16 Priority Projects contained in this report.

***The Meeting Closed at 3.50pm.***

### **Date of future meetings**

- Black Country Joint Committee – Wednesday 7 May 2014, 11.15am at Sandwell MBC
- Black Country Joint Committee – Friday 20 June 2014, 11.15am at Walsall MBC
- Black Country Joint Committee – Wednesday 17 September 2014, 11.15am at Wolverhampton CC
- Black Country Joint Committee – Wednesday 3 December 2014, 11.15am at Dudley MBC