

# BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 10.30am

To be held via a Teams Virtual Meeting

## 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.

### Apologies

Dr Alison Knight

### 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

Decision 20/0072

Resolved (unanimously)

That the notes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 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 20/0073

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Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

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

Decision 20/0074

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

### **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.

Decision 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).

## **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

Decision 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.

## **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.

Decision 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:

- Dudley Council Cabinet on 29 October 2020.

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

### **Black Country Enterprize 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.

Decision 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.

### **Black Country Enterprize Zone – FUTURE REVENUE COSTS – Approval of Future Revenue Costs**

Decision 20/0079

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

### **PRIVATE SESSION (Public Summary)**

#### **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

Decision 20/0081

Resolved (unanimously)

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

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

Decision 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.

## **Black Country Enterprize Zone – FUTURE REVENUE COSTS – Approval of Future Revenue Costs**

Decision 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.