



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

REPORT OF THE CITY DEAL AND GROWTH DEAL ADVISORY BOARD

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Black Country Local Growth Deal – BULL STREET, WEST BROMWICH

Grant Agreement Approval – Site Investigation

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Joint Committee endorse the contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement for the Bull Street (Site Investigation) West Bromwich project, from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme - with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 1.2 This project was approved by the LEP Board at the 19th September 2016 Board meeting (ref 116/16/4 LEP Board minutes), endorsed by the Working Group on the 7 October 2016 and the Advisory Board via email on the 11th November 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with **Sandwell MBC for £59,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Bull Street West Bromwich (Site Investigation) – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.2 That the Joint Committee approves that this development funding is to be underwritten by Sandwell MBC.
- 2.3 That the Joint Committee grant approval subject to the following conditions:
 - a) funding subject to a maximum sum of £59,000 with Sandwell MBC liable for any overspend;
 - b) quotes being obtained prior to any funding agreement being entered into with specific costs included within the agreement accordingly
 - c) only the following reports will be funded from the 2016/17 LGF allocation:-

- i) Bat survey initial assessment
- ii) Site topographic and drainage surveys
- iii) Party wall survey and 3d site modelling
- iv) Asbestos survey

3. REPORT DETAIL

3.1 A summary of the request for endorsement, contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) is below.

Bull Street, West Bromwich, Site Investigation Sandwell bid £59,000 in 2016/17

3.2 The scheme will focus on Site Investigation by Sandwell MBC in respect of land at Bull Street, West Bromwich. The initial investigations will be wrapped inside a development study to inform a wider full business case expected to be submitted for funding in 2017/18. The work will focus on land under Sandwell's control and non-invasive desktop investigations of land owned by other parties. A further fully invasive Site Investigation bid for third party owned land is likely to commence in early 2017/18.

3.3 The full scheme is a strategic priority scheme for Sandwell and will result in the comprehensive transformation of the eastern and southern areas of West Bromwich town centre, playing a vital role in sustaining its focus for retail, business and leisure. The current outputs quoted for the full scheme, listed in the Black Country Pipeline include 0.7 hectares of remediated land, 174 Jobs created, 36 housing units & 500sq.m of commercial floorspace.

3.4 The LEP Board agreed that approval should be subject to the following conditions:

- d) funding subject to a maximum sum of £59,000 with Sandwell MBC liable for any overspend;
- e) quotes being obtained prior to any funding agreement being entered into with specific costs included within the agreement accordingly
- f) only the following reports will be funded from the 2016/17 LGF allocation:-

- v) Bat survey initial assessment
- vi) Site topographic and drainage surveys
- vii) Party wall survey and 3d site modelling
- viii) Asbestos survey

3.5 It is considered possible that additional site investigation works which are not capable of being completed in 2016/17 will be identified as project works continue. Any decision to make funding available for the 2016/17 financial year will not preclude any subsequent application relating to 2017/18 allocations, any such application will require to be appraised on its own merits and to a total amalgamated overall sum of £150,000 (de-minimis level) in accord with originally defined funding criteria.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LGF programme and will be covered by allocations from government associated with this programme. This includes the 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 the 29th October 2014.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Risk is being 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.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None at the time of drafting.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 SMBC Strategic Finance has been consulted on the financial implications of the project.
- 8.2 SMBC Legal has been consulted on the legal implications of the project.
- 8.3 SMBC Director of Regeneration & Economy has been consulted with regard to the project as a whole.
- 8.4 SMBC Cabinet Member for Jobs & Economy has been consulted with regard to the project as a whole.

Back Ground papers

None.

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