



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 23 November 2016, 11.15am

Held at:

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,
The Council House, Committee Room 3

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC (Chair)
Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Sparks, Dudley MBC (sub)

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC (Secretary)
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC (sub)
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

INVITED GUESTS

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Paul Mountford, Sandwell MBC
Mark Lavender, Walsall MBC
Matt Crowton, Walsall MBC (Transport)

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1. **Apologies**
Councillor Pete Lowe, Dudley MBC
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC
Keith Ireland, Wolverhampton CC
Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board
Stuart Everton, BC Director of Transport
Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

2. **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 7 September 2016**

16/0052 **It was resolved that:**

the notes of the meeting held on 7 September 2016 were agreed 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 during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.

There are no items to be considered in private session.

6. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Woods Lane – Approval to Amend the existing Grant Agreement – Change Request**

Paul Mountford presented the report to the Committee. Paul advised that the change request to seek a transfer of existing LGF funding from previously Approved scheme activities to mop up an estimated overspend as a result of increased demolition costs on site.

In addition, Sandwell MBC will no longer be able to deliver the 14 Business Assist outputs by March 2017. Funding was to be provided to assist the relocation of the 14 businesses from the wider Woods Lane site. The funding could however only be awarded once their land had been acquired by a third party/developer and they had relocated. Since the developer has outlined they will not be in a position to commence negotiations to acquire/assemble the remainder of the site until mid-2017, Sandwell MBC are requesting to extend the milestone for delivery of 14 Business Assist Outputs from March 2017 to March 2021.

16/0053 **It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement **with Sandwell MBC** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Woods Lane project. The changes for which approval is requested are to **transfer a proportion of grant funding allocated in 2016/17 of £1,456,978 into subsequent years, to be spent by March 2021**, and to extend the milestone for delivery of 14 Business Assist Outputs from March 2017 to March 2021.

2.2 approves subject to the following conditions:

- 1) That the proposed change request be approved, subject to:-
 - a. receipt of the formal statement of reassurance as now set out (provided by SMBC and approved by the LEP Board);
 - b. commitment to complete the spend of the remainder £5,140,000 (LGF Grant awarded) by 2020/21;
 - c. Sandwell MBC agreeing to underwrite any shortfall in business assists (number of enterprises receiving grant support) costs resulting from alternate use of the £900,000 of funding);
- 2) That the Council be recommended to employ additional consultancy expertise

7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Bull Street, West Bromwich (Site Investigation) – Grant Agreement Approval**

Paul Mountford presented the report to the Committee. Paul advised that 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. 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.

16/0054 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 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

8. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Dudley Bus Station Redevelopment – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the aim of this development funding is to consider and set out a range of options that can be considered to inform the redevelopment of Dudley Bus Station so it is able to meet the needs of the future. The study will inform decisions on future investment and subsequent bidding for funds to redevelop the existing bus station so it remains fit for purpose.

16/0055 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to Grant Agreement with **Dudley Council to transfer £200,000 of LGF/LTB funding** (originally allocated to the Aldridge Station scheme) to support delivery of the Dudley Bus Station Redevelopment transport scheme development funding – 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 Centro (Transport for the West Midlands - TfWM).
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9. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Black Country Living Museum Forging Ahead Programme (Site Investigation/Desk Top Survey) – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the Black Country Living Museum, have created a specific project steering group with a view to progressing the overall scheme. Site investigation works form an initial identified phase within the applicant's programme. The SI studies will provide a reasonable understanding as to ground conditions, coal mining risk and flood risk over the development areas.

The scheme supports the Greater Birmingham and Black Country Visitor Economy Strategy (2014 - 20) through inclusion of unique spaces for corporate hire into the new historic zones and visitor centre and through providing a world class visitor attraction with anticipated increased numbers of local and international visitors.

16/0056 **It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the **Black Country Living Museum for £27,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Black Country Living Museum 'Forging Ahead' Site Investigation/Desk Top Survey – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.2 That the Joint Committee approves for Walsall MBC as Accountable Body to enter into a funding agreement with the applicant, subject to the following:
 - 1) Only Phase 1 Site Investigation/desk top investigations and Mining Risk Assessments to be funded,
 - 2) Up to a maximum grant sum of £27,000
 - 3) The applicant to obtain formal quotes in advance of any funding agreement being entered into, with the actual quoted sums included in the agreement. Any extra costs identified in relation to the identified studies to be at the applicant's own risk.

10. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Mill Lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study and Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study – Internal Agreement Approval**

Matt Crowton presented the report to the Committee. Matt advised that the funding is to support the development of the GRIP 3 study application process to Network Rail which will consider and recommend the options for the two structures (Mill Lane Bridge and Aldridge Line Aqueduct) in relation to the changes required to facilitate the electrification of the line.

16/0057 **It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to an appropriate form of **internal Agreement to allow £120,000 of LGF/LTB funding** (originally allocated to the Aldridge Station scheme) to be claimed (in line with standard procedures), to support the delivery of the Mill Lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study and Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.2 That the Joint Committee approves this development funding be underwritten by Walsall Council.

11. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Walsall College, Additional Engineering Equipment – Grant Agreement Approval**

Mark Lavender presented the report to the Committee. Mark advised that the scheme will enable Walsall College to purchase new equipment and provide facilities within its Engineering & Construction Department for C&G Level 3 Engineering; BTEC Level 3 Engineering (additional units); Plastering apprenticeship framework (2 years); and Plumbing apprenticeship (block release).

16/0058 **It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with **Walsall College for £149,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Additional Engineering Equipment project – with delivery to commence in the 2016-17 financial year.

12. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Goscote Lane Corridor Housing Scheme – Approval to Amend the existing Grant Agreement – Change Request**

Mark Lavender presented the report to the Committee. Mark advised that the scheme by Walsall Housing Group (whg) has already delivered 222 housing units to the rental and market sectors. This then led to the acceleration of Phase 3 Construction into 2016/17, a year earlier than originally predicted. WHG is confident that it will have incurred sufficient costs in Phase 3 to justify a claim of £2.382m in 2016/17 that would be consistent with the intervention rate detailed in its Grant Award contract.

16/0059 **It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Grant Agreement with whg** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Goscote Lane Corridor project. The change for which approval is requested is the **transfer of a proportion of the grant funding from future years' allocations of £2,382,000 into 2016/17.**

2.2 approves that the LGF award be approved subject to re-profiling the remaining years of LGF support within the overall £8.8m budget. This re-profiling is contained within **Attachment 1 of the report.**

13. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Wolverhampton University, School of Architecture and Built Environment, Springfield Site – Grant Agreement Approval**

Tim Johnson presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the application relates to a funding request of £11.67 million in the form of a grant as a contribution from the Black Country LEP towards delivery of a circa £35 million project providing accommodation which will enable the relocation of Wolverhampton Universities School of Architecture and Built Environment (SOABE) from Molineux Campus to the Springfield Campus.

The SOABE site to which this funding application specifically relates is 1.12 hectares (3.174 acres) located to the south western part of the site fronting onto Grimstone Street and including the majority of the remaining listed structures.

Funding would relate to the renovation of currently derelict Grade II listed buildings located towards the southern end of the former Springfield Brewery site within the Canalside Regeneration Area of Wolverhampton City Centre.

16/0060 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the **University of Wolverhampton for £3,520,000** (to be split, £1,760,000m in 2017/18 and £1,760,000 in 2018/19) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the University of Wolverhampton, School of Architecture and Built Environment, project – with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.2 approves that project approval be conditional upon the form of underwriting by the University being confirmed prior to the anticipated start date of the Project.

14. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – A4123 Development Works – Transport Scheme – Grant Agreement Approval**

Matt Crowton presented the report to the Committee. Matt advised that the A4123 is a key corridor of movement through the Black Country from M5 J2 into Wolverhampton City Centre. The corridor links a number of key housing and employment sites that will come forward over the next 5-10 years. The route is currently at capacity in a number of locations and not fit for the future purpose. The aim of this development funding is to begin development work of a major scheme business case for the A4123 with the aim of bidding at a wider Combined Authority or national level for funding to eventually construct the scheme. Similar work is currently underway on the A454 and A449.

16/0061 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to enter into a Grant Agreement with **City of Wolverhampton Council to transfer £150,000 of LGF/LTB funding** (originally allocated to the Aldridge Station scheme) to deliver the A4123 Development Works, transport scheme – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.2 approves that this development funding is underwritten by the City of Wolverhampton Council.

15. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - Managing Short Trips – Additional Funding – Approval to Amend the existing Grant Agreement**

Matt Crowton presented the report to the Committee. Matt advised that the project is an extension of the existing Managing Short Trips programme. Managing Short Trips combines infrastructure and innovation to deliver sustainable urban mobility in the context of ongoing economic growth, directly addressing key barriers to growth in the Black Country. The project will generate benefits to the Black Country economy and residents and be an important catalyst for future growth and prosperity in the region by delivering 6.31 Km of canal tow path improved for use as off-road cycle paths by March 2017.

16/0062 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed with amending the existing Grant Agreement with **Transport for West Midlands – TfWM (Previously known as Centro) for an additional £1,433,700** to deliver additional Managing Short Trips schemes – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

16. Delegated Authority – Black Country Local Growth Deal – Airfield Drive Project – Grant Agreement Approval for Noting

Mark Lavender presented the report to the Committee. Mark advised that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role as Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group had used his delegated authority to approve this scheme which is now being reported to the BCJC for noting. The proposed completed scheme is anticipated to contribute to SEP growth through remediation of 1.62ha of brownfield land and the delivery of 5,119 sq.m. employment space which will assist in supporting delivery of c. 100 new and 70 safeguarded, and potentially c. 8 learners assisted (4 apprenticeships and 4 other learners). In overall terms, the proposed grant funding of £370,993 is considered to provide “excellent” value for money and relates to a public sector leverage of 1:12.70.

16/0063 It was noted by the BCJC:

- 2.1 that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to proceed to Grant Agreement **to the value of £370,993 with Kay Properties Limited** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Airfield Drive project - with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year. Approval of this project was achieved at the 19th September 2016 LEP Board meeting.
- 2.2 The need to use delegated authority was identified as the project was time critical and waiting for approval by the Black Country Joint Committee in November would have impacted on deliverability and was not suitable for approval using existing Special Urgency or General Exemption mechanisms.

17. Delegated Authority – Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors Individual Project Decision, Alucast Limited – Grant Agreement Approval for Noting

Mark Lavender presented the report to the Committee. Mark advised that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role as Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group had used his delegated authority to approve this scheme which is now being reported to the BCJC for noting. The £1,298,000 project will allow the company to expand in to a new site in order to deliver recently confirmed orders from Aston Martin Lagonda

16/0064 It was noted by the BCJC:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee notes that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of Chair of the City Deal and Growth

Deal Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve **Sandwell Council to award a Grant Agreement to Alucast Limited to the value of £259,600** as part of the Growing Priority Sectors programme funding of £6.5m. Approval of this project was achieved at the LEP Board meeting held on 13th June 2016.

- 2.2 The need to use delegated authority was identified as the project was time critical and waiting for approval by the Black Country Joint Committee in September would have impacted on deliverability and was not suitable for approval using existing Special Urgency or General Exemption mechanisms.

18. **Delegated Authority – Black Country Local Growth Deal - Accessing Growth Programme – Change Request for individual projects - Approval to Amend the exiting Grant Agreement for Noting**

Matt Crowton presented the report to the Committee. Matt advised that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role as Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group had used his delegated authority to approve this scheme which is now being reported to the BCJC for noting. The Joint Committee approval of Changes to the Growth Deal programme in June included an allocation for 2016/17 to the Accessing Growth Programme. Three projects identified below which, due to an underspend, are now seeking approval to have funding removed. This includes:

- The removal of £118,000 from the M6 J10 Resilience Package scheme
- The removal of £22,327 from the allocation for the Coach Station project
- The removal of £25,648 from the Compton Park project

As projects within the Accessing Growth programme have their individual allocations approved, changes to these allocations must be approved by the Joint Committee. The total 2016/17 allocation to the Accessing Growth Programme remains the same at £6,811,829.

16/0065 It was noted by the BCJC:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee notes that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Agreement **with Wolverhampton City Council reducing individual project values within the Accessing Growth programme (to the value of £165,975)** to remain within the overall programme allocation of £6,811,829 in the 2016/17 financial year. Approval of this approach was achieved at LEP Board meeting in September 2016.
- 2.2 The need to use delegated authority was identified as the project was time critical and waiting for approval by the next Black Country Joint Committee in November would have impacted on deliverability and was not suitable for approval using existing Special Urgency or General Exemption mechanisms.