



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 16 September 2015, 11.15am

To Be Held at:

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC (Chair)
Councillor David Sparks, Dudley MBC (sub)
Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall MBC (sub)
Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP Board (sub)

IN ATTENDANCE

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

INVITED GUESTS

Phil Coyne, Dudley MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC
Mark Lavender, Walsall MBC (sub)

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC
Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley MBC
Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

2. **Notes of Previous Meeting held on Wednesday 5 August 2015**

15/0048 It was resolved that:

The notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 August 2015 are 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 during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.

None.

6.	15/0049	<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal – Wolverhampton City Council Coach Station – Approval for amendments to the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement – Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC</u></p> <p>Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the project is an Accessing Growth funded scheme that would add value to the existing Wolverhampton Interchange Programme of works. The programme is effectively accelerating the upgrading of the Coach facilities within the Interchange Programme following the decommissioning of one platform of the existing Metro facility. The facility will ensure that the best possible transport interchange facility is provided for both the existing public transport offer, and the enhanced offer which will be delivered by the parallel Interchange project. The existing coach facilities within the city are not fit for purpose and present no opportunity for growth or development of access to goods and services via this mode.</p> <p>It was resolved that that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council (to the grant value of £500,000) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the ‘Wolverhampton City Centre Coach Station’ project - with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.</p>
7.		<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal – Relocation of Wolverhampton City College – Feasibility Study - Grant Agreement Approval for Feasibility Study – Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC</u></p> <p>Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the request is for an investment into the feasibility study for Wolverhampton City College Campus Realignment in order to provide the foundations for an effective business plan to ensure a cohesive and cost efficient proposal to achieve wide reaching economic and skills outcomes for the City.</p> <p>The feasibility study will deliver potential solutions for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Financing the relocation into the centre of Wolverhampton; b. The Sale of existing site for Housing development; c. Take over and fit out of the listed former Royal Hospital Building from Tesco, forming the new building; d. If the Hospital site is identified as preferred option, usage of the remainder of the Hospital site; e. Whether an alternative site is better suited to deliver the City and Sub Regions growth objectives; and f. Learner market testing for future curriculum structure in the new location. <p>Ninder Johal referred to the Review of the FE Colleges in Birmingham Council and suggested that it is highly likely that there will be a Review of the FE Colleges across the Black Country as well. Ninder questioned whether the FE College Review had been taken into consideration.</p> <p>Tim Johnson confirmed that the proposal is for an accelerated FE College Review early next year (2016) and they would not commit any investment into this campus until the outcome of that Review is known.</p>

	<p>15/0050</p>	<p>It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval to the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to the grant value of £311,000 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the ‘Relocation of Wolverhampton City College – feasibility study’ - with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>15/0051</p>	<p><u>Building on the Black Country Green Growth Plan to develop a Smart City Strategy – Approval for rebranding of the Green Growth Plan – Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC</u></p> <p>Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the Smart Cities concept capitalises on technology and encouraging innovation, complementing existing efforts to make the Black Country more competitive and a more attractive place to live, work and invest. The European Smart Cities Framework contains six categories based around governance, economy, mobility, environment, people and living. The Black Country Green Growth Plan’s key areas fit most clearly with the headings Smart Mobility and Smart Environment.</p> <p>It is proposed to realign the Green Growth Plan within the Smart City agenda, thereby improving the prospect of drawing down both UK and EU funding. To adopt the Smart Cities Framework requires linking all six categories; the intention is to identify existing activities and gaps under all while focussing on the Smart Environment agenda. Reference will be included to the Smart Mobility theme which is of direct relevance to the Green Growth agenda and is being addressed through joint work with the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA). It is proposed to provide a priority programme of actions and to identify partners and organisations with which the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and councils can work, enabling the prioritisation and development of projects and submission of funding bids. Links will also be made to the proposed West Midlands Combined Authority and work on-going on the low carbon economy and green growth, supported by Sustainability West Midlands.</p> <p>It was resolved that the BCJC approve a proposal to review and rebrand the Black Country Green Growth Plan as a Smart City strategy focusing on Smart Mobility and Smart Environment themes.</p>
<p>9.</p>		<p><u>Black Country Green Growth Pipeline Update – Low Carbon and Environment Project – Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC</u></p> <p>Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the project aims to develop a strong pipeline of low carbon and environment projects in advance of funding opportunities. Although the initial focus was to respond to the call for ERDF funded projects due to the timescale of the calls, the role is also looking at other funding sources such as Local Growth Fund and Horizon 2020.</p>

	15/0052	<p>It was resolved that the BCJC note the progress in the development of the low carbon and environment project pipeline for the Black Country, noting the details, taking into account the wide variety of projects and lead partners that are now contributing towards the pipeline.</p>
10.	15/0053	<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal – Dudley Town Centre Buildings & Sites Improvements Programme - Grant Agreement Approval – Phil Coyne, Dudley MBC</u></p> <p>Phil Coyne was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Phil advised that the application is for £425,000 of grant support and is separated into three phases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative - Support towards the repair and improvement of historic buildings within Dudley town centre that would otherwise not be delivered by the private sector, (funding request £285,000). Projects are waiting to proceed. The funding will act as a bridge between the completion of the award winning Phase 1 Townscape Heritage Programme in July 2015 and the commencement of the Phase 2 programme in September 2016. • Improvements to King Street Parade - The improvement of dilapidated and vacant commercial properties at 30-37 King Street Parade. The properties are in poor repair and require substantial roof repairs, internal repairs and new shop fronts to bring them fully back into commercial use (funding request £100,000). • Infrastructure Improvements - Funding support to re-open a 10 space town centre car park at New Mill Street owned by the Council that has been closed due to a structurally unstable boundary wall (funding request £40,000). <p>It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval to the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Dudley Metropolitan Council to the grant value of £425,000 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the ‘Dudley Town Centre - Buildings & Sites Improvements Programme’ with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.</p>
11.		<p><u>Black Country Local Growth Deal Programme Pipeline Generation Fund – Approval for the over-programming and underwriting – Sarah Middleton, BC Consortium Ltd</u></p> <p>Sarah Middleton was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the request was for Joint Committee approval of up to £2m of over-programming of the LGF 2015/16 capital grant allocation, to support an investment in the development of an active LGF programme Pipeline of new projects capable of taking up future funding allocations. This will be achieved through a mix of a creative alliance of knowledge and skills together with site investigation and proposition development.</p>

<p>15/0054</p>	<p>It was resolved that the BCJC :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the Over-programming of up to £2m of the Local Growth Fund 2015/16 capital grant allocation to invest in dedicated resources alongside private sector secondment opportunities to facilitate and accelerate pipeline generation through a creative alliance of knowledge and skills. 2. It is recommended that £1m is allocated for Technical Feasibility Work and £1m is allocated (in reserve) for Technical Expertise. It is anticipated that the majority of private sector resource will be provided in-kind. 3. That the drawdown of funds against the £2m for Pipeline generation is to be exercised using the Delegated Authority awarded to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council where necessary, and via the standard Joint Committee approval process where possible. 4. Application of the Black Country City Deal and Growth Deal Collaboration Agreement in the underwriting of this project. Any revenue work funded through the pipeline generation project which cannot be capitalised under Treasury Management rules, or has its capitalisation reversed by central government, be underwritten by the four Local Authorities on a geographical basis, as per the provision at clause 6.5.2 of the Collaboration Agreement; 5. That the process for managing the risks around utilising capital grant on revenue work outlined at section 3.11 is endorsed. Joint Committee members are asked to note the considerable risks associated with the use of capital resources on revenue functions as set out within the report and note that procedures are being put in place to mitigate these risks.
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>Delegated Authority Decision – Black Country Local Growth Deal - Project Approval For Noting - InComm Phase 2 – Mark Lavender, Walsall MBC</u></p> <p>Mark Lavender was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Mark advised that the report was for an Extension to initial project; providing capital investment in high tech equipment increasing InComm Training’s capacity to deliver high value manufacturing training that meets the skills needs of local businesses. Specifically this funding will enable InComm to replace old CNC/Milling machines with modern industry standard machines. The initial project supported the replacement of 30% of the machines, enabling only 30% of the apprentice intake to benefit. Replacement of the remaining machines will enable all InComm Training apprentices to benefit from training on new industry standard machines.</p>

	<p>15/0055</p>	<p>It was resolved that the BCJC notes 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 has used his Delegated Authority to approve the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with InComm Training to the value of £76,000 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the ‘InComm Phase 2’ project - with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year. Endorsement of this approach was achieved at the July 2015 LEP Board meeting.</p> <p>The need to use delegated authority was identified as the project was time critical as purchase of equipment to be completed in time for the August 2015 intake (i.e. approval by the Joint Committee in August would have impacted on deliverability) and was not suitable for approval using existing Special Urgency or General Exception mechanisms.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>15/0056</p>	<p><u>Delegated Authority Decision – Black Country Local Growth Deal - Project Approval for Noting - Ruskin Mill Glasshouse Development Phase 3 – Mark Lavender, Walsall MBC</u></p> <p>Mark Lavender was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Mark advised that Ruskin Mill Land Trust is undertaking a third phase of development which will extend the economic, cultural and educational benefits being delivered across the site and enhance the Glasshouse’s offer as a visitor attraction within the Stourbridge Glass Quarter. Successful completion will further ensure that the Glasshouse site becomes fully sustainable and fit-for-purpose. Specifically the project involves remediation and landscaping of contaminated land, remodelling access to the Glasshouse, and improving the canal-side environment. Two old industrial buildings refurbished to create four commercial units and three incubator units for business start-up, with visitor reception. Qualifications, work-experience and apprenticeships for young disadvantaged people, and skills training for adults.</p> <p>It was resolved that the BCJC notes 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 has used his Delegated Authority to approve the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Ruskin Mill Trust to the value of £160,000 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the ‘Glasshouse Development Phase 3’ project. Delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year. Endorsement of this approach was achieved at the July 2015 LEP Board meeting.</p> <p>The need to use delegated authority was identified as the project was time critical and waiting for approval by the Black Country Executive Joint Committee in August would have impacted on deliverability and was not suitable for approval using existing Special Urgency or General Exception mechanisms.</p>

	<p>At this point Councillor Cooper advised that as he has now been confirmed as Vice-Chairperson of the West Midlands Combined Authority Shadow Board, he felt that it was appropriate that he stand down as Chairperson of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee with effect from the next meeting.</p>
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Date of future meetings

- Wednesday 25 November 2015 - Sandwell MBC
- Wednesday 20 January 2016 – Wolverhampton CC
- Wednesday 9 March 2016 – Walsall MBC
- Wednesday 20 April 2016 – Dudley MBC
- Wednesday 22 June 2016 – Sandwell MBC
- Wednesday 7 September 2016 – Wolverhampton CC
- Wednesday 23 November 2016 – Dudley MBC