



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 20 January 2016, 11.15am

To Be Held at:

Wolverhampton City Council,
Civic Centre, Wolverhampton, Committee Room 3

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC (Chair)
Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley MBC
Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP Board (sub)

IN ATTENDANCE

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

INVITED GUESTS

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC
Paul Mountford, Sandwell MBC (sub)
Stuart Everton, Black Country Director of Transport

1. **Apologies**

Stewart Towe, BC LEP Chairman.

2. 16/0001 **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 25 November 2015**

It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015 be 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):

It was resolved that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda – see Private Session of the Minutes.

6. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth Fund - Top Up- Amending the existing Accessing Growth Fund Top Up Grant Agreement**

Stuart Everton was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Stuart advised that Accessing Growth is a fund designed to help deliver smaller schemes (above £500,000 but less than £5,000,000) which improve access to employment sites and strategic centres. Schemes include highway efficiency improvements, sustainable transport, and interchange improvements.

Accessing Growth top up from DCLG – earmarked additional £2.8m for 2016/17, a total of £5.8m for the 2016/17 year.

Approval is sought to allocate additional funding to Transport schemes for 2016/17 following confirmation from DCLG that the additional £2.8m earmarked funding is available to Accessing Growth schemes. The Black Country Transport Director will be guiding the prioritisation process and presented initial plans to the LEP Board at the Planning day in December.

16/0002 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Accessing Growth Fund Top Up Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to **the value of £2.8m** (as recognised by BIS in the LGF expansion profile) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Accessing Growth programme of works with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Wolverhampton Civic Hall Additional Remediation – Amending the existing Growing the City Centre Cultural and Business Events Grant Agreement**

Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that In December 2014 the Joint Committee approved a bid for the Wolverhampton Civic Halls & Grand Theatre project to be supported from 2015/16 onwards with a total contribution of £6.60m support over 3 years.

“The Original Scheme to remediate these buildings was approved based on Type 2 Asbestos surveys that only required Visual Inspections & Analysis. Subsequently, Invasive surveys have now been performed and the presence of “Blue” “White” & “Brown” Asbestos has been discovered throughout the building. Total cost for Removal of the Asbestos, based on the best tender, is £607k.”

Extract from surveyors report.

Wolverhampton Council have been able to fund £207k of the total cost and have requested LEP Board additional support for the balance of £400k. The support would be facilitated through Walsall Accountable Body as a Contract amendment to the existing Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council.

Funding Profile: Total Cost of Additional Remediation - £607k, LGF requested - £400k, Match Funding - £207k applicants own funds.

The full amount is profiled to spend in 2015/16.

16/0003 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Growing the City Centre Cultural and Business Events Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council **to the grant value of £400k** for the additional remediation work required to

deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the 'Wolverhampton Civic Hall & Grand Theatre' project.

8. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth Compton Park Improved Connectivity – Amending the existing Accessing Growth Fund Grant Agreement**

Stuart Everton was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Stuart advised that currently Compton Park in the west of Wolverhampton contains St Peter's Collegiate School, St Edmunds Academy and the Wolverhampton Wanderers Training Academy. It is served by a non-adopted sub-standard road with no separate pedestrian or cycling facilities. This is inadequate for the volume of motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists using it at key school journey times. Significant match funding has become available from Wolverhampton Football Club to upgrade Compton Park (currently un-adopted highway) and Wolverhampton City Council would like to incorporate a segregated cycle route alongside the road.

The proposal is to create segregated cycling and pedestrian facilities offering a high level of safety for users. This would constitute a direct, all-weather lit route both for student journeys to the site and for pedestrians and cyclists wishing to pass through at any time. This would complement nearby parts of the local highway infrastructure which have already been improved for pedestrian and cyclist use. The application is for £175k of grant support.

16/0004 **It was resolved that the BCJC grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council **to the value of £175k** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Compton Park Improved Connectivity project with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

9. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – University of Wolverhampton Apprenticeship Hub – Grant Agreement Approval**

Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that The proposal is to convert a building, Feathers public house, to deliver a focal point for employers, prospective apprentices and their families, apprentices and University staff. By giving a physical presence to the University of Wolverhampton's "Apprenticeship Hub", the proposal will provide a "shop front" for higher and degree apprenticeships, presentation and meeting space, offices and the required infrastructure (including specialist equipment and digital technologies), to promote and facilitate apprenticeships in the region. It will also provide a venue through which the University of Wolverhampton can host meetings with Careers Advisors and Teachers from schools and colleges to assist in raising the profile of higher and degree apprenticeships as an alternative option to traditional degree level study.

The University will work with an identified network of local FE colleges and private providers to cover the Black Country areas and to provide seamless and integrated progression from Level 2/3 through to Degree apprenticeships at levels 6/7. The scheme would deliver 700 new Apprenticeships by 20/21 and expects to result in at least 50% of apprenticeships becoming new jobs created.

Confirmation has been received from Paul Linton Chair of Skills Theme Board that approval to proceed is confirmed as there are benefits both in 'Regeneration' and 'Skills'.

- 16/0005** It was resolved that the **BCJC grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with University of Wolverhampton **to the grant value of £200k** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Apprenticeship Hub - with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

10. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro (Tranche 1) – Amending the existing Accessing Growth Fund Grant Agreement**

Stuart Everton was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Stuart advised that approval is sought to allocate initial development funding to begin the planning of the Metro link between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill. Following the West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Deal announced by George Osborne on Tuesday 17th November, the Department for Transport (DfT) have provisionally allocated funding to the proposed East/West Metro link. The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro forms part of this wider scheme. The scheme has been identified as a priority for a number of years within the Black Country. Extensive development work has already been undertaken for this scheme previously and it has already secured Transport and Works Acts Powers from the DfT.

In light of the recent decision, a refresh of the scheme, design and business case needs to be undertaken. The review work would be undertaken by Centro and the appointed framework consultants to review the business case, scheme programme and costs to accurately reflect 2016 prices.

The work needs to start in earnest now to allow the scheme to meet the DfT requirements and prevent the funding offer from the DfT being withdrawn. The work would commence in January 2016 with the work set to continue into the 16/17 financial year.

Confirmation that Dudley MBC will underwrite these costs has been received.

16/0006 It was resolved that the **BCJC:**

- 2.1 **grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Accessing Growth Fund Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council **to the value of £100k** of development funding to deliver the initial Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro project.
- 2.2 **notes** that the work would commence in 2015/16 with work set to continue into the 2016/17 financial year. It is anticipated that the project will return in 2016/17 for additional LGF funding to support a second tranche of activity. The Advisory Board has not been asked to consider this as yet.

11. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Music Institute and Student Accommodation (Feasibility Study) – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the application is for £150k of grant to support feasibility costs for the development of the BICMP Music Institute and Student Accommodation at the Waterfront Business Park, Brierley Hill, Dudley. This is a £31m industry led project which will create a world-class higher education music institute in an existing building –

Cable Plaza, and construct new student accommodation on land opposite. Feasibility funding is required to support the project development costs including design, feasibility studies and business planning. This funding will be required over 2 financial years:

Phase 1: January – March 2016 £80,000

Phase 2: April – June 2016 £70,000

The feasibility funding will ensure the bigger project is realised and achieves the following outputs/outcomes: 138 jobs created; 1,915 learners assisted (exc. Apprenticeships); a minimum of 1ha of remediated land, and 4800sqm of refurbished training/learning space.

Funding Profile: Total Feasibility Costs - £278k, LGF requested - £150k an intervention rate of 54%, Match Funding - £128k (£119k Applicant's own funds + £9k Public Sector funds). £80k is profiled to spend in 2015/16 with £70k profiled to spend in 2016/17.

The projects will commence in 2015/16 and continue into the 2016/17 financial year.

16/0007 It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 **grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with BIMCIP Ltd **to the grant value of £150k** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the 'Music Institute and Student Accommodation project – Feasibility Study' with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

2.2 **notes** that the project are requesting that the £150k be profiled £80k 2015/16 and £70k in 2016/17.

12. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Growing Priority Sectors – Amending the existing Growing Priority Sectors Grant Agreement, allowing flexibility to manage the fund and move to contracting on individual projects**

Paul Mountford was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Paul advised that project applications approved / awaiting LEP Board approval exceed £2m allocation for 2015/16. In order to ensure the programme achieves the £2m spend target for 2015/16 it is proposed that Growing Priority Sectors £6.5m budget (inc the £0.5m allocation from BIS through the expansion profile) be used more flexibly, subject to Growing Priority Sectors programme committing to delivering a minimum £2m spend in each of 2015/16 and 2016/17. This would provide Sandwell MBC the flexibility to contract significantly more funds earlier in the programme should opportunities/demand be presented.

The request to manage the overprogramme / manage the programme more flexibly was approved by the LEP Board at the 23rd November 2015 Board Meeting.

The LEP Board approved to allocate additional funding to Growing Priority Sector schemes for 2016/17 following confirmation from DCLG that the additional £0.5m earmarked funding is available. Schemes will continue to be appraised by the Growing Priority Sector assessment panel before seeking approval in principle by the LEP Sub Group and subsequent full approval by the main LEP Board.

The 15 Schemes seeking BCJC approval for 2015/18 delivery are shown on Page 3, point 3.5 in the report

16/0008 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 **grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to amend the existing Growing Priority Sectors (GPS) Grant Agreement with Sandwell MBC to enable the flexibility to manage the total funding awarded (£6.5m including expansion profile funding) to the GPS programme of works, including the ability to commit to funding in future years and reallocate funding between years, subject to GPS programme committing to delivering a minimum £2m spend in each of 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 2.2 **grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Grant Agreement with Sandwell MBC **to the value of £500k** (as recognised by BIS in the LGF expansion profile) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.3 **grant approval** for Sandwell MBC to move to contracting with 15 companies to be awarded grant funding from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works £6.5m 2015/16 allocation for delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year. Details of each individual project are detailed in the report.

13.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – Progress Update and Output Changes to the Local Growth Fund Programme

Sarah Middleton was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that this report details the current position of the Growth Deal Projects approved previously by the BCJC reflecting all changes to the Programme since the Progress Update and Output change report considered by the BCJC on 18 February 2015.

The key messages from the report are that we remain in touching distance of the original 4000 jobs created with a target at 3833 and 3200 business assists with a target at 2453. Where both housing and learner assist numbers continue to exceed our target, providing a welcome contingency. Officers are now working with project applicants to ensure that their forecast outputs are captured and reported accurately.

- 16/0009 It was resolved that the BCJC grant approval** for the updated project expenditure and outputs for the Growth Deal projects as set out in Appendix 1 of the report. It should be noted that this report has been amended since the Advisory Board approval, with the amendment being the removal of the Change Request relating to Woods Lane, this is due to further discussions being required over the level of reduction.

PRIVATE SESSION

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14. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Pipeline Generation Fund – Popes Lane, Oldbury**
(Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended))

Paul Mountford was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Paul advised that the Popes Lane main scheme offers value for money for the LGF Programme and the full amount is profiled to spend in 2015/16. Deliverability of the overall scheme was awarded a Green rating by the Place Group. The site has been identified as a core priority by the Place Group. The scheme has support from Sandwell MBC.

16/0010 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 **grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to Grant Agreement with Company 1 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Pipeline Development Fund project, with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.
- 2.2 **grant approval** that this project is underwritten as detailed in the report.

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15. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Pipeline Generation Fund – Parkrose Industrial Estate, Smethwick**
(Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended))

Paul Mountford was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Paul advised that the Parkrose Industrial Estate main scheme offers value for money for the LGF Programme and the full amount is profiled to spend in 2015/16. Deliverability of the overall scheme was awarded a Green rating by the Place Group. The site has been identified as a priority in the longlist of sites by the Place Group but is likely to become a core priority site. The scheme has support from Sandwell MBC.

16/0011 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 **grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to Grant Agreement with Company 2 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Pipeline Development Fund project, with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.
- 2.2 **grant approval** that this project is underwritten as detailed in the report.

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16. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Pipeline Generation Fund – Pensnett Estate Development, Dudley**
(Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended))

Alan Lunt was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the Pensnett Estate main scheme offers value for money for the LGF Programme and the full amount is profiled to spend in 2015/16. Deliverability

of the overall scheme was awarded a Green rating by the Place Group. The site has been identified as a priority by the Place Group and has support from Dudley MBC.

16/0012 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 **grant approval** for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to Grant Agreement with Company 3 to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Pipeline Development Fund project, with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.
- 2.2 **grant approval** that this project is underwritten as detailed in the report.

Date of future meetings

- Wednesday 9 March 2016, 11.15am at Walsall MBC
- Wednesday 20 April 2016, 11.15am at Dudley MBC
- Wednesday 22 June 2016, 11.15am at Sandwell MBC
- Wednesday 7 September 2016, 11.15am at Wolverhampton CC
- Wednesday 23 November 2016, 11.15am at Dudley MBC