



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 25 November 2015, 11.15am

To Be Held at:

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

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

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP Board (sub)

INVITED GUESTS

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

1. **Apologies**

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board
Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley MBC

2. **Appointment of Chair for 2015/16**

15/0057 It was resolved that:

Councillor M Bird, Leader of Walsall Council be the Chairperson and
Councillor P Lowe, Leader of Dudley Council be the Vice-Chairperson for the next
municipal year 2015/16.

3. **Notes of Previous meeting held on 16 September 2015**

15/0058 It was resolved that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 are confirmed as a true
record.

4. **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting**

None.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

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6. **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.

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7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – A41 Pensnett High Street – Grant Agreement Approval – Alan Lunt**

Alan Lunt was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the A4101 currently suffers from traffic congestion and vehicle delays as well offering a difficult and unattractive environment for pedestrian movements. The proposed scheme will tackle the existing pinch point by regulating conflicting vehicle movements through the introduction of new signalised junctions and by providing increased capacity by widening the High Street to two lanes in each direction on the approach to the new traffic lights. These improvements will enhance the efficiency of the transport network on this key link for all users.

11/0059 It was resolved that that the BCJC:

- 2.1 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council for £3.8million of pre-allocated Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the A4101 Pensnett High Street, transport scheme with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year subject to the following condition included within the Grant Agreement / Offer:
- 2.1.1 Approval is conditional on the completion of statutory processes in particular: the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) necessary to acquire the 3rd party land required for delivery of the scheme.
- 2.2 In addition the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) are to release funds for 2016/17 that support the acquisition of the land and on completion of the statutory processes the applicants (Dudley Council) will return to the Joint Committee seeking Final Approval for the remaining funds to be released.

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8. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Walsall College – Improved Engineering Capacity – Grant Agreement Approval – Simon Neilson**

Simon Neilson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the aim of this capital investment is to deliver Welding and Hydraulics / Pneumatics equipment with the required building installation and adaptation costs providing high specification facilities to service the gap between supply and demand for engineering skills for the benefit of young people, unemployed adults and employers in Walsall and the wider Black Country. This investment will allow the College to address the current skills deficiencies, succession planning and recruitment challenges faced by engineering employers.

15/0060 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 Walsall College to the grant value of £200k to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF)

elements of the 'Walsall College – Improving Engineering Capacity Project' with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

9. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills – Feasibility Study outcome – Grant Agreement Approval – Tim Johnson**

Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the The Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) was identified a flagship project in the Black Country LEP's 2014 Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). It will be a new employer-led training facility for the Black Country designed to improve productivity and growth in the high value manufacturing sector, one of the five transformational sectors for the Black Country, with particular emphasis on the aerospace and motor vehicle sectors. The centre will provide training in: Toolmaking, Foundry, Metalforming and Forging, Metal treatment, Advanced CNC and Manufacturing Management & Leadership & Project Management.

The ECMS will be a 'hub and spoke' model, with the 700 sq.m hub at the University of Wolverhampton's new Springfield Brewery site in Wolverhampton city centre with the spokes as follows;

1. The 'foundry and forging spoke' will be located on a site adjacent to the site of Thomas Dudley Ltd in Dudley Port with access to their industrial facilities and a purpose built training block of c1,000sq.m.
2. The second spoke in West Bromwich will be based at the National Metalforming Centre. It will involve extending and adapting their existing building to create a c200 sq.m training facilities.
3. The third spoke will be at Dudley Advance at Dudley College; providing additional equipment to strengthen the ECMS offer.

15/0061

It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton for £7.6million of pre-allocated Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills – Main Scheme with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

10. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – M6 Junction 10 Resilience Package Junction Improvements – Grant Agreement Approval – Tim Johnson**

Tim Johnson was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the This is an Accessing Growth funded scheme that would add value to the existing M6 J10 Transport Major scheme. M6 J10 Resilience Package includes improvements to three junctions, which will complement the major improvements planned for junction 10 of the M6 motorway. The three junctions included in the package are located less than 2 miles north of M6 J10 and form part of a strategic route to the motorway for key employers in the Leamore, Bloxwich and Bentley areas of Walsall. As the construction of M6 J10 will cause disruption to the local road network, it is essential to support alternative routes during the works. The local road network to the south of M6 J10 is currently benefiting from improvements as part of the Darlaston Strategic Development Access Project.

- 15/0062** It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval to the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, adding £300k of Local Growth Funding (LGF) to support the delivery of the M6 J10 Resilience Package Junction Improvements – Phase 1 project – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

11. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Chances Glassworks Development – Grant Agreement Approval – Nick Bubalo**

Nick Bubalo was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Nick advised that This project seeks to assemble a 9.5 acre site under whole ownership of Chances Glassworks Heritage Trust. This is the first phase of a 4 year development costing £23m.

The Trust has managed to negotiate surrender of remaining three leases, the Freehold for the whole site has been secured by the Trust and the owners of the 7 storey building and adjacent buildings have agreed to transfer their interest to enable the development of the whole site. This will enable the delivery of a major regeneration project that will unlock over 20,000 sqm of development space for business use, residential dwellings, and to provide leisure and recreational facilities. The project plans to include over 180 business units/facilities offering the potential to create well in excess of 64 jobs and assist over 160 businesses.

- 15/0063** It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Chances Glassworks Heritage Trust Ltd to the value of £660k to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Site Assembly Project, with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

12. **Black Country City Deal – Revised Proposition – Approval of revisions to the Black Country City Deal – Sarah Middleton**

Sarah Middleton was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the recent review of the City Deal programme and its achievements and challenges as set out within the City Deal Reporting Dashboard, as Attachment 1, and to update the committee on findings as set out in section 3.3 to 3.6 as captured in the City Deal Audit of Outcomes – Action Plan as Attachment 2.

To note and agree the proposal for officers to develop a revised proposition which captures achievements and successes as well as the areas for change and to start the process of negotiations with the Department for Business Innovation & Skills (BIS) against the original Red Book Agreement, as set out in Attachment 3; reporting back to the Joint Committee on progress.

- 15/0064** It was resolved that the BCJC

2.1 Notes the contents of the report updating members on the proposed revisions to the Black Country City Deal with regard to the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) programme, High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Apprenticeships, Working Together and Growth Hub as set out within section 3 of this report.

- 2.2 Supports the proposal to open discussions with the appropriate Government Department and officials to re-negotiate the City Deal, reporting back on progress.
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Date of future meetings

- 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