



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

## **BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 7 September 2016, 11.15am**

Held at:

**Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council,**  
**Civic Centre, Committee Room 2**

### **MNUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS**

Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC  
Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC (Chair)  
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC  
Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley MBC (sub)

#### **NON VOTING MEMBERS**

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC  
Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC (sub)  
Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC (Secretary)  
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  
Stuart Everton, Black Country Director for Transport

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1. **Apologies**  
Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley MBC  
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC

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2. **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 22 June 2016**

**16/0040 It was resolved that:**

The notes of the meeting held on 22 June 2016 be agreed as a true record.

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3. **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting.**  
**None.**

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4. **Declarations of Interest**  
**None.**

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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.

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6. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – A4101 High Street, Pensnett Strategic Access Improvement Scheme – Grant Agreement approval**

Stuart Everton presented the report to the Committee. Stuart 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 corridor for all users.

At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 the Joint Committee approved the allocation of £3.8m LGF contribution to the scheme, subject to the successful completion of the statutory processes, in particular, the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) necessary to acquire the 3<sup>rd</sup> party land required for the delivery of the scheme.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed the CPO for the scheme and therefore the conditions associated with the Joint Committee approval have been fulfilled.

The detailed design of the scheme has been progressed and the scheme estimate has been reviewed and updated. The previous estimate of £6.3m remains robust. This is funded via £3.8m pre-allocated LGF and £2.5m local contribution from Dudley MBC.

The updated scheme outputs and key milestones are shown in the report.

**16/0041 It was resolved 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.
- 2.2 Note the changes to the milestones and outputs of the A4101 Pensnett High Street scheme since it was conditionally approved by the Joint Committee in November 2015.
- 2.3 Note that the conditions associated with that approval have been fulfilled.

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7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Wolverhampton Civic Hall and Grand Theatre (Growing the City Centre Cultural and Business Events Offer) – Approval to Amend the existing Grant Agreement**

Tim Johnson presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that The Civic Hall project team have sought to significantly revise their Cashflow Forecasts between years 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The change is requested due to operational reasons to safeguard the programme deliverables, spend and mitigate issues regarding the opening of the halls for various income generating events which have been thoroughly reviewed after carrying out intensive workshops and risk strategy meetings.

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The change amounts to £1.64m being transferred from 16/17, into 17/18 LGF Programme. The change is detailed in the report.

**16/0042 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 grants approval to amend the existing Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council for the Wolverhampton Civic Hall & Grand Theatre project to reflect the recent cashflow changes.
- 2.2 grants approval to transfer £1.64m from the 2016/17 LGF grant allocation into 2017/18.
- 2.3 notes that the total LGF grant allocation awarded to the project remains the same at £7.0m and that LGF grant award runs from 2015/16 – 2017/18.

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8. **Black Country Collaboration Agreement – Request to recommend changes to the Member Authorities and the Black Country Consortium Ltd and approval for a funding submission into the West Midlands Combined Authority**

Simon Neilson presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that with the formation of the Combined Authority in 2016, access to new funding opportunities have and will continue to be created.

To ensure that the Black Country is able to respond quickly to these opportunities and if successful accept the funding allocated / approved, its proposed to extend the remit of the current Collaboration Agreement for the Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal & Growth Deal to include all funding administered or approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority to the Black Country.

This approach will allow the current governance arrangements administered by and through the Joint Committee to consider and approve applications to the Combined Authority and to accept / receive funding allocated or approved, and then for it to be administered through the appropriate appointed Accountable Body arrangements.

The Combined Authority has been granted access to Government Funding, including the £200 million Land Remediation Fund. The Black Country has an identified need for this funding and should submit an application at the earliest possible opportunity and it is recommended this is done through the BCJC..

This application will be based upon the Black Country's existing priority pipeline of projects that has been assembled and agreed by the Black Country Place Group and will be signed off by the Heads of Regeneration through the Working Group to the Joint Committee.

A progress report on the application will be brought back to the next appropriate Joint Committee meeting, and no funding will be accepted without the Joint Committee's approval.

**16/0043 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 recommends to the Black Country Consortium Limited and the Cabinets of Walsall Council, Dudley Council, Sandwell Council and Wolverhampton City Council that the following changes are approved for inclusion through a Deed

of Variation to the existing Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal & Growth Deal Collaboration Agreement:

2.1.1 That the Joint Committee be delegated further powers from each Councils Cabinet to enable it to make decisions relating to funding applications into and funding received through or from the West Midlands Combined Authority, and the scope of the Collaboration Agreement is widened to include this by amending the current Annex A - Terms of Reference; Functions of Black Country Executive Joint Committee, as revised and included as Attachment 1 to the report.

2.1.2 That all references to the City Deal and Growth Deal throughout the Collaboration Agreement are amended to: City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority.

2.1.3 That the following description of the Combined Authority is added to section 1 (Definitions) part of the Collaboration Agreement as follows: **Combined Authority** means the West Midlands Combined Authority and its successors.

2.2 grants approval for a Black Country application into the Combined Authority's Land Remediation Fund, based upon its current priority projects pipeline to be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

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9. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Approval of Resources for Programme Management, Development and Support**

Simon Neilson presented the report to the Committee. Simon recalled that on the 9 March 2016 the Black Country Joint Committee approved the allocation of £5.267m of Local Growth Fund (LGF) funding to the Black Country Consortium and the four Black Country Local Authorities. It was approved to support the development of our Team Black Country capacity to develop the LGF programme pipeline through to the end of the 2017/18 financial year.

This report asks that the Joint Committee approves the widening of the scope of use for the approved LGF funding to include the development and submission of projects, programmes and bids to all available funding streams in addition to the LGF programme.

**16/0044 It was resolved that the BCJC:**

2.1 grant approval for the widening of the use of LGF funding by the four Black Country Councils and the Black Country Consortium as approved by the Joint Committee on the 9 March 2016, within the limits set out in table 3.1.1 of the report, to include all costs associated with the development and submission of projects, programmes and bid submissions to all available funding sources, in addition to the current LGF programme.

2.2 notes that each Local Authority and the Black Country Consortium will be required to identify revenue funding to under-write claimed costs for activity where a project has not achieved full approval status. If no asset results from the development work carried out, then these costs will become abortive revenue expenditure. These costs would then need to be funded by the employing entity.

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**10. Black Country Local Growth Deal – Wharf Approach, Aldridge – Site Investigation**

Simon Neilson presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that The Wharf Approach site in Aldridge, Walsall is a development opportunity of circa 2,975 sqm which has the potential to reclaim 1.3ha of employment land, and create circa 30 new or safeguarded jobs. The applicant, Horton Estates, have identified this site within their portfolio as having development potential but further information about the site is required.

It is understood that subject to the outcome of the site investigations then Horton Estates will either determine that the redevelopment of the site is viable or will re-engage with the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to apply - subject to a robust business case - for further public sector intervention in the form of viability gap funding to support the delivery of the project.

**16/0045 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 **Horton Estates to the value of £16,300** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Wharf Approach, Aldridge Site Investigation – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

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**11. Black Country Local Growth Deal – Bourne Street, Coseley – Site Investigation**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the Initial Proposal has been submitted by a small developer for grant funding for site investigations through the Pipeline Fund up to a maximum sum of £63,565. This would be subject to the provision of detailed cost quotations, to undertake relevant Site Investigation works.

**16/0046 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 **Idea Estate Ltd, Dudley to the maximum value of £63,565** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Bourne Street, Coseley Site Investigation – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

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**12. Black Country Local Growth Deal – Halesowen College, Creation of Access Centre for HE – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the proposed scheme creates an Access Centre to replace out-dated art and design studios that would otherwise be mothballed and brings them in to use for adult students aimed at increasing level 4+ progression and adult literacy/numeracy needs. This project contributes to the targets in the Strategic Economic Plan also addresses the outcomes of the current area based review. In particular reducing the number of adult students with no qualifications; raising the number and levels of Black country people in apprenticeships; increase the number of adults with a NVQ level4 or higher

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and increasing the achievement of grade A\* to C in GCSE Maths and English.

Confirmation has been obtained from the College on the geographic and sector destinations of both the 40 Apprenticeships and the 895 Adult Learner assists.

**16/0047 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 **Halesowen College to the value of £700,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Halesowen College, Creation of Access Centre for HE project – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

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13. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Dudley College, Specialist Equipment for HVM Sector – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that this bid seeks support to purchase Specialist Equipment for High Value Manufacturing Sector, “Precision Lathes and Turret Mills”. This will enable further expansion of Dudley College’s Advance training for High Value Manufacturing & Engineering skills, directly providing apprenticeship training and up-skilling the workforce to further support Automotive and Aerospace supply chains

The additional Specialist training equipment will directly deliver an additional 215 Level 2 & Level 3 Apprenticeships over the next 5 years, facilitating the creation of 100+ HVM jobs and safeguarding over 200 existing jobs.

Stewart Towe commented that he thought it was encouraging to see that Colleges are moving to a closer working partnership with businesses and this has been possible through the work of the Local Growth Deal and the mechanisms behind it.

**16/0048 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 **Dudley College to the value of £104,400** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Dudley College, Specialist Equipment for HVM Sector project – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

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14. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth – A459 Dudley Road/Coombs Road, Halesowen, junction improvement – Approval to Amend the Existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that this proposal to improve the junction will improve efficiency and reduce delays thereby improving access and journey times to the Business Park from the surrounding local and strategic highway network. The proposal will also improve safety and access to the site by sustainable modes, including walking, cycling and public transport.

**16/0049 An Amendment to the report was requested by Stuart Everton and Alan Lunt as the figure contained in the report recommendation for the value of the Grant Agreement was incorrect. The report should read “to the value of £180,000”.**

**It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with **Dudley MBC to the value of £180,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth - A459 Dudley Road/Coombs Road, Halesowen - Junction Improvement .  
Whilst delivery of the scheme is planned to commence in the 2016/17 financial year, the commitment contained within this report is for 2017/18 project spend.
- 2.2 notes that the above amendment is in addition to the LGF grant allocation for delivery in 2016/17 awarded to the project by the Advisory Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and the Joint Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

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15. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Dudley Brownfield Land Improvement Programme – Phase 1 – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that Dudley MBC has submitted a Full Business Case (FBC), seeking grant funding support of £3,002,000 relating to the remediation of 6.88 hectares of land, currently comprising nine separate sites. Dudley MBC subsequently intend to deliver affordable housing, which they will retain on eight of the sites, together with part of a further site (Middlepark Road) delivering a total of 237 residential units, of which 149 will be affordable.

The proposed delivery of housing on the remediated serviced sites, is proposed to be phased, with final units delivered in 2020/21. It is envisaged that other public sector funding leverage will be in the order of £11.8 million, together with private sector funding leverage of £18.3 million.

The requested funding would be used for site reclamation works as identified within site investigation reports, totalling £2,423,075, together with abnormal costs detailed in the report.

**16/0050 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 **Dudley MBC to the value of £2,846,204** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land Improvement Programme project – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year to include any terms and conditions approved by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Advisory Board to the Joint Committee.

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16. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Pensnett Estate Extension Development – Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt presented the report to the Committee. Alan advised that the Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford currently consists of 2,360,000 sq ft of primarily warehouse and industrial accommodation. Currently close to 96% of all accommodation is occupied and therefore LCP Properties have a shortage of available space to offer to new or existing tenants. Within the boundaries of the Pensnett Estate a further 15 acres of development land are available for speculative development of new warehouse/industrial units.

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Phase 1 bid has now been reconfigured to comprise an area of 3.72 hectares (9.19 acres) and the scheme proposes to deliver; the infrastructure works (access road and services), reconfiguration of LCP's car park, the construction of 130,000 sq.ft of speculative industrial space and the delivery of 31,500 sq.ft pre-let industrial unit, with the proposed grant being used to facilitate the infrastructure works of the scheme. As the applicant has already received Site Investigation funds of £42,165. Phase 1 could provide over 246 new jobs, with a further 225 if Phase 2 is delivered.

**16/0051 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 **London and Cambridge Properties Ltd to the value of £1,605,226** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Pensnett Estate Extension Development project – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year to include any terms and conditions approved by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Advisory Board to the Joint Committee.

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**Date of future meetings**

- Wednesday 23 November 2016, 11.15am at Walsall MBC