



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

**REPORT OF THE CITY DEAL AND GROWTH DEAL ADVISORY BOARD**

**TO**

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**7 September 2016**

**Black Country Local Growth Deal**  
**DUDLEY COLLEGE, SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT FOR HVM SECTOR**

**Grant Agreement Approval**

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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request that the Joint Committee approves the contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement for the Dudley College, Specialist Equipment for HVM Sector project from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme - with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 1.2 This project was approved by the LEP Board on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016, endorsed by the Working Group on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 and the Advisory Board on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee 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.

**3. REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 A summary of the request for approval, contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) is below.

**Dudley College, Specialist Equipment for HVM Sector skills bid, £104,400 in 2016/17**

- 3.2 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
- 3.3 Dudley College is working collaboratively with a range of local Employers, Higher Education Institutes and other training providers across the Engineering and Manufacturing sectors. New Apprenticeship Standards and a broadening scope for manufacturing and engineering training has led to a demand for additional machinery for our 2016/17 growth plans. Dudley College's Manufacturing & Engineering department has expanded 26% since 2014 and a further 20% growth is planned in new apprenticeships for Autumn 2016 start.
- 3.3 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.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 All the costs associated with this proposal form part of the LGF programme and will be covered by allocations from government associated with this programme. This includes the use of any interest accrued by the Accountable Body to cover costs associated with the delivery of Accountable Body functions, as approved by its (Walsall Council) Cabinet on the 29th October 2014.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The appropriate Grant Agreements are in place and will be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee. .

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Risk is being managed through the on-going monitoring of individual projects by BCC Programme Office and their ability to deliver the required spend profiles and outputs for the programme as agreed with LEP Board and the Joint Committee.

## 7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None at the time of drafting.

## 8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Growth in the existing provision and extension of the college's collaborations and employer engagement has opened up new opportunities for training and up-skilling, led and informed by an employer forum.

8.2 Dudley College has worked collaboratively with employers, Higher Education Institutes and other training providers across the Engineering and Manufacturing sectors, including the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills to develop this bid for Specialist Equipment for High Value Manufacturing Sector.

8.3 These collaborations continue to unlock opportunities for addressing the growth targets and strategic programmes within the Black Country SEP.

8.4 Legal and financial services at Dudley MBC were consulted as part of the development of this report.

### Back Ground papers

*Initial Proposal from Dudley College = Dudley College Specialist Equipment for the HVM Sector*

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