

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CITY DEAL AND GROWTH DEAL WORKING GROUP**TO****BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE****ON****16th September 2015****Delegated Authority For Noting****Black Country Local Growth Deal - Project Approval for Noting - Ruskin Mill
Glasshouse Development Phase 3**

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Executive Director for Economy and Environment (Walsall Council) has been awarded Delegated Authority under the Local Growth Deal Programme in order to approve, contract and subsequently award grant agreements by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for a series of smaller schemes where the total LGF investment (per scheme) does not exceed £240k, and whereby delivery is to commence in the 2015/16 financial year. This will enable an agile response to exploiting Investment in Regeneration opportunities for a series of smaller, low risk schemes that have been identified and recommended to proceed by the Programme Office.

The delegation is subject to consultation with the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium, the Accountable Body's Section 151 Officer, the Chair of the Joint Committee and the appropriate Working Group Member. This report sets a scheme which has been approved by the Executive Director under his delegated authority.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee:

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee 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.

- 2.2 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.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Joint Committee approved on the 17th June 2015 the delegation of authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role as Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group. It was agreed that the delegation would be in consultation with the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium, the Section 151 officer from the Accountable Body, the Head of Regeneration for the appropriate geographical area/s and the Chair of the Joint Committee. The delegations approved were:

3.1.1 to deploy a Change Control process and

3.1.2 bring forward new smaller projects up to 10% total value of in year grant (i.e. £2.4m).

- 3.2 Provided below is a summary of the 'Ruskin Mill Glasshouse Development Phase 3' project following approval under delegated authority:

Project Description: 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.

Start date: The project has been fully tendered and procured and planning permission obtained, with a contract start date of 8th June 2015. Funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and ERDF towards the project has also been reconfirmed in line with a finalised programme for the project. Phase 3 will complete in the 2015/16 financial year.

Headline Outputs Include: 4 Business Assists, 6 Business Created, 201 Learners Assists, 6 apprenticeships, 160 Adult Learners, 0.36 Hectares Land Remediated

Funding Profile: Total Project Investment - £1,231k, LGF requested - £160k, Match Funding - £1,046k Other Public Funds, £25k applicants own funds.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with this development work and the delivery of projects that form part of the LGF 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.
- 4.2 The use of Delegated Authority by the Chair of the Working Group is designed to reduce potential underspend of 2015/16 LGF grant and provide an agile response to under-utilisation of grant.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The appropriate Grant Agreements are being prepared by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) following the exercising of Delegated Authority and will 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 assessment of individual projects and their ability to deliver the required spending profiles and outcomes for the programme as required or agreed with Government and set into place by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None at the time of drafting

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The LEP Board have endorsed this project for LGF allocation.
- 8.2 The Chair of the BCJC, Chief Executive at the Consortium, the appropriate Working Group member and the Section 151 Officer at the Accountable Body have all been consulted in line with the agreed process for use of delegated authority.

Background Papers

Delegation of Authority to the Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group – *Joint Committee Paper 17th June 2015*

The Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

Attachments

Ruskin Mill Glasshouse Development Phase 3 - Business Case

Request for Use of Delegated Authority – Ruskin Mill Glasshouse Development Phase 3

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