

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**Wednesday 17 June 2015, 11.15am**

To Be Held at:

**Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council,
The Council House, Committee Room 2****DRAFT MINUTES****VOTING MEMBERS**

Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley MBC (Chair)
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC
Councillor Eling, Sandwell MBC (sub)
Councillor Adrian Andrews, Walsall MBC (sub)

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

IN ATTENDANCE

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

INVITED GUESTS

Phil Coyne, Dudley MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Jim Cunningham, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

1. Apologies

Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for 2015-16

Due to the absence of the current Chair Councillor Darren Cooper (Sandwell MBC) and Councillor Mike Bird (Walsall MBC), it was resolved that appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2015-16 be deferred until the next meeting on 5 August 2015.

15/0026 It was resolved that Councillor Peter Lowe (Dudley MBC) Chair today's meeting.

3. Meeting Dates for 2015-16

Paul Sheehan referred to the schedule of meeting dates that had been circulated prior to the meeting and confirmed that no objections had been received to the proposed dates.

15/0027 It was resolved that the meeting dates for 2015-16 be approved.

4. Notes of Previous Meeting held on 22 April 2015

15/0028 It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015 be confirmed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

7. 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 were no items to be considered in private session.

8. Constitution – Re-confirm the Constitution and adoption of Protocols for the management of BCJC business- Paul Sheehan

Paul Sheehan referred to the Constitution and asked for its re-confirmation and the new Protocols for the management of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC) business the purpose of which are to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the BCJC.

The protocols are for the following:

Protocol 1 – Management of BCJC Business

Protocol 2 – Notification of Key Decisions for the Forward Plan

Protocol 3 – Management of Business not included on the Forward

Protocol 4 - Call-in Procedure

15/0029 It was resolved that the BCJC re-confirmed the Constitution and approved the protocols for the BCJC.

9. Local Growth Fund - Black Country Growth Hub – Grant Agreement Approval – Jim Cunningham

Jim Cunningham, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Jim advised that the funding used to establish the Growth Hub together with its agreement comes to an end in June 2015. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) made a subsequent offer of Interim Funding for the Growth Hub to BC LEP, which the LEP Board accepted. This funding is designed to cover the period between the end of the RGF funding (June 2015) and the start of the new European Programme, expected during early

2016. It was anticipated that this interim funding would be paid directly to the Accountable Body for the Growth Hub (Wolverhampton City Council), however the additional £400,000 from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) has been made available, but must be claimed from BIS through the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for the Growth Deal. This now requires Joint Committee approval for Walsall Council to enter into the appropriate Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council for the delivery of Black Country Growth Hub services through to March 2016, calling upon the funding approved by government through the appropriate claims process.

It is therefore proposed that the Black Country Growth Hub continues with Wolverhampton City Council acting as Accountable Body during the Interim Funding period (alongside the Black Country Growth Opportunities Local Delivery (GOLD) initiative), receiving payment for the appropriate services from Walsall Council as part of its wider role as Accountable Body for the Growth Deal.

15/0030 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for the Local Growth Fund to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the BC LEP Growth Hub interim Funding 2015-16.

10. **Local Growth Fund – Black Country Growth Hub – Accountable Body Approval – Jim Cunningham**

Jim Cunningham, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Jim advised that the report was asking for Wolverhampton City Council to act as Accountable Body for the Black Country Growth Hub on behalf of Black Country Councils and agreed partners and to coordinate and submit funding submissions as part the new 2014 – 2020 EU Programme.

15/0031 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for Wolverhampton City Council to act in the role of Accountable Body for the Black Country Growth Hub on behalf of Black Country Councils and agreed partners and to coordinate and submit funding submissions as part the new 2014 – 2020 EU Programme.

11. **Local Growth Fund – Black Country Growth Hub – Accountable Body Approval to accept EU funding – Jim Cunningham**

Jim Cunningham, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Jim advised that the report was asking for the Accountable Body (Wolverhampton City Council) to accept EU funding on behalf of the Black Country partners for all appropriate Growth Hub bids approved by Government or its appointed agents or bodies.

15/0032 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body (Wolverhampton City Council) to accept EU funding on behalf of the Black Country partners for all appropriate Growth Hub bids approved by Government or its appointed agents or bodies.

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12. **Black Country Transformational GOLD – Accountable Body Approval – Jim Cunningham**
- Jim Cunningham, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Jim advised that the report was asking for Wolverhampton City Council to act in the role of Accountable Body for the Black Country Transformational GOLD project on behalf of Black Country Councils and agreed partners and to coordinate and submit funding submissions as part the new 2014 – 2020 EU Programme.
- 15/0033** It was resolved that the BCJC grant approval for Wolverhampton City Council to act in the role of Accountable Body for the Black Country Transformational GOLD project on behalf of Black Country Councils and agreed partners and to coordinate and submit funding submissions as part the new 2014 – 2020 EU Programme.
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13. **Black Country EU Programme – Black Country Technical Assistance Team – Accountable Body Continuation – Simon Neilson**
- Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the report was asking for Walsall Council (as the Accountable Body for the Black Country Technical Assistance team) to continue to host and line manage the Technical Assistance support services across the Black Country.
- 15/0034** It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the continuation of Walsall Council (as the Accountable Body for the Black Country Technical Assistance team) to host and line manage the Technical Assistance support services across the Black Country.
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14. **Black Country EU Programme – Black Country Technical Assistance Team – EU Funding acceptance – Simon Neilson**
- Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the report was asking for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to accept EU funding on behalf of the Black Country partners for all appropriate Technical Assistance (TA) bids approved by Government or its appointed agents or bodies.
- 15/0035** It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to accept EU funding on behalf of the Black Country partners for all appropriate Technical Assistance (TA) bids approved by Government or its appointed agents or bodies.
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15. **Delegation of Authority to the Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group – Simon Neilson**
- Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the report was asking for 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. The delegation will 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 are to deploy a Change Control process and bring forward new smaller projects up to 10% total value of in-year grant.

15/0036 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for 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, 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 to:

2.1.1 deploy a Change Control process and

2.1.2 bring forward new, smaller projects up to 10% total value of in-year grant.

16. **Revised Due Diligence process for the Local Growth Deal programme – Simon Neilson**

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the report was asking for the refining and strengthening of the current Due Diligence process by the Programme Office and the Accountable Body.

15/0037 It was resolved that the BCJC grant approval of refinements and strengthening of the supporting Accountable Body Due Diligence process

17. **Black Country Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) – Accountable Body Approval – Phil Coyne**

Phil Coyne, Dudley MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Phil advised that the report was asking for Dudley Council to act in the role of Accountable Body for the Black Country Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) programme on behalf of Black Country Councils and agreed partners.

15/0038 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for Dudley Council to act in the role of Accountable Body for the Black Country Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) programme on behalf of the Black Country Councils and agreed partners.

18. **Black Country Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) – Accountable Body Approval to accept EU Funding – Phil Coyne**

Phil Coyne, Dudley MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Phil advised that the report was asking for the Accountable Body (Dudley Council) to accept EU funding on behalf of the Black Country partners for all appropriate Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) bids approved by Government or its appointed agents or bodies.

15/0039 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Accountable Body (Dudley MBC) to accept EU funding on behalf of the Black Country partners for all appropriate Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) bids approved by Government or its appointed agents or bodies.

19. **Revised process for evaluation of Local Growth Fund Bids – Sarah Middleton**

Sarah Middleton, BC Consortium was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the report was asking for the Black Country Consortium as the Programme Office to deploy a revised process for Evaluation of projects. This process will be more robust from the outset and help to ensure that bids moving through the system are more robust.

15/0040 It was resolved that the BCJC grants approval for the Programme Office of the Black Country Consortium to deploy a revised process for Evaluation of projects.
