

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 22 April 2015, 11.15am
Wolverhampton City Council
Committee Room 2, 3rd Floor, Civic Centre

DRAFT MINUTES**VOTING MEMBERS**

Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley MBC
Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC (Chair)
Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

IN ATTENDANCE

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

INVITED GUESTS

Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC

1. **Apologies**

2. **15/0019** **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 18 February 2015**

It was resolved that the BCJC:

Approve the notes of the meeting held on 18 February 2015 as a true record.

3. **15/0020** **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting.**

None.

4. **15/0021** **Declarations of Interest**

None.

5. **15/0022** **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.

6. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Managing Short Trips – Project Approval**

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the report was to

present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the Managing Short Trips Growth Deal application by Black Country Consortium. To ask the Joint Committee to note a now revised Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent grant agreement by the Accountable Body.

Project Description: The Managing Short Trips programme encompasses a range of improvements which includes innovative 'interconnect' way finding, and signage supported by physical walking and cycling routes across the Black Country, to form an attractive Active Travel Network.

15/0023 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 notes the movement of the Managing Short Trips Project from its current Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Working Group to the Advisory Board.
- 2.2 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Centro to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Managing Short Trips project – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Woods Lane – Project Approval**

Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Nick advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the Woods Lane Growth Deal application by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. To ask the Joint Committee to note as recommended by the Advisory Board a now revised Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent grant agreement by the Accountable Body. To ask the Joint Committee to note the recommendation from the Advisory Board that, should funding become available in the 2015/16 financial year, the project start date be brought forwards to 2015/16.

Project Description -

- Local Growth Fund investment will enable a new road junction to be created, facilitating access to an allocated development site for up to 358 new homes, together with the relocation and demolition of at least three key manufacturing businesses and environmental improvements to the River Stour.
- This project will lever £49.16m of private sector funding, regenerate 9.43 hectares of low quality and underused industrial land and create 0.6 km of new open space along the River Stour Corridor.

15/0024 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 notes the movement of the Woods Lane Project from its current Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Head of Regeneration for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council to the Advisory Board.
- 2.2 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Metropolitan

Borough Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Woods Lane project – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

8. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – M5 Junction 2 (Birchley Island) – Project Approval (delivery of the Pre-Allocated Local Growth Fund (previously Local Transport Funding) elements in 2015/16 financial year)**

Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Nick advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the M5 J2 (Birchley Island) project application by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. To ask the Joint Committee to approve a movement to contracting and subsequent grant agreement by the Accountable Body.

Project Description - This project is a major junction improvement to increase capacity, reduce delays and improve access to investment areas. The scheme involves a major capacity improvement to the linked junctions of Birchley Island and M5, Junction 2, building on the Highways Agency scheme to widen the motorway 'off' slips carried out in 2013 as part of the Pinch Point Programme. All of the approaches will be widened and signal control will be introduced on the A4034 Churchbridge approach. The provision of through lane to create a 'hamburger' type junction, either along the line of the A4123, or from the motorway link, is being considered. The scheme provides improved facilities for pedestrians and provision for cyclists which currently does not exist.

15/0025 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 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver the Pre-Allocated Local Growth Fund (previously Local Transport Board funding) elements of the M5 J2 project – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.
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