



**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

16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### **BLACK COUNTRY LOCAL GROWTH DEAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATION – WOLVERHAMPTON CITY CENTRE COACH STATION – ACCESSING GROWTH**

---

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

---

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request that the Joint Committee approve an amendment of the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for the 'Wolverhampton City Centre Coach Station' project from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme. The project has been identified, evaluated and recommended to proceed by the Programme Office, endorsed by the Working Group, and received LEP Board endorsement on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Joint Committee grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Accessing Growth Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council (to the grant value of £500,000) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the 'Wolverhampton City Centre Coach Station' project - with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

#### **3. REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 The delivery of Wolverhampton's Interchange proposals and the recent de-commissioning of one platform of the existing Metro St Georges stop present a unique opportunity to provide a step change in coach and passenger facilities within Wolverhampton City Centre.
- 3.2 This is an Accessing Growth funded scheme that would add value to the existing Wolverhampton Interchange Programme of works. The programme is effectively accelerating the upgrading of the Coach facilities within the Interchange Programme following the decommissioning of one platform of the existing Metro facility. The facility will ensure that the best possible transport interchange facility is provided for both the existing

public transport offer, and the enhanced offer which will be delivered by the parallel Interchange project. The existing coach facilities within the city are not fit for purpose and present no opportunity for growth or development of access to goods and services via this mode.

- 3.3 The proposal is fully supported by Wolverhampton's City Centre Programme Board and the Interchange project partners.
- 3.4 **Start date:** Works being delivered as part of the Interchange to alter coach provision as part of the Interchange works/Metro extension would be expanded and built upon to provide the vastly improved facility within this financial year.
- 3.5 **Headline Outputs Include:** Construction of layover space for coaches; 2 off the street spaces.
- 3.6 **Funding Profile:** Total Project Investment - £600,000. LGF requested - £500,000 Match Funding - £100,000 (applicants own funds, quantified within the Interchange funding). The full amount is profiled to spend in 2015/16.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with these proposals 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 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 Interchange project has been subject to extensive public consultation and most recently the Transport and Works Act Order application was the subject of formal consultation processes. This included all elements of the proposed Interchange scheme including changes to coach facilities in the City Centre, and involved public and stakeholder

engagement. There were no outstanding objections as part of the TWAO application or any of the other consultation exercises. The design of the coach facility proposed has been subject to consultation with the operators National Express and the various representatives of Interchange Steering Group as promoters. The Leader of Wolverhampton City Council has also been briefed on the proposals.

8.2 As part of the wider City Centre public realm works in Wolverhampton the Leader of the City Council has been briefed on the proposals for changes to Coach facilities. If funding is secured in principal then a further report will be taken to inform the Cabinet Member for City Assets of the proposed works, any other relevant councillors / senior management will be included in the circulation of the report.

8.3 This specific proposal has not been the subject of a scrutiny review.

### **Back Ground papers**

*Revised Process for Evaluation of Local Growth Fund bids - Joint Committee Paper 17th June 2015*

*The Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)*

*Wolverhampton City Centre Coach Station Outline Business Case*

### **Contact Officers & Authors**

#### **Tim Johnson**

Strategic Director, Place  
Wolverhampton City Council  
Civic Centre, St Peters Square  
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH  
Email: [tim.johnson@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:tim.johnson@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01902 555400

#### **Mark Lavender**

Joint Committee Programme Manager  
Walsall Council  
Civic Centre, Darwall Street  
Walsall WS1 1TP  
Email: [mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01922 654772