



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
20 JANUARY 2016**

**BLACK COUNTRY LOCAL GROWTH DEAL - WOLVERHAMPTON CIVIC HALL
ADDITIONAL REMEDIATION
Amending the existing Growing the City Centre Cultural and Business Events Grant
Agreement**

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|----------------------|------------|
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Forward Plan: | Yes |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Joint Committee grants the approval, contracting and subsequent amendment of an existing Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for the 'Wolverhampton Civic Hall & Grand Theatre' project from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme. .
- 1.2 The request in this report has been endorsed by the Programme Management Office, the Advisory Board, the Working Group and received LEP Board approval on 23rd November 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Growing the City Centre Cultural and Business Events Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to the grant value of £400k for the additional remediation work required to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the 'Wolverhampton Civic Hall & Grand Theatre' project.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 In December 2014 the Joint Committee approved a bid for the Wolverhampton Civic Halls & Grand Theatre project to be supported from 2015/16 onwards with a total contribution of £6.60m support over 3 years.

"The Original Scheme to remediate these buildings was approved based on Type 2 Asbestos surveys that only required Visual Inspections & Analysis. Subsequently, Invasive surveys have now been performed and the presence of "Blue" "White" &

“Brown” Asbestos has been discovered throughout the building. Total cost for Removal of the Asbestos, based on the best tender, is £607k.”

Extract from surveyors report.

- 3.2 Wolverhampton Council have been able to fund £207k of the total cost and have requested LEP Board additional support for the balance of £400k. The support would be facilitated through Walsall Accountable Body as a Contract amendment to the existing Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council.

Funding Profile: Total Cost of Additional Remediation - £607k, LGF requested - £400k, Match Funding - £207k applicants own funds.

The full amount is profiled to spend in 2015/16.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with this proposal forms 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 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 Tim Johnson, Strategic Director for Place at Wolverhampton City Council has been consulted and has endorsed the request for additional funding from the Black Country LEP.

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)

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