



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

16th September 2015

BLACK COUNTRY LOCAL GROWTH DEAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATION – CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE RELOCATION – FEASIBILITY STUDY

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Joint Committee approves move to contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for the Relocation of Wolverhampton City College – Feasibility Study. 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 21st August 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Committee grants approval to the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to the grant value of £311k to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the 'Relocation of Wolverhampton City College – feasibility study' - with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 LGF funding is sought to create a new city centre located campus for City of Wolverhampton College to replace the outdated campus located at Paget Road.
- 3.2 This request is for an investment into the feasibility study for Wolverhampton City College Campus Realignment in order to provide the foundations for an effective business plan to ensure a cohesive and cost efficient proposal to achieve wide reaching economic and skills outcomes for the City.
- 3.3 The feasibility study will deliver potential solutions for:

- a. Financing the relocation into the centre of Wolverhampton;
- b. The Sale of existing site for Housing development;
- c. Take over and fit out of the listed former Royal Hospital Building from Tesco, forming the new building;
- d. If the Hospital site is identified as preferred option, usage of the remainder of the Hospital site;
- e. Whether an alternative site is better suited to deliver the City and Sub Regions growth objectives; and
- f. Learner market testing for future curriculum structure in the new location.

3.4 **Start date:** The Project is targeting an October 2015 start date for the feasibility work with completion by March 2016.

3.5 **Headline Outputs Include:** A feasibility report that will inform the OBC for the wider scheme.

3.6 **Funding Profile:**Total Project Investment - £311k. LGF requested - £311k, No Match Funding

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 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 The Heritage Lottery Fund and Wolverhampton Local Education Partnership have been consulted and have confirmed their support for the feasibility study.

- 8.2 All Saints Area Network, Keepmoat and Accord Housing have been consulted and confirmed that the issues identified are important considerations for the study.
- 8.3 Wolverhampton City Council's Service Director - City Economy has confirmed that the proposed campus realignment is consistent with the City Strategy, Area Action Plan and other key strategies.
- 8.4 Wolverhampton City Council's Head of Procurement has confirmed that the Inspired Spaces framework offers the College a route that is compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations.

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)

Initial Proposal for City of Wolverhampton College (CWC) Campus Realignment – Feasibility Study

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
Telephone: 01902 555400

Mark Lavender

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