



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 - ACCESSING GROWTH COMPTON PARK
IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY
Amending the existing Accessing Growth Fund Grant Agreement**

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 'Compton park Improved Connectivity' project from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme.
- 1.2 The recommendation detailed 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 Accessing Growth Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to the value of £175k to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Compton Park Improved Connectivity project with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Joint Committee received and endorsed a report on the 15th June 2015 setting out the new processes to be adopted for the evaluation and approval of new projects entering the Local Growth Fund process. The LEP secretariat is currently in the transition stage from the old processes to the new arrangements as LEP Theme boards are established and membership recruited.
- 3.2 To ensure the secretariat is still able to meet the commitments of the programme, notably achievement of the spend targets for this 2015/16 financial year, it is

continuing with elements of the previous processes including drawing on the expert staff available to assess the proposed projects lifecycle the business case against the HM treasury 5 Case Model, resulting in proposals that can then move through the LEP board and onto the Joint Committee for approval.

- 3.3 The Compton Park Improved Connectivity project has been through this process, the details of which were reported to the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board on 4th January 2016. The funding is available within the LGF programme and delivery will commence during the 2015/16 period. The application is for £175k of grant support.
- 3.4 Currently Compton Park in the west of Wolverhampton contains St Peter's Collegiate School, St Edmunds Academy and the Wolverhampton Wanderers Training Academy. It is served by a non-adopted sub-standard road with no separate pedestrian or cycling facilities. This is inadequate for the volume of motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists using it at key school journey times. Significant match funding has become available from Wolverhampton FC to upgrade Compton Park (currently un-adopted highway) and Wolverhampton CC (WCC) would like to incorporate a segregated cycle route alongside the road.
- 3.5 The proposal is to create segregated cycling and pedestrian facilities offering a high level of safety for users. This would constitute a direct, all-weather lit route both for student journeys to the site and for pedestrians and cyclists wishing to pass through at any time. This would complement nearby parts of the local highway infrastructure which have already been improved for pedestrian and cyclist use.

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.
- 4.2 The applicant (Wolverhampton City Council) will utilise its processes and procedures to ensure that best value is achieved.

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 Consultation was carried out with the Ward Councillors in June 2015 prior to the scheme being presented to the Cabinet Resources Panel. Subsequently the three education establishments occupying Compton Park were consulted and engaged in the design process.

- June 30th 2015; Cabinet Resources Panel considered and approved the project. Prior to this meeting the Ward Members were consulted on the scheme.
- July 24th 2015: initial consultation on drawings with St Peter's and St Edmund's Schools but not Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.
- August 11th 2015: progress meeting with St Edmunds.
- August 19th: Adoption Agreement signed between WCC and WWFC
- September 1st 2015: progress meeting with both schools and WWFC.
- September 10th 2015: progress meeting with both schools and WWFC.
- September 29th 2015: progress meeting with both schools.

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