



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

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2015

Black Country Local Growth Deal – FAB Kit – Performance Through People (PTP)
Increase of Grant Award

Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the recommendations of the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board and request that the Joint Committee approve the contracting and subsequent award of Grant Agreement by the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) for the 'Fab Kit – Performance Through People (PTP)' project from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme. The project has been identified, evaluated and recommended to proceed by the Programme Office and endorsed by the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group. The project was approved by the LEP as part of LGF round 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to increase the grant awarded to Performance Through People (PTP) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the 'Fab Kit – PTP' project. This project is already in delivery and the additional grant of £23,000 will be awarded via a contract variation to the existing approved scheme.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The project is providing capital investment in high-tech equipment increasing Performance Through People's (PTP) capacity to deliver high value manufacturing training that meets the skills needs of local businesses. Specifically the provision of CNC machines, to meet the training needs of local businesses and to deliver Bite Sized Training for employers/staff.

- 3.2 The original bid was to support investment in manual Press Brakes as advised by PTP's Engineering Manager of the time. Since recruiting a new (more experienced) Engineering Manager it has been evidenced that the manual machines are not fit for purpose and do not fit with the organisation's High Value Manufacturing strategy. Colin Parker (Skills Factory – Expert) has visited PTP and endorsed the recommendation to replace the manual machine for an Amada CNC Press Brake; aligning with market demand whereby currently 80% of Black Country Companies are using this brand. This request is seeking an additional £23k grant to upgrade the offering and purchase the Amada CNC Press Brake.
- 3.3 **Start date:** Purchase of equipment to be completed in time for the August 2015 intake.
- 3.4 **Headline Outputs Include:** 50 Learner Assists, 65 Apprenticeships Started, 20 Business Assists
- 3.5 **Funding Profile:** Total Project Investment - £180k, **Additional LGF requested - £23k**, LGF approved - £75k, Match Funding - £82k applicants own funds.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with this project will be covered by allocations from government associated with LGF 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 Agreement will be prepared by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) and will include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together will 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 with the LEP Board, as well as with the Programme Management Office and the Skills Factory at the Consortium, has been undertaken in line with the Joint Committee protocols.

8.2 In the development of this project, PTP Training consulted with both key education and skills stakeholders and a range of private sector providers.

Background Papers

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

The Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

Attachments

Fab Kit – PTP – Formal letter outlining change request

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