**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Friday 20 June 2014, 11.15am**

**Held at:**

**Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,**

**The Council House, Committee Room 2**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Councillor David Sparks, Dudley MBC

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC

Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

**NON VOTING MEMBERS**

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP Board

**IN ATTENDANCE**

John Polychronakis, Dudley MBC

Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

**INVITED GUESTS**

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

Paul Mountford, Sandwell MBC

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. |  | **Apologies**  Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC  Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board  Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC  Simon Warren, Wolverhampton CC |
| 2. |  | **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014/15**  Councillor Mike Bird expressed his thanks to colleagues and clarified that his term of office as Chair person had come to an end and invited a vote to take place regarding the Chairperson for 2014/15.  Paul Sheehan confirmed that at the last meeting on 26 March 2014, Councillor Darren Cooper, Leader at Sandwell Council had been nominated (subject to a vote) as the Chairperson for the Municipal Year of 2014/15. Councillor Cooper, although absent from this meeting, had confirmed via email that he is happy to become the Chairperson.  Councillor Bird proposed Councillor Cooper as Chairperson and Councillor Sparks seconded the proposal. |
|  |  | **It was resolved that:**  Councillor Darren Cooper, Leader of Sandwell Council be the Chairperson for the next municipal year 2014/15. |
|  |  | Councillor Sparks proposed Councillor Bird as Vice-Chair and Councillor Lawrence seconded the proposal. |
|  |  | **It was resolved that :**  Councillor Mike Bird be the Vice-Chairperson for the municipal year 2014/15 |
|  |  | As Councillor Cooper had given his apologies for this meeting, Councillor Bird as Vice-Chairperson, Chaired this meeting. |
| 3. |  | **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 7 May 2014** |
|  |  | **It was resolved that:**  The notes of the meeting held on 7 May 2014 be confirmed as a true record. |
| 4. |  | **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting**  **None.** |
|  |  | **It was resolved that:**  There were no matters arising fro the notes of the meeting held on 7 May 2014. |
| 5. |  | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  |  | **It was resolved that:**  There was no Declarations of Interest. |
| 6. |  | **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**  To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda. |
|  |  | **It was resolved that:**  There were not items to be considered in private session. |
| 7. |  | **Confirm Substitute Members of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee**  Paul Sheehan clarified that Council Leaders need to nominate a substitute voting member, and the LEP Board Chairperson needs to nominate a substitute non-voting member to attend the Committee in their absence. |
|  |  | **It was resolved that :**  The substitute voting and non-voting members of the Committee are:   * Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley (voting) * Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell (voting) * Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall (voting) * Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton (voting) * Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP (non-voting) |
| 8. |  | **Black Country Strategic Economic Plan Update – Simon Neilson, Walsall**  Simon Neilson (Walsall) was in attendance and presented the report that had been previously circulated.  Simon explained that the report gives an update on the development, contents and next steps associated with the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). To include its aims and vision, together with the initial priority initiatives included for consideration by Government, and their current ranked order approved by the LEP Board in April 2014. |
|  |  | **It was resolved that the BCJC:**  note the contents of the SEP Executive Summary, which includes the 16 priority projects, included as Attachment A.  take note of the rankings for these 16 priority projects as approved by the LEP Board in April 2014, as detailed in Table 3.6.1.   * 1. take note of the: ‘Project on a Page’ summary reports, included as Attachment B. Noting the detail and the next (approval) steps required, including the request for the top 12 priority projects to be requested to submit their business cases for consideration at the September 2014 Joint Committee meeting. |
| 9. |  | **City Deal Update – Simon Neilson, Walsall**  **It was resolved that the BCJC:**  2.1 note the background and contents of the City Deal agreement included in this report as Attachment A.  2.2 note the agreement by Walsall Councils Cabinet for it to act in the role of Accountable Body for the: Housing Jobs and Prosperity pilot, approving Walsall Council to Act in the role of Accountable Body for the: Housing Jobs and Prosperity pilot. |
| 10. |  | **Black Country Superfast Broadband Project – Paul Mountford, Sandwell**  **It was resolved that the BCJC :**  2.1 accepts the Black Country Superfast Broadband Project proposals, set out in this report and further detailed in Attachment A.  2.2 approves the appointment of Sandwell MBC (SMBC) as the Lead and Accountable Body for the Black Country Superfast Broadband Project.  **An amendment was moved by Councillor Bird and duly approved that:**  2.3 The Black Country Joint Committee approves the signing of the Black Country Broadband Collaborative Agreement subject to the following amendments :  2.3.1 no internal revenue costs/contributions should be reflected in the “collaborative agreement” or requested from party authorities, they are to be bourn by Sandwell MBC as the Lead Authority/Accountable Body for the project.  2.3.2 no revenue cost/contributions should be reflected in the “collaborative agreement” for specialist technical expertise or relating to contract finalisation process and no contribution should be requested from party authorities, they are to be bourn by Sandwell MBC as the Lead Authority/Accountable Body for the project.  2.3.3 the reference to indemnities should mirror that of the City Deal and Growth Deal Collaborative Agreement Section 6 in its entirety. Specific clarification was given that “save where there is an administrative irregularity by the Accountable Body or Lead Body declared by an auditor of a party and accepted by the Joint Committee the parties shall meet the costs of the claw-back in the same proportion to the programme funding that has been expended within their administrative area”.    2.4 The Collaborative Agreement shall only be entered into by each Authority’s Head of Legal once they have been advised by the City Deal Advisory Board (via the Heads of Regeneration) that these amendments have been made.  2.5 With regard to all future projects, as a principle the Lead Authority/Accountable Body for the project will absorb all costs relating to the accountable body function.  2.6 With regard to all future projects, as a principle if additional Collaborative Agreements or Side Agreements are necessary, they should follow the format of the already agreed City Deal and Growth Deal Collaborative Agreement. |
| 11. |  | **Adoption of Enhanced Outline Business Case Form – Sarah Middleton, BC Consortium Ltd**  **It was resolved that the BCJC:**   * 1. Approve the use of the enhanced (Outline) Business Case form, included as Attachment A. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Date of future meetings**   * Black Country Joint Committee – Wednesday 17 September 2014, 11.15am at Wolverhampton CC * Black Country Joint Committee – Wednesday 3 December 2014, 11.15am at Dudley MBC |