



Black Country Executive Joint Committee
Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

TO

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE – 7 May 2014

City and Growth Deal Collaboration Agreement

Key Decision:	No
Forward Plan:	No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Joint Committee authority for each of the Four Councils to sign the City Deal Collaboration Agreement, which sets out the administrative and governance framework for the Joint Committee.
- 1.2 Authority was delegated by each Councils Cabinet to the Joint Committee to agree its own administrative and governance arrangements, which are set out within the Collaboration Agreement. This means that the Joint Committee, as a Joint Committee of the four Councils Cabinets can authorise the signature by Council officers of the Collaboration Agreement without having to go to the individual Cabinets for authority.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Joint Committee note the contents of the report and the underlying principals of the Collaboration Agreement.
- 2.2 The Joint Committee approve the City Deal Collaboration Agreement and agree for each Council Leader and Chief Legal Officer (or equivalent) to sign the Agreement on behalf of their Local Authority.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The four Black Country Councils Cabinets approved the setting up of the Joint Committee and the delegation of functions relating to City and Growth Deal to the Joint Committee, the Joint Committee adopted these functions on 26 March 2014. The delegations included the creation of the City and Growth Deal governance arrangements, which includes the Collaboration Agreement, which sets out the process for decision-making. Authority of the individual Cabinets is not required to authorise Council officers to sign the Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the four Councils. This is because the Joint Committee is a Joint Committee of the four Cabinets and as long as it is acting within its delegated functions (City and Growth Deal only) any decision by the Joint Committee is in effect a decision of each Councils Cabinet.

- 3.2 The Collaboration Agreement is annexed to this report, the parties are the four Black Country Councils and the Black Country Consortium. The five main areas dealt within the Agreement are:

Collaboration – is at the heart of City and Growth Deal to achieve a coherent region approach to City and Growth Deal.

Project Management – the establishment of a working group of regeneration officers from each Council to bring forward project proposals to the Advisory board, and Joint Committee, including an update and progress reporting mechanism.

Defined roles – for each project under City and Growth Deal there will be a:

- **Accountable Body** – this is the Council ultimately responsible for the government funding stream and accountable to the government for its expenditure in accordance with the government terms and conditions of funding.
- **Lead Body** – the Council(s) that will be responsible for the activity of implementing individual projects or elements of projects.

Project Audit – For each project, the Council(s) responsible as Lead Body for that Project or elements of it will ensure audit arrangements are in place.

Government grant terms and conditions – are to be adhered to at all times by the Councils, and where claw-back of funding is made, it should be repaid in proportion to the expenditure within each Councils area, unless any administrative irregularity is determined by an auditor.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of the Collaboration Agreement, the costs of administering the projects are open to be determined as and when by the Joint Committee on a project by project basis.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Collaboration Agreements does not give rise to any specific detailed obligations beyond those relevant to City and Growth Deal, and in particular its the administrative activity and governance framework to enable the Joint Committee's decision is to be put into practice.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Collaboration Agreement forms part of governance and administrative framework of City and Growth Deal, it provides a structured approach to decision making and support to enable decision-making in an accountable and transparent way by the Joint Committee.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct equality impacts arising from this decision, as the decision is an administrative one to authorise the signature of the Collaboration Agreement. The Collaboration Agreement provides the governance and administrative framework for city and growth Deal decisions by the Joint Committee

Back Ground papers

Black Country Executive Joint Committee report dated 26 March 2014 - Constitution, Terms of Reference and Standing Orders of Black Country Executive Joint Committee

Contact Officer:

Stuart Portman
Head of Law – Non Contentious
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Email: portmanstuart@walsall.gov.uk
Tel: 01922 654821

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Appendix – Collaboration Agreement