



**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 April 2016**

**Black Country Local Growth Deal – ACCESSING GROWTH – PINFOLD  
BRIDGE, WEDNESFIELD ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON**  
**Amending the existing Accessing Growth Fund Grant Agreement**

---

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Key Decision:</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Forward Plan:</b> | <b>Yes</b> |

---

**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 “Pinfold Bridge, Wednesfield” project from within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme.
- 1.2 The project has been endorsed by the Programme Management Office, the Advisory Board, the Working Group and received LEP Board approval on 25 February 2016.

**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 Fund Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council **to the value of £675,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Pinfold Bridge, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton project – with delivery to commence in the 2016/17 financial year.

**3. REPORT DETAIL**

- 3.1 The proposed works at Pinfold Canal Bridge will provide a replacement bridge structure.
- 3.2 Pinfold Bridge carries High Street/Lichfield Road over the Wyrley and Essington Canal north of Wednesfield centre, Wolverhampton. This is a strategic traffic route for access to Wednesfield Centre, which carries a high frequency bus service that connects the Wednesfield Corridor. This includes Ashmore Park residential area, Wednesfield Centre, Bentley Bridge, New Cross Hospital and Wolverhampton City Centre. Wednesfield is also a key link between Wolverhampton and Walsall Centres.

- 3.3 The existing road bridge structure has failed its structural assessment due to corrosion of the main girders. The adjacent footbridge deck is also in a poor condition. The structure requires replacing to increase the load capacity to meet current standards. Loss of or restriction of access across the bridge will significantly affect the public transport and general accessibility to Wednesfield, Wolverhampton and along the wider corridor. Due to concerns with the structure, weak bridge signs have been installed at either end of the structure. However, the continued failure of the bridge structure is expected which would cause severe disruption to community, public services, businesses and public transport network in the area.
- 3.4 By maintaining the transport capacity and improving access for sustainable modes into the area, the quality of the offer in the area will be enhanced. Continued access to the growth areas particularly to the south of Wednesfield and in West Walsall will be maintained enabling jobs access for local people to local jobs which are being created through wider LGF investment.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The estimated total project cost is £750,000 with 10% of this to be met from the City of Wolverhampton structures capital programme in 16/17. The remaining £675,000 has been requested through the Access to Growth programme of the local Growth Fund.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Approval to progress with the scheme has previously been secured through the City of Wolverhampton Council transportation capital programme report to Cabinet. The City of Wolverhampton Council will enter into the relevant funding agreement with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council as accountable body for the LEP.

#### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Key risks associated with the project relate to access to the canal, in response the programme for delivery of the scheme has been developed to reflect the summer constraint and works have been timetabled accordingly.

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Failure to secure funding and implement the works will have serious equalities implications as access to the town centre for public transport, pedestrians and through traffic will be severed.

#### **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Details of the proposals have been included within the City of Wolverhampton transportation capital programme report to Cabinet, where it has received Member approval. As the bridge crosses the canal network consultation has been undertaken with Canal and Rivers Trust to agree appropriate timescales and access agreements to minimise disruption.

8.2 Local advertising and briefing of Ward Members will be undertaken in advance of any works taking place, as some disruption will be experienced during delivery. The scheme will replace the existing structure without long term change in the highway arrangement.

**Back Ground papers**

- Pinfold Canal Bridge – Initial Proposal to the Black Country Programme Office.

**Contact Officer & Author**

**Tim Johnson**

Strategic Director, Place  
Wolverhampton City Council  
Civic Centre, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1SH  
Email: [tim.johnson@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:tim.johnson@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01902 555400

**Stuart Everton**

Black Country Director of Transport  
Wolverhampton City Council  
Civic Centre, St Peter's Square,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1SH  
Email: [stuart.everton@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.everton@wolverhampton.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01902 554097