

REPORT OF THE CITY DEAL AND GROWTH DEAL ADVISORY BOARD**TO****BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE****ON****18 FEBRUARY 2015****Black Country Local Growth Deal - Pipeline process and current schedule of projects**

Key Decision: No
Forward Plan: N/A

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Joint Committee an update report on the Growth Deal pipeline process and current schedule of projects.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee note contents of this report.

3. REPORT DETAIL

- 3.1 The Partnership has been asked by BIS to submit further potential Growth Deal pipeline projects. Government are now referring to this as Local Growth Fund Expansion. We are anticipating a potential further £24m allocation to the Black Country with any additional funds starting in 2016/17. This award would result in £167m Growth Deal funds being available over the period up to 2021.
- 3.2 The Black Country pipeline for Local Growth Fund 2 (now to be known as Growth Deal Expansion) includes:

Name of Project	Project Description
Growing Priority Sector Regional Growth Fund	Providing Access to Finance via a Regional Growth Fund to Grow our Priority Sectors via capital investment in plant, machinery & property.
Accessing Growth Fund	Additional transport schemes in support of employment and housing sites
FAB KIT	The project provides essential equipment to service the gap between supply and demand for Engineering

Name of Project	Project Description
	skills.
Walsall Waterfront	The project aims to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the attractive canal side location and successful New Art Gallery and proposed cinema development, to bring forward the Lex site to create a predominantly leisure-led, mixed use development.
Bradleys Lane Site Acquisition - Sandwell	Gap funding to deliver a strategic residential site comprising approximately 270 units & the relocation of 2 companies.
Dudley Town Centre Gateway Proposals	The provision of infrastructure /public realm improvements to start stalled developments.
Black Patch - Sandwell	Environmental improvements, land remediation, acquisition of residential premises to deliver land for industrial use. A private sector partner is now on board to provide a state-of-the-art 5ha industrial facility involving £15m of investment for delivery between 2016 and 2018. A planning application is anticipated in early 2015.
Wolverhampton City College – relocation.	To create a new city centre located campus for City of Wolverhampton College relocating from Paget Road.
Very Light Rail Innovation Centre	An innovation centre in support of business, education, R & D, prototype vehicle design and construction.

3.3 The projects likely to be funded through the Growth Deal Expansion include:

- Walsall Waterfront
- Wolverhampton City College
- Very Light Rail Innovation Centre

3.4 Development and enhancement of the Outline Business Case information continues on these projects. Ranking is created through our **Benefit Cost Ratio methodology**. At the moment none of the projects are confirmed and will need to go through business case development and subsequent project pipeline phases – these are currently being developed and a subsequent report will be brought to this meeting.

3.5 The Growth Fund Expansion allocated to the Black Country was subject to the level of funds identified nationally - an announcement was made on 27th January, and the additional £24m will form part of a total £164m Growth Deal for the Black Country – to be signed by Greg Clark, Minister for Universities & Science & Minister for Cities on 5th February 2015.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs associated with this development work and the delivery of projects that form part of the LGF round 1, including this expansion, 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.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None at the time of drafting.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 None at the time of drafting.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None at the time of drafting.

Back Ground papers

None.

Contact Officers & Authors**Sarah Middleton**

Chief Executive

Black Country Consortium Ltd

The Deckhouse, Waterfront West, Dudley Road, Brierley Hill DY5 1LW

Email: sarah_middleton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk

Telephone: 01384 471102