



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 17 September 2014, 11.15am

To Be Held at:

Wolverhampton City Council,
The Civic Centre, Committee Room 3

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor David Sparks, Dudley MBC
Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC
Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

IN ATTENDANCE

John Polychronakis, Dudley MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

INVITED GUESTS

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC

1.

Apologies

Simon Warren, Wolverhampton CC
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

2.

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 20 June 2014

14/0026 It was resolved that:

The notes of the meeting held on 20 June 2014 be agreed as a true record.

3.

Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting

Item 2 – Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014-15

Councillor Cooper advised that due to the change in administration at Walsall Council, Councillor Sean Coughlan would now be Walsall Council's representative on this Committee and welcomed him. Councillor Cooper advised that there is now a vacancy for Vice-Chairperson.

Councillor Sparks proposed Councillor Sean Coughlan as the Vice-Chairperson and Cllr Bilson seconded the proposal.

14/0027 It was resolved that:

Councillor Sean Coughlan, Leader of Walsall Council be Vice-Chairperson for the municipal year of 2014/15.

4. Declarations of Interest**14/0028 It was resolved that:**

There were no declarations of interest.

5. 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.

14/0029 It was resolved that:

There were no items to be considered in private session.

6. Change of Walsall Council's Substitute Member for the Black Country Executive Joint Committee

Councillor Cooper invited Councillor Coughlan to nominate a substitute member from his Cabinet for this Committee.

14/0030 It was resolved that:

Councillor Coughlan would advise the Committee at the next meeting who his substitute member would be once Walsall Council's Cabinet had met and approved the nomination.

7. Black Country Strategic Economic Plan – The Growth Deal**(a) Accountable Body Recommendation**

Simon Neilson (Walsall) was present for this item and referred to the report that had been previously circulated. The report details that the Government has approved significant levels of financial resources for the Black Country, with the LEP securing £138.7m from the Government, with £25.8m of new funding confirmed for 2015/16 and £77.6m from 2016/17 onwards.

Walsall Council is offering to act as Accountable Body/Managing Authority for the Black Country Growth Plan/Deal funding.

Simon Neilson also advised that with the significant level of resources expected to flow through this route, it is also recommended that the funding is held by the Accountable Body in an account that attracts the highest available levels of interest. With interest accrued utilised to support the effective programme management of the Growth Plan/Deal.

14/0031 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- Accept the offer from Walsall Council to act in the role of Accountable Body / Managing Authority, approving their appointment in this role for Growth Plan / Deal funding.
- Agrees that funds are held by Walsall Council in line with their Treasury

Management Policies and Procedures, with all attracted interest utilised to support the effective programme management of the Growth Plan by the Accountable body.

(b) Outline Business Case Review

Sarah Middleton (BC Consortium) was present for this item and referred to the report that had been previously circulated.

Sarah advised that the report contains the recommendations from the Advisory Board following a review of the Growth Plan / Deals 13 Outline Business Case (OBCs) by external consultants GENECON, commissioned by the Heads of Regeneration.

Sarah referred to Attachment 1 (RAG) that shows 13 projects broken down as : 5 rated as Green, 7 rated as Amber and 1 rated as red. Sarah advised that it's vital that we are in a position to move to delivery stages in line with our commitments to Government (start dated 1 April 2015). To achieve this, the Accountable Body must be in a position to contract when appropriate.

Subject to the completion of due process, Joint Committee members are requested to consider approving the following process;

- 3.6.1 For projects rated as Green – Approve the movement to contracting by the appointed Accountable Body, to support their delivery from the earliest possible date.
- 3.6.2 For projects rated as Amber – Subject to further development and achievement of either an overall Green Rating, or a recommendation from the Advisory Board, to approve the movement to contracting by the appointed Accountable Body, to support their delivery from the earliest possible date.
- 3.6.3 For projects rated as Red – Subject to further development and achievement of either an overall Green Rating, or a recommendation from the Advisory Board, to approve the movement to contracting by the appointed Accountable Body, to support their delivery from the earliest possible date
- 3.6.4 For projects that slip back from green to amber or amber to red, that the Advisory Board supported by the Working Group, re-appraise the OBC and recommend / implement the appropriate actions to get the projects back on track.
- 3.6.5 For the projects comprising the Fab Kit proposal that officers be authorised to enter into any grant agreements/contracts for the purchase of equipment/commissioning of activity as necessary.

14/0032 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- Had considered the contents of the attached review for the 13 Priority Projects as completed by the consultants under the direction of the Heads of Regeneration (Working Group) and the Advisory Board.
- Had considered and approved the proposed OBC implementation process as set out within section 3.6, to enable the timely progression of the Growth Plan / Deal towards contracting and delivery.

8. **Black Country Growth Deal – Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Funding - Strategic Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund**

Jan Britton introduced this item and referred to the report that had been previously circulated that detailed Sandwell Council's request to become the Accountable Body for the Black Country Growth Deal, PWLB Funding – Strategic Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund.

Jan advised that Sandwell Council is currently the Accountable Body for City Deal PWLB Investment Fund (commercial development) on behalf of the Joint Committee, and will utilise established processes and governance structures to manage the Growth Deal PWLB Strategic Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund.

14/0033 It was resolved that the BCJC:

Approves the appointment of Sandwell Council as Accountable Body for the Growth Deal PWLB Strategic Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund.

9. **Confirmation of Future meeting dates for 2015**

Paul Sheehan referred to the list that had been previously circulated and confirmed that Personal Assistants were aware of the forthcoming dates and should already be in Members diaries.

14/0034 It was resolved that the BCJC:

Approve the dates for 2014/15.

Date of future meetings

- Wednesday 17 September 2014, 11.15am at Wolverhampton CC
- Wednesday 3 December 2014, 11.15am at Dudley MBC
- Wednesday 18 February 2015, 11.15am at Sandwell MBC
- Wednesday 22 April 2015, 11.15am at Wolverhampton CC
- Wednesday 17 June 2015, 11.15am at Dudley MBC
- Wednesday 16 September 2015, 11.15am at Walsall MBC
- Wednesday 2 December 2015, 11.15am at Sandwell MBC