



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 18 February 2015, 11.15am

To Be Held at:

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,
The Council House, Committee Room 1

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Peter Lowe, Dudley MBC
Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC (Chair)
Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC (Secretary)
Keith Ireland, Wolverhampton CC
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board

INVITED GUESTS

Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

1. **Apologies**

Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC.

2. **15/0001** **Notes of Previous Meeting held on 3 December 2014**

It was resolved that the BCJC:

Approve the notes of the meeting held on 3 December 2014 as a true record.

3. **15/0002** **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting**

None.

4. **15/0003** **Declarations of Interest**

None.

5. 15/0004 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

There are no items to be considered in private session.

6. Black Country European Strategic Investment Fund Committee – request for a Member nomination

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon explained that the report was to request that the Joint Committee nominate a representative to act on its behalf, as a member of the EU local subcommittee, hereafter known as the Black Country ESIF (European Structural Investment Fund) Committee. The BC ESIF Local Committee is an integral part of the governance structure required to deliver the England 2014-2020 ERDF and ESF Programmes through its management of BC ESIF strategy and by supporting delivery. The functions of the Committee fall into three main categories

- a) Support and guidance for project pipeline development
- b) Independent assessment, programme and project management
- c) Marketing, communication and publicity

Simon drew the Members attention to the draft terms of reference for the Black Country ESIF Committee were included with the report as Appendix 1.

15/0005 It was resolved that the BCJC:

Nominates Councillor Roger Lawrence, Leader of Wolverhampton City Council to join the Black Country ESIF (European Structural Investment Fund) Committee as the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Representative.

7. Black Country City Deal – Progress Report

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the report was to update the Joint Committee on the progress achieved together with any key priorities/issues with the Black Country City Deal programme. Sarah drew the Committees attention to point 3.2 which reflects core activity strands and also item 3.4 which details the progress that is underway with the projects.

Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board informed the Committee that there had been two good sessions held in Walsall and Sandwell which explained to smaller sized businesses the apprenticeship schemes for High Value Manufacturing. Stewart believed that there are now positive messages reaching these small businesses.

15/0006 It was resolved that the BCJC:

Notes the contents of this report.

8. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Pipeline process and current schedule of projects**

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the report was to update the Joint Committee on the Growth Deal pipeline process and current schedule of projects.

The Partnership had been asked by BIS to submit further potential Growth Deal pipeline projects. Government are now referring to this as Local Growth Fund Expansion. It is anticipated that a potential further £24m may be allocated 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.

Sarah drew the Committees attention to item 3.2 that details the pipeline for the Growth Deal Expansion.

15/0007 It was resolved that the BCJC:

Notes the contents of this report.

9. **Black Country City Deal – High Value Manufacturing Apprenticeships Appointment of Managing Agent**

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the report was to request approval for Black Country Consortium to act in the role of Managing Agent for the City Deal High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Apprenticeships. The aim of the HVM Apprenticeships element of the Black Country City Deal is to increase the demand for apprenticeship places for young people aged 19+, working with local businesses and University Technical Colleges (UTCs) to encourage young people to take up careers in engineering and STEM sectors. Sarah drew the Committees attention to item 3.7 that details the anticipated outcomes of the HVM Apprenticeship element of City Deal.

15/0008 It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves the appointment of the Black Country Consortium to act as the Managing Agent for the delivery of the High Value Manufacturing Apprenticeships element of the City Deal programme.

10. **Black Country Local Growth Deal (Round 1) – Progress Update and Approval for Output Changes on previously approved projects**

Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Sarah advised that the report was to give an update on the progress made in the further development of the Growth Deal Round One projects (following their individual consideration by the Joint Committee at the last meeting on the 3rd December 2014), prior to the presentation of individual decision reports on four of the six remaining Amber projects for 2015/16 – which include the recommendations of the Advisory Board.

Sarah drew the Committees attention to Item 3.5 which details the current projects and the amended outputs being proposed, also a revised table with outputs for

the whole Growth Deal Round 1 Programme shown at Appendix 2 to the report.

Sarah also drew the Committees attention to Item 3.6 which is
“The key messages from this revision is that we have significantly reduced our anticipated job outcomes, but remain in touching distance of the original 4000 jobs created with a target at 3816. We have lost our contingency, but officers will now work with project applicants to maximise the anticipated outputs and aim to exceed this target. Both housing and learner assist numbers have however increased to well exceed our target, providing a welcome contingency.”

15/0009 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 notes the progress being made in developing the project paths from Amber to Green ratings as summarised in Appendix 1, with 6 reports (one for each project) demonstrating positive movement, presented individually for consideration later as part of this meeting.
- 2.2 as recommended by the Advisory Board approves the updated project outputs for the Growth Deal 2015/16 projects - as set out in Appendix 2, these changes are associated with the following four approved projects: Science, Technology and Prototyping Centre, Growing Priority Sectors, FAB Kit Programme, Growing the City Centre Business and Events Offer.

11.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – Wolverhampton Interchange – Project Approval

Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the Wolverhampton Interchange Growth Deal application by Wolverhampton City Council and to note a new Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent grant agreement by the Accountable Body.

- The project will provide a fully integrated multi-modal transport hub, deliver 36,684 sqm of new commercial floor space, creating 2,254 new jobs, improving the strategic gateway to Wolverhampton, the wider Black Country, Birmingham and HS2.
- A new rail station building will be constructed and the multi-story car park refurbished and extended.

15/0010 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 notes the movement of the Wolverhampton Interchange project from its current Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Head of Regeneration for Wolverhampton City Council to the Advisory Board.
- 2.2 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Wolverhampton Interchange – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

12. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Wolverhampton Interchange (delivery of the Pre-Allocated Local Growth Fund (previously Local Transport Funding) funded elements) – Project Approval**

Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the Wolverhampton Interchange Growth Deal application by Wolverhampton City Council and to note a new Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent grant agreement by the Accountable Body.

- The project will provide a fully integrated multi-modal transport hub, deliver 36,684 sqm of new commercial floor space, creating 2,254 new jobs, improving the strategic gateway to Wolverhampton, the wider Black Country, Birmingham and HS2.
- A new rail station building will be constructed and the multi-story car park refurbished and extended.

15/0011 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 notes the movement of the Wolverhampton Interchange project from its current Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Head Committee of Regeneration for Wolverhampton City Council to the Advisory Board.
- 2.2 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Pre-Allocated Local Growth Fund (previously Local Transport Board funding) elements of the Wolverhampton Interchange – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

13. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Regeneration of Bilston Centre – Project Approval**

Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the Regeneration of Bilston Centre Growth Deal application by Wolverhampton City Council and to note a new Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent grant agreement by the Accountable Body.

- Working together the HCA and Wolverhampton City Council have committed investment to provide further infrastructure, services and remediation to facilitate the release of further viable residential and employment development sites, generating a total of 580 houses.

15/0012 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 note the movement of the Bilston Centre Regeneration Programme from its current Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Head of Regeneration for Wolverhampton City Council to the Advisory Board.
- 2.2 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council

to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Regeneration of Bilston Centre – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.

14. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – Accessing Growth Programme – Project Approval**

Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board to the Accessing Growth Programme, Growth Deal application by Wolverhampton City Council and to note a new Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent grant agreement by the Accountable Body.

- A fund designed to help deliver smaller schemes (above £500,000 but less than £5,000,000) which improve access to employment sites and strategic centres. Schemes include highway efficiency improvements, sustainable transport and interchange improvements.

15/0013 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 note the movement of the Accessing Growth Programme from an Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Head of Regeneration for Wolverhampton City Council to the Advisory Board.
 - 2.2 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth Programme – with delivery to commence in the 2015/16 financial year.
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15. **Black Country City Deal – Growth Hub - Appointment of Accountable Body**

Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Tim advised that the report was to request approval for Wolverhampton City Council to act in the role of: Accountable Body for the City Deal Black Country Growth Hub (Business Support).

The **Black Country Growth Hub** aims to maximize economic growth by becoming the portal to all the business support services in the sub-region. It will coordinate and monitor the quality of all generic business support and offer a specialist package of support to HVM SME's, offering:

- A pool of expertise
- Simplified access to support
- Links to national and local programmes and coordinated partner budgets.
- A package of specialist support for HVM SME's focused on innovating.

It will support SMEs to overcome capacity constraints and maximize the economic opportunities resulting from global growth, helping them to access new markets and competitive supply chain. Support will be led by the business, assisted through a broad partnership of local experts working to a shared objective – 'To Grow the Black Country'.

15/0014 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the appointment of Wolverhampton City Council to act as the Accountable Body for the delivery of the Growth Hub element of the City Deal programme

16. Black Country Local Growth Deal – M6 Junction 10 Improvement Programme – Project Approval

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the M6 Junction 10 Improvement Programme by Walsall Council and note a new Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent agreements by the Accountable Body.

To deliver a major motorway junction congestion scheme that will: significantly reduce congestion; aid traffic movement, across and onto / off the M6 Motorway network; and support the active development of the Black Country Enterprise Zone in the Darlaston area.

- This will be complemented by improvements to the principal adjacent local road, the A454 (Black Country Route), and the congested adjacent junction of A454 (Wolverhampton Road-Bloxwich Lane). This project is jointly designed and funded with the Highways Agency, who are aligning significant resources to realise up to £221m of journey time benefits.

15/0015 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 notes the movement of the M6 J10 Improvement Programme from an Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Head of Regeneration for Walsall Council to the Advisory Board.
- 2.2 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement (or appropriate internal or external service level agreement or contracts with the appropriate bodies) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the M6 Junction 10 Improvement Programme, commencing in the 2015/16 financial year.

17. Black Country Local Growth Deal – M6 Junction 10 Improvement Programme (delivery of the Pre-Allocated Local Growth Fund funded elements) – Project Approval

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the report was to present the recommendations of the Advisory Board in relation to the M6 Junction 10 Improvement Programme by Walsall Council and to note a new Green rating for this project, and approve movement to full approval and contracting and subsequent agreements by the Accountable Body.

To deliver a major motorway junction congestion scheme that will: significantly reduce congestion; aid traffic movement, across and onto / off the M6 Motorway network; and support the active development of the Black Country Enterprise

Zone in the Darlaston area.

- This will be complemented by improvements to the principal adjacent local road, the A454 (Black Country Route), and the congested adjacent junction of A454 (Wolverhampton Road-Bloxwich Lane). This project is jointly designed and funded with the Highways Agency, who are aligning significant resources to realise up to £221m of journey time benefits.

15/0016 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 notes the movement of the M6 J10 Improvement Programme from an Amber to a Green rating following the recommendation of the Head of Regeneration for Walsall Council to the Advisory Board.
- 2.2 grants approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement (or appropriate internal or external service level agreement or contracts with the appropriate bodies) to deliver the Pre-Allocated Local Growth Fund (previously Local Transport Board funding) elements of the M6 Junction 10 Improvement Programme, commencing in the 2015/16 financial year.

18.

Black Country City Deal – Appointment of Managing Authority

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Simon advised that the report was to request approval for Walsall Council act in the role of Managing Authority for the Black Country City Deal.

The Black Country City Deal attracts three funding streams: £3.1m from the Regional Growth Fund (Growth Hub), up to £20m through the Public Works Loan Board fund (Black Country Investment Fund) and £2.8m through the Housing, Jobs and Prosperity ('Working Together') Pilot.

Each funding stream will be managed directly through the respective Accountable Body, a capacity in which Walsall has previously received approval to act for the Housing pilot. The City Deal does not therefore need an Accountable Body to act in the role of funding recipient; however it does need a Managing Authority to draw the four elements of the Deal together, monitor overall progress and impact, and collate information to support reporting to Cities Policy Team.

Walsall Council offered to act as Accountable Body for the Growth Deal on behalf of the LEP and this offer was accepted. In order to ensure consistency and synergy across both the City and Growth Deal programmes, it is recommended that Walsall Council act as Managing Authority for the City Deal. Walsall Council was approved to act in this capacity at its Cabinet meeting on 29th October.

15/0017 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the appointment of Walsall Council to act as the City Deal Managing Authority, to co-ordinate the activities of the individual (4) Accountable Bodies for the City Deal Programme.

19. **Black Country City Deal – Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Fund – Appointment of Accountable Body**

Nick Bubalo, Sandwell MBC was present for this item and presented the report to the Committee. Nick advised that the report was to request approval for Sandwell MBC to act in the role of: Accountable Body for the City Deal Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Black Country Investment Fund.

The aim of the Black Country Investment Fund is to stimulate the local commercial land market through the provision of finance to developers of key industrial sites. The fund was created through agreement of a £20m PWLB project rate loan facility, with agreed flexibilities, and an investment of up to £10m from the four Black Country Local Authorities. The fund will deliver the following outputs and outcomes:

- Improved supply of high quality employment sites to support the growth of the High Value Manufacturing sector
- The development of an initial portfolio of around 10 sites by 2018
- Creation of 5800 jobs and 80 hectares of brownfield land brought into productive use from the first 9 sites.
- Facilitation of £100m investment into sites and premises
- Improved opportunity to attract Foreign Direct Investment
- Improved engagement with landowners and developers.

15/0018 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the appointment of Sandwell MBC in the role of Accountable Body for the City Deal PWLB Black Country Investment Fund.

Date of future meetings

- 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