



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Friday 20 June 2014, 11.15am

Held at:

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,
The Council House, Committee Room 2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor David Sparks, Dudley MBC
Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell MBC (sub)
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC
Councillor Roger Lawrence, Wolverhampton CC

IN ATTENDANCE

John Polychronakis, Dudley MBC
Paul Sheehan, Walsall MBC
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP Board

INVITED GUESTS

Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC
Paul Mountford, Sandwell MBC

1.

Apologies

Councillor Darren Cooper, Sandwell MBC
Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Simon Warren, Wolverhampton CC

2.

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014/15

14/0014 It was resolved that:

Councillor Mike Bird, Leader of Walsall MBC be the Chairperson for this meeting

14/0015 It was resolved that:

Councillor Darren Cooper, Leader of Sandwell Council be the Chairperson for the next municipal year 2014/15.

14/0016 It was resolved that :

Councillor Mike Bird be the Vice-Chairperson for the municipal year 2014/15

3.

Notes of Previous Meeting held on 7 May 2014

14/0017 It was resolved that:

The notes of the meeting held on 7 May 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting**

14/0018 It was resolved that :

There were no matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

14/0019 It was resolved that :

There were no declarations of interest.

6. **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.

14/0020 It was resolved that :

There are no items to be considered in private session.

7. **Confirm Substitute Members of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee**

Councillor Bird asked Members to confirm their named substitute who would attend the BCJC in their absence.

14/0021 It was resolved that :

The substitute voting and non-voting members of the Committee are:

- Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley (voting)
- Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell (voting)
- Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall (voting)
- Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton (voting)
- Ninder Johal, Black Country LEP (non-voting)

8. **Black Country Strategic Economic Plan Update – Simon Neilson, Walsall**

Simon Neilson (Walsall) was present for this item and referred to the report that had been circulated.

Simon advised that the report was to update the Joint Committee on the development, contents and next steps associated with the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). To include its aims and vision, together with the initial priority initiatives included for consideration by Government, and their current ranked order approved by the LEP Board in April 2014.

14/0022 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- note the contents of the SEP Executive Summary, which includes the 16 priority projects, included as Attachment A.
- take note of the rankings for these 16 priority projects as approved by the LEP Board in April 2014, as detailed in Table 3.6.1.
- take note of the: 'Project on a Page' summary reports, included as Attachment B. Noting the detail and the next (approval) steps required, including the request for the top 12 priority projects to be requested to submit their business cases for consideration at the September 2014 Joint Committee meeting.

9. City Deal Update – Simon Neilson, Walsall

Simon Neilson (Walsall) was present for this item and referred to the paper that had been previously circulated.

Simon advised that the paper gave the background and an introduction to the City Deal and its contents, to further set out the current arrangements for Lead / Accountable body status and to request approval for Walsall Council as Accountable body for the: Housing Jobs and Prosperity pilot.

14/0023 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- note the background and contents of the City Deal agreement included in this report as Attachment A.
- note and approve the agreement by Walsall Councils Cabinet for it to act in the role of Accountable Body for the: Housing Jobs and Prosperity pilot.

10. Black Country Superfast Broadband Project – Paul Mountford, Sandwell

Simon Neilson (Walsall) presented the paper that had been previously circulated and Paul Mountford (Sandwell) was also present for this item.

Simon explained that the paper provided details associated with the Black Country Superfast Broadband Project (the "Project") included as Attachment A.

14/0024 It was resolved that the BCJC :

- 2.1 accepts the Black Country Superfast Broadband Project proposals, set out in this report and further detailed in Attachment A.
- 2.2 approves the appointment of Sandwell MBC (SMBC) as the Lead and Accountable Body for the Black Country Superfast Broadband Project.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Bird and duly approved that:

- 2.3 The Black Country Joint Committee approves the signing of the Black

Country Broadband Collaborative Agreement subject to the following amendments :

- 2.3.1 no internal revenue costs/contributions should be reflected in the “collaborative agreement” or requested from party authorities, they are to be bourn by Sandwell MBC as the Lead Authority/Accountable Body for the project.
- 2.3.2 no revenue cost/contributions should be reflected in the “collaborative agreement” for specialist technical expertise or relating to contract finalisation process and no contribution should be requested from party authorities, they are to be bourn by Sandwell MBC as the Lead Authority/Accountable Body for the project.
- 2.3.3 the reference to indemnities should mirror that of the City Deal and Growth Deal Collaborative Agreement Section 6 in its entirety. Specific clarification was given that “save where there is an administrative irregularity by the Accountable Body or Lead Body declared by an auditor of a party and accepted by the Joint Committee the parties shall meet the costs of the claw-back in the same proportion to the programme funding that has been expended within their administrative area”.
- 2.4 The Collaborative Agreement shall only be entered into by each Authority’s Head of Legal once they have been advised by the City Deal Advisory Board (via the Heads of Regeneration) that these amendments have been made.
- 2.5 With regard to all future projects, as a principle the Lead Authority/Accountable Body for the project will absorb all costs relating to the accountable body function.
- 2.6 With regard to all future projects, as a principle if additional Collaborative Agreements or Side Agreements are necessary, they should follow the format of the already agreed City Deal and Growth Deal Collaborative Agreement.

11.

Adoption of Enhanced Outline Business Case Form – Sarah Middleton, BC Consortium Ltd

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

Sarah advised that following work with a range of specialists, the (Outline) Business Case form has been revised to include a range of additional information / ask requirements for applicants, and is included as Attachment A to the report.

This revised form aims to place the applicants in a position to fulfil all expected HM Treasury application downstream requirements, and to support the Joint Committee to select the most robust and deliverable proposals.

The Advisory Board are requesting that the form at Attachment A replace the current one approved through the Collaboration Agreement.



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

14/0025 It was resolved that the BCJC:

Approve the use of the enhanced (Outline) Business Case form, included as Attachment A.

Date of future meetings

- Black Country Joint Committee – Wednesday 17 September 2014, 11.15am at Wolverhampton CC
- Black Country Joint Committee – Wednesday 3 December 2014, 11.15am at Dudley MBC