



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

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday 27 July 2022 at 11.00am

To be held at Walsall Council House and via a Teams Virtual Meeting
and Webcast

MINUTES – PUBLIC (Draft)

MEMBERS - In person

Dudley MBC - Councillor Patrick Harley (Voting)

Sandwell MBC - Councillor Kerrie Carmichael (Voting)

Walsall MBC - Councillor Gary Flint (Voting sub), Dr Helen Paterson (**Secretary**)

City of Wolverhampton Council - Councillor Ian Brookfield (**Chair**) (Voting), Tim Johnson

ATTENDEES – via Teams

The Black Country Consortium Ltd – Sarah Middleton and Lara Smith

Dudley MBC - Kevin O’Keefe, Helen Martin

City of Wolverhampton Council - Richard Lawrence

Sandwell MBC - Kim Bromley-Derry and Tony McGovern

Walsall MBC - Simon Neilson

Dr Helen Paterson welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting with voting members being present in Walsall Council House with appropriate social distancing requirements in place and non-voting members joining the discussions online via the use of Microsoft Teams.

Dr Paterson confirmed that as this was the Annual General Meeting, she would be the Chair person until a new Chair was elected.

Dr Paterson then asked each participant to confirm that they could see and hear proceedings and confirmed that the meeting was quorate and welcomed any members of the public viewing the meeting online.

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall Council

Tom Westley, Black Country LEP

2. **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022/23**

Dr Paterson asked for nominations for Chair person for 2022/23 however, advised that Councillor Bird had indicated that he would be happy to continue.

Councillor Brookfield, Councillor Carmichael and Councillor Harley supported Councillor Mike Bird continuing as Chair person.

Dr Paterson asked for nominations for Vice-Chair person for 2021/22 however, advised that Councillor Brookfield had indicated that he would be happy to continue.

Councillor Carmichael and Councillor Harley supported Councillor Ian Brookfield continuing as Vice Chair person.

Decision 22/0006

Dr Paterson moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a roll-call of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee appoint Councillor Mike Bird as Chairperson and Councillor Ian Brookfield as Vice-Chairperson of the BCJC for the 2022/23 cycle.

Councillor Brookfield chaired the meeting from this point onwards.

3. Notes of Meeting held on 27 April 2022

Decision 22/0007

Councillor Brookfield moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 03 November 2021 which was seconded by Councillor Harley. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 03 27 April 2022 be confirmed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting

None.

5. Declarations of Interest

None.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended): to agree that the public be excluded from the private session.

None.

7. Timetable of meetings 2022/23

Dr Helen Paterson referred to the report previously circulated and explained that this was the annual report by the Secretary to advise of the Timetable of meetings 2022/23 and the Forward Plan publication dates.

Decision 22/0008

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

2.1 Approve the timetable of meetings for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A of the report.

2.2 Approve the Forward Plan Publication dates for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix B of the report

8. GROWING PLACES FUND – Black Country Digital Strategy Amendment to Grant Agreement

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that this is for additional funding. Original funding of £60,000 was approved last year. Additional funding is to carry out 4 key area of activity as detailed in the report. Revenue funding and will cover staff time and resources.

Councillor Brookfield referred to the growing importance of this work due to the ever increasing need for cyber security.

Decision 22/0009

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approves the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd, to increase its funding allocation by £60,000 in 2022/23** to further develop the Black Country Digital Strategy, funded from the Growing Places revenue budget.

9. GROWING PLACES FUND – Dudley Zoo Visitor and Education Centre Development Phase Project (SEPPL153) Gant Agreement Approval

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained it is seeking approved for up to £65,000. The funding is to revamp some areas of the Zoo and help to bring the Castle Hill vision to life. This will compliment all of the activity across the borough.

Councillor Harley totally supports this project and which is building on the fantastic work that the Zoo Board have done in turning the Zoo around. The Zoo is longer reliant on the Council for funding.

Decision 22/0010

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

2.1 Approves the Accountable Body for the Black Country Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **enter into a Grant Agreement with the Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Ltd for £65,000**, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF), funded elements of the Dudley Zoo Visitor and Education Centre Development Phase project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.

2.2 This project is to be funded from the Growing Places Fund revenue budget that has been allocated to pipeline activity.

10. GROWING PLACES FUND AND LAND AND PROPERTY INVESTMENT FUND – Spring Road Wolverhampton (SEPPL152) Grant Agreement Approval

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that work has been ongoing on this project for quite some time in partnership with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and Frontier Development Capital who will provide a loan facility up to £7.59m. Drywall Steel Sections Ltd will occupy the site and have received some modest funding from Growing Sectors and seen an incredible amount of growth. The applicant has full ownership of the site in Spring Road. Planning Permission is secured for the site that will be delivered in two stages.

Councillor Brookfield welcomed this project and was content to see that the Outputs would be shared with WMCA as jobs will be created and safeguarded.

Decision 22/0011

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

- 2.1 Approves the Accountable Body for the Black Country Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **enter into a Grant Agreement with KMN Investments Limited for £1,196,154**, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF), funded elements of the Spring Road Wolverhampton project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.
- 2.2 Approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **enter into a Grant Agreement with KMN Investments Limited for £1,029,378**, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Spring Road Wolverhampton project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.

11. GROWING PLACES FUND – Approval of the 2021/22 Programme Year End position

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that this report captures the year end position and also requests approval of two minor change requests for Very Light Rails Test Track project and Very Light Rail National Innovation Centre project. Both requesting delivery to continue into the 2022/23 financial year.

Decision 22/0012

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

- 2.1 Approves the 2021/22 position of the Growing Places Fund Programme, reflecting all changes to the programme and its approved projects throughout the recent financial year, and to maximise the 2021/22 Growing Places Fund allocated expenditure.

- 2.2 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to reprofile the grant funding**, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF) funded elements of the **Very Light Rail Test Track project** with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.
- 2.3 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to reprofile the grant funding**, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF) funded elements of the **Very Light Rail National Innovation Centre project** with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

12. LAND AND PROPERTY INVESTMENT FUND – Approval of the 2021/22 Programme position

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that this report captures the year end position and also requests approval of three minor change requests for Phoenix 10 Project, i54 Western Extension Project and Sandwell Housing Gap funding project.

Decision 22/0013

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

- 2.1 Approves the 2021/22 position of the Land and Property Investment Fund Projects, reflecting all changes to the Land and Property Investment Fund Programme and its approved projects (Funding and Outputs) throughout the 2021/22 financial year.
- 2.2 Approves the individual change requests for projects (detailed in paragraph 3.6) that have exceeded the 10% threshold as set out in the Black Country Assurance Framework as follows:
 - 2.2.1 Approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the funding profile as stated within the grant agreement with Walsall Council**, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund funded elements of the **Phoenix 10 project** with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.
 - 2.2.2 Approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the funding profile as stated within the grant agreement with Wolverhampton City Council**, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund funded elements of the **i54 Western Extension project** with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.
 - 2.2.3 Approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the grant profile and removing some contracted milestones as stated within grant agreement with Sandwell Council**, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund funded elements of the **Sandwell Housing Gap Funding project** with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year. This is detailed in paragraph 3.6.

13. BLACK COUNTRY ENTERPRISE ZONE – Approval of the 2021/22 Programme Year End position

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the year end position will be confirmed at the next meeting when the final claims will have been processed and verified. This report also celebrates the sites that were successful in securing Enterprise Zone funding and how successful they have been.

Of these projects however Parallel 9/10 project has claimed only £265,266 of its funding and has submitted a change request to slip £869,992 of their allocation into 2022/23. In addition the project is yet to start drawing down on their match funding of £6.6m loan from the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) in 2021/22 and will need to be reprofiled into 2022/23.

Decision 22/0014

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

Approves the Accountable Body for the Black Country Enterprise zone (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the profile of the grant and match funding within the Grant Agreement with Cayborn Ltd**, to deliver the Black Country Enterprise Zone funded elements of the **Parallel 9-10 project** with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

There is also a change in the profile of output delivery for this project.

Note that the financial position of the Black Country Enterprise Zone projects and development funding will be confirmed in August 2022 when the final claims will be processed and verified.

14. GETTING BUILDING FUND – Approval of the 2021/22 Programme Year End position

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that this report captures the year end position of the programme which closed in March but is in the process of moving to Output monitoring by November. Both projects that received this funding have been really successful. The Programme Management Office have utilised freedoms and flexibilities due to Covid-19 and market supply issues on both projects but buildings should be fully operational from September.

Councillor Brookfield fully supports the option to move funding around utilizing freedoms and flexibilities to ensure that we do not have to return unused funding to Government.

Decision 22/0015

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

- 2.1 Approves the financial position (paragraph 3.7) of the Getting Building Fund Programme as of 31 March 2022, reflecting all changes to the programme and its approved projects throughout the year, and to maximise the 2021/22 Getting Building Fund allocated expenditure.
- 2.2 Approves for the Very Light Rail Test Track expenditure of £319,040 in 2021/22 (currently funded from Growing Places Fund) to be reallocated to the Getting Building Fund, to utilise unclaimed 2021/22 funding allocated to the National Brownfield Institute project. Note that this is subject to the West Midland Combined Authority's approval.

15. GROWTH DEAL – Approval of the 2021/22 Programme position

Lara Smith referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the Growth Deal Programme was closed March 2021. There is still a small amount of DfT money being drawn down. The report also includes a change request for the Wolverhampton Interchange project that need to make changes to milestones achieved.

There are 16 other projects that have had changes made and these are included for information as they are under the threshold for BCJC approval. No outputs have been reduced just simply rolled forward.

Decision 22/0016

Councillor Brookfield moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands of BCJC members. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Joint Committee

- 2.1 Approves the year end position of the 2021-22 monitoring position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the programme and its approved projects throughout the year, this includes changes to outputs and match funding profiles.
- 2.2 Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the contracted outputs within the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council**, to deliver the Local Growth Fund funded elements of the **Wolverhampton Interchange project** with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

Note: this change of outputs relates to the removal of the 'Average Passenger Boarding (daily – incremental)' and 'Average Passenger Boarding (peak) – incremental (4 hours)' whilst amending the rental values from £15 per square foot to £161 per square metre.

Councillor Brookfield asked for a note of thanks to be recorded on behalf of all four Leaders of the Black Country Local Authorities to Lara Smith to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication to ensure that the various funding programmes that have been made available to the Black Country have been delivered successfully. Councillor Brookfield advised that many projects have benefitted millions of people and businesses across the Black Country and for this work Lara should be very proud. Lara was wished every success in her future plans.