



BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 24 January 2018, 12.00pm

City of Wolverhampton Council,
Training Room, Ground Floor, Civic Centre, Wolverhampton

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC (Chair)
Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Sean Coughlan, Walsall MBC
Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Norman, Dudley MBC
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson, Walsall MBC (Sub)
Keith Ireland, Wolverhampton CC
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

NON VOTING MEMBERS

INVITED GUESTS

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC
Alison Knight, Sandwell MBC
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC

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| 1. | <u>Apologies</u> Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall MBC Councillor Roger Lawrence, City of Wolverhampton Council Stewart Towe, Black Country LEP Board |
| 2. | <u>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 13 September 2017</u> |
| 18/0001 | It was resolved that the BCJC approves the notes of the meeting held on 22 November 2017. |
| 3. | <u>Matters Arising from the notes of the previous meeting</u> None. |
| 4. | <u>Declarations of Interest</u> None |
| 5. | <u>Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):</u> 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. There are no items to be considered in private session. |

6. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors – Additional Funding Request - Approval for Additional Funding**

Jan Britton presented the report and advised that the Growing Priority Sectors Fund (GPS) was originally approved as a £6m programme within Growth Deal to run from April 2015 to March 2018. An additional £0.5m was added to the GPS programme in 2016/17 and in November 2017 a further £127,000 was awarded. Due to the success of the programme it has now been fully allocated. However, the GPS team are aware that there is still a steady stream of enquiries and Expressions of Interest being received from companies seeking GPS funding. These are not currently being progressed. This Proposal is to request a one-year extension to the programme and an additional £2,000,000 to be spent by 31/03/2019. The Outputs targeted are detailed in the report.

18/0002 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amend the existing Agreement with Sandwell Council to include an additional funding allocation of £2,000,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2 This is an additional funding request for 2018/19.

7. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – University College Dudley – Site Investigation - Grant Agreement Approval**

Sarah Norman presented the report and advised that the application relates to Site Investigation works in relation to a 1.13 ha site at Castle Hill. The ultimate intention is to construct University College Dudley (UCD), from which Higher Education degree level courses predominantly relating to Engineering & Manufacturing, Building Technologies & Modern Construction Methodologies and Modern Transport Technologies will be run. The applicant has a track record in the successful delivery of new College buildings within and around Dudley Town Centre.

Funding is recommended for site investigation works subject to conditions detailed in the report.

18/0003 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement with Dudley College to the value of £64,400** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of University College Dudley - Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.
- 2.2 This Site Investigation funding is to be underwritten by Dudley College.

8.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – Black Country LEP Assurance Framework – Accountable Body Review - Approval of the Revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework

Sarah Middleton presented the report and advised that the DCLG requires for LEP's to review and amend their Assurance Framework by 28th February 2018, on terms previously reported to the LEP Board and Joint Committee, this was achieved, with a caveat from the Walsall MBC, as the Accountable Body for a further review.

Sarah advised that the principle areas of review were the quorum, inclusion of Advisory and Sub-Board Memberships, the PMO office delegations (Item no. 18), revisions to Members Declarations of Interest and the inclusion of roles and responsibilities for each of the Local Authority Accountable Bodies in relation to the implementation of the LEP Assurance Framework.

The revised Assurance Framework and revised Appendices are appended to this report with further advice being sought on the element of the quorum.

In addition to the Accountable Body requested amendments, through the LEP Network, the Mary Ney Review reported under the Policy Update, will require further revisions to the Assurance Framework during 2018.

18/0004**It was resolved that the BCJC:**

- 2.1 **approve the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework**, following the programme of continuous improvement to further enhance the BC LEP governance and transparency above and beyond published government standards.
- 2.2 Note and approve the revised Appendices 9 (3.2i), 13 (3.2ii), 16 (3.2iii), 26 (3.2iv), 36 (3.2v), and 37 (3.2vi).
- 2.3 Note the revised Declarations of Interest form to complete and return to the LEP Secretariat.
- 2.4 Note that legal opinion is being sought on the interpretation of the LEP Board quorum.

9.

Black Country Local Growth Deal – Moxley Tip Site Investigation – Change Request - Approval to Amend Existing Grant Agreement

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that in 2016 a grant was approved for £157,490 to Parkhill Estates Ltd (PEL) for two separate Site Investigations at Moxley Tip (Walsall) and Alexander Metals (Wolverhampton).

The Alexander Metals Site investigation anticipated cost was reduced from £79,300 to an actual spend of £39,459 – reason for this are contained in the report.

The Moxley Tip Site Investigation incurred additional works between December 2016 and April 2017 increasing the anticipated spend from £96,400 to

£118,030.84, but still keeping the overall actual spend within the grant award of £157,490.

This request is seeking that, following the cost savings made on the Alexander Metals Site Investigation, £23,298 of grant funding is transferred to fund the additional work undertaken at the Moxley Tip site.

Joint Committee members are asked to note that the additional monies spent at the Moxley Tip Site have enabled a development project to be brought forward. PEL are now in active discussions about this scheme and have submitted an Initial Proposal Form to ensure development of this large brownfield site with difficult ground conditions.

18/0005 It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending the existing Grant Agreement with Parkhill Estates Ltd. ('PEL') to the value of £23,298** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Moxley Tip Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

2.2 This is a Change Request to move funding allocated from 2016/17 into 2017/18.

10.

Delegated Authority - Black Country Local Growth Deal - Bilston Urban Village East Site Investigation - Grant Agreement Approval for Noting

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that as part of the delivery of the strategically important Bilston Village regeneration programme a decision was taken at Cabinet Panel on 7th February 2017 to promote the land at the eastern side of the Urban Village for employment uses. The requirement to undertake site investigation arose from the feasibility and demand study to highlight any constrains.

18/0006 It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 notes that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to Grant Agreement **to the value of £69,059 with Wolverhampton City Council** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Bilston Urban Village East Site Investigation project, with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year. Endorsement of this project was achieved by the LEP Funding Sub Group on the 6th November 2017 and by the LEP Board on 20th November 2017. (LEP Board Minutes Ref: 159/17) and Working Group on 14th December 2017.

2.2 The need to use delegated authority was identified as due to an administrative error on the Forward Plan. The project could not have waited

until the March Joint Committee for a decision as the site investigation works for the land remediation was due to start in January and was not suitable for approval using existing Special Urgency or General Exemption mechanisms.

11. **Delegated Authority - Black Country Local Growth Deal - Growing Priority Sectors for Hawthorne Trading Ltd - Change Request Approval for Noting – Simon Neilson**

Simon Neilson presented the report and advised that the request for an additional £30,000 to fund the cost overruns in the steelworks for the new facility. This is a 10% increase on the original approved bid of £300,000 by the BCJC on 08/03/2017. The company has committed to creating three new apprenticeships if the additional 10% is approved. All other key criteria for the application (intervention rate, cost per job, average salary) will remain the same and the initial appraisal score is not adversely affected by this increase in grant.

18/0007 It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.3 note that the Executive Director for Economy and Environment within Walsall Council in his role of Chair of the City Deal and Growth Deal Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement **with Growing Priority Sectors for Hawthorne Trading Ltd to reflect an increased grant award of £30,000** to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) elements of the Growing Priority Sectors project, with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year. Approval of this change was achieved under the authority delegated to the SEP Delivery Director from the Chair of the BC LEP Board.
- 2.4 The need to use delegated authority was identified as delay in the decision making until 24/01/2018 could result in a significant contract lost for Hawthorne Trading Ltd and will impact on the project expenditure being achieved.