



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

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 11:00am

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

MINUTES – PUBLIC

MEMBERS - In person

Dudley MBC - Councillor Patrick Harley (Voting)

Sandwell MBC - Councillor Peter Hughes (sub) (Voting), Tony McGovern (sub)

Walsall MBC – Councillor Adrian Andrew (sub) (Voting), Simon Neilson (**Secretary**)

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

ATTENDEES – via Teams

Dudley MBC - Kevin O’Keefe

City of Wolverhampton Council - Tim Johnson and Richard Lawrence

The Black Country Consortium Ltd – Sarah Middleton

Councillor Brookfield 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.

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

1. Apologies

Tom Westley, Black Country LEP

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael and Kim Bromley-Derry, Sandwell Council

Councillor Mike Bird and Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall Council

2. Notes of Meeting held on 27 July 2022

Decision 22/0017

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

3. **Matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting**

None.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

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

None.

6. **Growth Deal**

Mill lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study and Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study – Amendment to Grant Agreement

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated and explained it has been a long-standing local ambition to reinstate the service to Aldridge with a new train station. Through LEP funding the project enabled a bid to be submitted to the CRSTS fund (City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement) in September 2021. The remaining £34k match funding was to be provided by WMRE (West Midlands Rail Executive) through their Restoring Your Railways Fund but the award for the grant was deferred. As a result of this delay, the match funding was no longer available hence the request to reduce the match funding of Other Public Funds. There is no impact on Value for Money as this is development funding.

Decision 22/0018

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 Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to **amending its internal Grant Agreement for the Mill Lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study & Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study project, to reflect the reduction in match funding of £34,872.**

7. **Land and Property Investment Fund**
Swan Lane, West Bromwich – Grant Agreement Approval

Sarah Middleton referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the funding request is towards a housing regeneration scheme in Sandwell as detailed in the report. The application is supported by the Black Country LEP and submitted by Green Square Accord who are a well-known local Housing Association. If approved, the project will support construction of 147 new homes of affordable rent type. The project is planned to be completed by July 2025 and will address a derelict Brownfield land site of approximately 4hectares lying in close proximity to public transport. The project received planning approval from Sandwell Council in July of this year. Supported by Black Country LEP for its good strategic fit, the delivery of housing outputs as well as some

apprenticeship starts that will be supported through the construction on the site Total investment of £34m.

Sharing of Outputs, would be via BC LEP taking outputs on land, employment and investment as direct outputs and housing as indirect outputs as detailed in the report.

Cllr Hughes thinks the land will kick start some other regeneration in the area and therefore completely supports this project.

Cllr Brookfield felt that with regards to sharing out outputs for transparency it is helpful to reflect how different funding bodies will share and account for outputs.

Decision 22/0019

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 Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to **proceed to a Grant Agreement with Green Square Accord Limited, to the value of £3,175,134** to deliver the Land and Property Investment (LPIF) funded elements of the Swan Lane, West Bromwich project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.