



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

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 11:00am

To be held at Walsall Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall

MINUTES – PUBLIC

MEMBERS - In person

Dudley MBC - Councillor Patrick Harley (Voting),
Sandwell MBC - Councillor Bob Piper (sub) (Voting), Shokat Lal
Walsall MBC – Councillor Mike Bird (Voting), Deborah Hindson (**Secretary**)
City of Wolverhampton Council - Councillor Stephen Simkins (sub) (Voting), Tim Johnson

INVITED GUESTS – In person

The Black Country Consortium Ltd – Sarah Middleton

INVITED GUESTS – via Teams

Dudley MBC - Kevin O’Keefe
Walsall MBC – Kelly Valante and Dave Brown

Deborah Hindson welcomed everyone and advised that as this was the annual general meeting of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, as Secretary she would be the Chair person until a new Chair was elected.

Deborah confirmed that the meeting was quorate and that there were no members of the public present in the room.

1. Apologies

Councillor Ian Brookfield, Wolverhampton
Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Sandwell

2. **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023/24**

Deborah Hindson asked for nominations for Chair person for 2023/24 however advised that Councillor Bird had indicated that he would be happy to continue.

Councillor Simkins, Councillor Piper and Councillor Harley supported Councillor Mike Bird continuing as Chair person.

Deborah Hindson asked for nominations for Vice Chair person for 2023/24 however advised that Councillor Brookfield had indicated that he would be happy to continue.

Councillor Bird, Councillor Piper and Councillor Harley supported Councillor Ian Brookfield continuing as vice Chair person.

Decision 23/0007

Deborah Hindson 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 2023/24 cycle.

Councillor Bird chaired the meeting from this point onwards.

3. **Notes of Meeting held on 1 February 2023**

Decision 23/0008

Councillor Bird confirmed that it was Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2023 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. Constitution and Timetable of meetings 2023/24

Deborah Hindson referred to the report previously circulated and explained that this was her annual report as Secretary to advise of the updated Constitution and Protocols which were for noting as a result of the changes made to the Collaboration Agreement following the closure of the Black Country LEP. The report also contained the 2023/24 meeting dates and the Forward Plan publication dates.

Decision 23/0009

Councillor Bird 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

Note the amendments made to its Constitution (Appendix A) and Protocols (Appendix B).

Approve the Forward Plan publication dates for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix C of the report.

Approve the Timetable of meetings for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix D of the report.

8. Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement

Kelly Valante referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the report is for noting only as the Agreement was signed and sealed by all parties in May 2023. The three key changes referred to in the report were (1) the amended governance arrangements in that the Assurance Framework is still followed but only where it is applicable; (2) treatment of legacy funds and equal sharing of remaining uncommitted amounts and overage; (3) updated Enterprise Zone schedule to the collaboration agreement to reflect the reversion of management and decision making back to local authorities at March 2025

Councillor Bird thanked colleagues at Wolverhampton for getting the collaboration agreement signed and sealed.

Decision 23/00010

Councillor Bird 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 It was resolved that the Joint committee

notes the revised Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement, attached as Appendix A, with significant changes set out in further detail in this report. Completion of the signed and sealed document by all four local authorities was achieved on 24 May 2023.

9. Land and Property Investment Fund – Programme Changes

Kelly Valante referred to the report previously circulated and explained that the report was to agree the amended profiles based on actuals for the last financial year and revised forecasts to the end of the programme. Some exceed the 10% delegated authority threshold set out in the assurance framework and therefore need to be agreed. Attachment one explains the changes to the profiles.

Decision 23/00011

Councillor Bird 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 It was resolved that the Joint committee

Approve of the 2022/23 actual spend position of the Land and Property Investment Fund Projects, reflecting all changes to the Land and Property Investment Fund Programme.

Approve 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 and for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the funding profile within the Grant Agreements for:

- Globe Asset Management Limited, to deliver the Globe House, Walsall project with drawdown of grant to start in the 2023/24 financial year.
- GreenSquareAccord Limited, to deliver the Swan Lane, West Bromwich project with drawdown of grant to start in the 2023/24 financial year.
- Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Wolverhampton Stowheath Redevelopment for Housing with drawdown of grant to start in the 2023/24 financial year.
- KMN Investments Ltd, to deliver the Spring Road Wolverhampton project with drawdown of grant to continue in the 2023/24 financial year.
- Sandwell Council, to deliver the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding project with drawdown of grant to continue in the 2023/24 financial year.

Councillor Bird made the following statement and gave a note of thanks to Sarah Middleton on behalf of the Committee members.

As we are now within the final stages of the Black Country funding programmes, with the closure of the Black Country LEP that happened in March and the Black Country Consortium Ltd closing at the end of July, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Members of this Committee to thank you Sarah Middleton for all of your excellent work and dedication to ensure that the various funding programmes that have been made available to the Black Country have been delivered successfully. These projects have benefitted millions of people and businesses across the Black Country and for this you and we should be very proud. We wish to every success in your future plans.

The meeting closed.