

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 26 September 2018 at 9.30am

Wolverhampton City Council, Executive Board Room 1

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS

Councillor Patrick Harley, Dudley MBC
Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell MBC
Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall MBC
Councillor Peter Bilson, Wolverhampton CC (sub)

NON VOTING MEMBERS

None.

IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Lunt, Dudley MBC (sub)
Jan Britton, Sandwell MBC
Simon Neilson Walsall MBC (sub)
Tim Johnson, Wolverhampton CC
Sarah Middleton, The Black Country Consortium Ltd

INVITED GUESTS

None.

1. Apologies

Councillor Lawrence, Wolverhampton
Stewart Towe, BC LEP Board
Dr Helen Paterson, Walsall
Sarah Norman, Dudley

2. Notes of Previous Meeting held on 27 June 2018

Decision 18/0048

It was resolved that the notes of the meeting held on 27 June 2018 be agreed.

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):**

Decision 18/0049

It was resolved that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of Agenda Item 26 - Land and Property Investment Fund - PHOENIX 10 (SEPPL89)

Grant Agreement Approval.

(Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))

6. **Land and Property Investment Fund – I9 (BLOCK 9) WOLVERHAMPTON (SEPPL94) - Grant Agreement Approval**

Julian Wain was present and referred to the report previously circulated. The i9 project will directly support the delivery of local, regional and national economic strategies. Specifically, the delivery of i9 will create new high-quality employment land to meet the needs of new and expanding businesses. The Funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0050

It was resolved that the BCJC:

approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Ion Property Development Limited (IPDL) to the value of £3,722,477 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton Project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

7. **Land and Property Investment Fund - SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT - SEPP26 - Grant Agreement Approval**

Julian Wain was present and referred to the report previously circulated.

A grant has previously been approved of £3.52 million in relation to the project known as SOABE and which relates to the proposed construction of a new University Campus to house the School of Architecture and Built Environment from the Molineux Campus to the new Springfield Campus.

The funding requirement relates to the renovation of currently derelict Grade II listed buildings located towards the southern end of the former Springfield Brewery site within the Canalside Regeneration Area of Wolverhampton City Centre. A revised approval is now required in order to reflect:

A redesign of the buildings, required as a result of the findings of further detailed surveys;

- A revised grant request of £6.82 million (an increase of £3.3million);
- A proposed reallocation of the project from Local Growth Fund (LGF) to the Land & Property Infrastructure Fund (LPIF).

The requested additional funding request relates to the same broad project, albeit the quantum of accommodation to be delivered has slightly reduced to 7,981 sq. m. based on the latest plans, which include a greater element of new build.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0051

It was resolved that the BCJC:

approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with University of Wolverhampton to the value of £3,520,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the School of Architecture and Built Environment project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

8. **Land and Property Investment Fund – BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM – FORGING AHEAD (SEPPL70) - Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated.

The Project relates to a site, which forms part of the Dudley Visitor Attraction cluster.

The site is presently occupied by the Black Country Living Museum (BCLM), but with site boundary adjustments, relating to the existing overflow car park that will be released to facilitate location of the new University Centre Dudley, and a new access way and car parking to be provided off the recently delivered new shared access/gateway to the Castle Hill visitor attractions.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0052

It was resolved that the BCJC:

approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Black Country Living Museum to the value of £9,000,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the Black Country Living Museum – Forging Ahead Project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

9. **Land and Property Investment Fund – NARROWBOAT WAY SITE INVESTIGATION (SEPP86) - Grant Agreement Approval**

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated.

Funding is requested to allow Site Investigation of Site 5C, Narrowboat Way in Dudley. The intention is to develop this land as this will contribute to the Black Country SEP growth objectives and strategic programme. The Phase 1 study of the site has identified a number of challenges to be overcome in the way of contamination and mineshaft remediation.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0053

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Blackacres Property Ltd of £48,747 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the Narrowboat Way Site Investigation Project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This site investigation will be underwritten by Blackacres Property Ltd.

10. Land and Property Investment Fund – TIBBINGTON OPEN SPACE (THE CRACKER) SITE INVESTIGATION (SEPP85) - Grant Agreement Approval

Julian Wain was present and referred to the report previously circulated. This site located in Tipton, is adjacent to a new residential development, which has seen a high demand for housing. It is thought that the redevelopment of this site, which is within a highly sustainable location in the predominantly-residential environment of Sandwell, will contribute to the regeneration of the local area.

The site has been used historically for coal mining and there are two suspected mineshafts within the site. The Grant Award would be for Site Investigation only and the treatment of any mineshafts will be funded by a potential main scheme following the site investigation report.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0054

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to the value of £23,800 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund, funded elements of the Tibbington Open Space (The Cracker) Site Investigation Project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This Site Investigation will be underwritten by Sandwell Council.

11. **Land and Property Investment Fund – PHOENIX 10 (SEPPL89) - Grant Agreement Approval**

Decision 18/0055

It was resolved that this item be discussed fully in Private Session

12. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – ELITE CENTRE FOR MANUFACTURING SKILLS CHANGE REQUEST – (SEPP1 - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement**

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated. The ECMS Hub development involves the restoration of an existing 140-year old building on the University of Wolverhampton's new Springfield Campus in Wolverhampton creating 800 sq. m. of space for training and demonstrations. This has now been completed and the Hub is operational. The two spokes are located in Dudley and West Bromwich. The Dudley spoke is now operational.

This 'Request for Change' requires formal approval to establish the second Spoke at IN-COMM Training based in Walsall, which is considered to be a suitable location in place of the NMC premises in West Bromwich.

Decision 18/0056

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills Project.
- 2.2 Approval of this Change Request relating to a reduction in scope.

13. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – WOLVERHAMPTON INTERCHANGE – CHANGE REQUEST (SEPPL41) - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement**

Julian Wain was present and referred to the report previously circulated. The proposal is to reduce the contracted outputs committed against Growth Deal funding for the Wolverhampton Interchange Project. Since the original bid, a number of challenges to cost and programme have arisen, as is usual for a project of this scale. This has undermined the ability to deliver outputs as anticipated in 2014. The reduction in Outputs is detailed in the report at 3.8.

18/0057

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the

Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Wolverhampton Interchange project, with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This Change Request relates to a change in outputs.

14. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – DUDLEY BROWNFIELD LAND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – PHASE 1 – CHANGE REQUEST (SEPPL56) - Amendment to Existing Grant Agreement**

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated. It has been proposed to omit the Foredraft Street site from the Programme. This site was originally included following a proposal from a registered provider, who has since withdrawn their interest. Dudley Council cannot make this scheme work in its original format and have looked at alternative schemes, but fundamental changes would be required to make this financially viable.

The reduction in Grant Funding will create a capacity of £416,213 within the Growth Deal Programme.

Decision 18/0058

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land Improvement Programme - Phase 1 project, with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 2.2 This Change Request relates to a reduction in scope.

15. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – STRIMECH LTD (SEP1) – WALSALL - Approval to Move to Contracting**

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated. Funding for this project is to facilitate the purchase of new machinery and bespoke manufacturing software.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0059

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Strimech Ltd for a funding allocation of £75,228 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totalling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing

Priority Sectors Strimech Ltd project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 this request is for £75,228.

16. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION - RECYCLED PLASTICS (UK) LTD (SEPB1) - WOLVERHAMPTON - Approval to Move to Contracting**

Julian Wain was present and referred to the report previously circulated. Funding for this project is to invest in new machinery and company expansion.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0060

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Recycled Plastics (UK) Ltd for a funding allocation of £200,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totaling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Recycled Plastics (UK) Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This request is for £200,000.

17. **Black Country Local Growth Deal - GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION - MELLISH ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD (SEPB1) - ALDRIDGE, WALSALL - Approval to Move to Contracting**

Simon Neilson was present and referred to the report previously circulated. Funding for this project is to project to invest in a new Manufacturing Cell. This is to support a new contract to manufacture Buoyancy units.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0061

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Mellish Engineering Services Ltd for a funding allocation of £178,740 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totaling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Mellish Engineering Services Ltd project – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This request is for £178,740.

18. Black Country Local Growth Deal - GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION - THOMAS DUDLEY FOUNDRY LTD (SEPB1) - Approval to Move to Contracting

Alan Lunt was present and referred to the report previously circulated. Funding for this project is to develop a new foundry on the Duport site, to enable an extension of the existing product range, into new markets with new metal grades.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0062

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Thomas Dudley Foundry Ltd for a funding allocation of £315,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totaling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Thomas Dudley Foundry Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This request is for £315,000.

19. Black Country Local Growth Deal - GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION - VANITY HALL LTD (SEPB1) - ROWLEY REGIS, SANDWELL - Approval to Move to Contracting

Funding for this project is to ensure a smooth transition to the new recently acquired plant premises and ensure adequate equipment is on site to accommodate customer demand.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0063

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Vanity Hall Ltd for a funding allocation of £81,765 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totalling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Vanity Hall Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This request is for £81,765.

20. Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – A&M EDM LTD (SEPB1) – SMETHWICK, SANDWELL - Approval to Move to Contracting

Funding for this project is to establish a new Hurco machining centre at A&M EDM Ltd. The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0064

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with A&M EDM Ltd for a funding allocation of £50,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totalling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors A&M EDM Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This request is for £50,000.

21. Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – LATHAMS SECURITY DOORSETS LTD (SEPB1) – TIVIDALE, SANDWELL - Approval to Move to Contracting

Funding for this project is to support the company by way of Grant Funding to assist with expansion into additional new premises. The new site is needed to create a dedicated manufacturing facility.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0065

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Lathams Security Doorsets Ltd for a funding allocation of £250,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totalling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Lathams Security Doorsets Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This request is for £250,000.

22. Black Country Local Growth Deal – GROWING PRIORITY SECTORS INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DECISION – PROFESSIONAL POLISHING SERVICES LTD (SEPB1) – SMETHWICK, SANDWELL - Approval to Move to Contracting

Funding for this project will enable Professional Polishing Services Ltd (PPS) to become a clear UK market leader and global competitor in the stainless steel sub- contract polishing market.

The funding agreement will be subject to a number of conditions detailed in the report.

Decision 18/0066

It was resolved that the BCJC:

2.1 approves for Sandwell Council to move to contracting with Professional Polishing Services Ltd for a funding allocation of £50,000 (from the Growing Priority Sectors programme of works totalling £8.627m), to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Growing Priority Sectors Professional Polishing Services Ltd project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 This request is for £50,000.

23. **Black Country Local Growth Deal – CHANGES TO THE GROWTH DEAL PROGRAMME – Approval of the current 2017/18 Year End Position**

Sarah Middleton was present and referred to the report previously circulated. This report details the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) which have been considered and approved by the LEP Board and Joint Committee throughout the year, plus some additional changes that have been reported since the last LEP Board meeting (23rd July 2018). These are detailed in **Attachment 1** of the report.

18/0067

It was resolved that the BCJC approves the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and, to maximise the 2017/18 Growth Deal allocation expenditure, requests approval for various changes detailed in Attachment 1 of the report.

24. **ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK – GOVERNANCE REVISIONS – Approval to Amend the Assurance Framework**

Sarah Middleton was present and referred to the report previously circulated.

Decision 18/0068

It was resolved that the BCJC approve the amendment of the Assurance Framework as follows:

- That Board membership is increased from 13 to 15 members with private sector Membership on the Board increasing from 7 members to 9.

- That Board Members serve a 2-year tenure, renewable for 3 further terms.
- That the Board Chair be able to hold office for a further term to assist with succession planning.

25. Land and Property Investment Fund - PARKROSE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE MAIN SCHEME (SEPPL54) - Report for Noting

Julian Wain was present and referred to the report previously circulated.

This scheme had previously received approval for Grant Funding but during contracting process, sufficient levels of security could not be agreed for the gap funding requested, therefore, the applicant has had their bid withdrawn from the Land and Property Investment Fund.

Decision 18/0069

It was resolved that the BCJC:

- 2.1 Note the withdrawal of the Parkrose Industrial Estate Main Scheme project from the Land and Property Investment Fund.
- 2.2 Note the removal of the scheme will create capacity of £757,839 for future Land and Property Investment Fund bids.