



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

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 11:00am

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

MINUTES

MEMBERS - In person

Dudley MBC - Councillor Patrick Harley (Voting), Kevin O'Keefe

Sandwell MBC - Councillor Kerrie Carmichael (Voting), Shokat Lal

Walsall MBC – Councillor Kerry Murphy (sub) (Voting), Emma Bennett (**Secretary**)

City of Wolverhampton Council - Councillor Stephen Simkins (Voting), Tim Johnson

INVITED GUESTS – In person

Shaun Darcy, Director (Walsall)

Emma Bennett 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.

Emma explained that the Joint Committee was meeting today in person at Walsall Council and the agenda and reports for the meeting were available on the Council's website. She explained that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Committee Clerk in attendance and the meeting was also being streamed Live.

Emma confirmed that meeting was quorate.

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Garry Perry of Walsall Council

Kevin O'Keefe of Dudley Council

2. **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024/25**

Emma Bennett asked for nominations for Chairperson for 2024/25 however advised that she had received a nomination for Councillor Stephen Simkins to become Chair person.

Councillor Harley, Councillor Carmichael and Councillor Murphy supported the nomination of Councillor Simkins.

Emma Bennett asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson for 2024/25 however advised that she had received a nomination for Councillor Kerrie Carmichael to become Vice-Chair person.

Councillor Harley, Councillor Simkins and Councillor Murphy supported the nomination of Councillor Carmichael.

Decision number 24/0004

Emma Bennett moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of a show of hands. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that Councillor Simkins was Chairperson and Councillor Carmichael was Vice Chairperson of the BCJC for 2024/25.

Councillor Simkins chaired the meeting from this point onwards.

3. **Notes of Meeting held on 24 January 2024**

Decision number 24/0005

Councillor Carmichael and Councillor Harley confirmed that it was Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 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. **Black Country LEP Legacy Funds year-end position at 2023/24**

Shaun Darcy referred to the report previously circulated and explained that it was an update on the year end position for 2023/24 for noting only. Shaun advised that the vast majority of projects are now completed, with funds spent and now in the monitoring stages. There are however some projects that are still delivering.

Reference was drawn to the Local Growth Fund that was successfully fully spent by the deadline of March 2021 and several projects still delivering outputs detailed in the tables 1 and 2 of the report.

Reference was drawn to Getting Building Fund which supported two projects and the grant being fully spent by the deadline with remaining outputs being monitored with details contained in table 3 of the report.

Reference was drawn to Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) with the programme forecasting spend beyond the LPIF end date contracted with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) due to the complexity of schemes development and subsequent remediation work. The programme is now fully committed and

Walsall Council as Single Accountable Body (SAB) has submitted a change request to WMCA – full details contained in tables 4,5,6 and 7 of the report.

Black Country LEP Reinvestment fund was established to capture recycled investments from other LEP grants. Table 8 in the report summaries the position noting that the only unallocated balance is the Digital Fund.

Black Country Enterprise Zone is managed currently by Walsall Council. It is anticipated that a funding request for the development of the EZ Gasholders site will be brought to BCJC in September 2024. As set out in the BCJC Collaboration Agreement, the Gasholder project will be funded from the Wolverhampton business rate surplus capped at £14.898m, and subject to a business case and a profile to be agreed between Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils. Full funding information is noted in Table 9 of the report.

Black Country Enterprise Zone Pipeline Development Grant has been fully utilized by each local authority with details captured in Table 10 of the report.

Reference was made to the appendix of the report noting that Delegated Authority had been used for Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills project changes to Outputs and Outcomes; National Brownfield Institute Phase 2 changes to Outputs and Outcomes; Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Black Country Enterprise Zone development grant £3,000 underspend carried forward into 2024/25. Full details contained with the appendix.

The recommendations for Noting only were:

To note the update on each BCLEP legacy funds at 31 March 2024, as set out in this report.

To note decisions taken by Walsall Council's Section 151 Officer, through Black Country Joint Committee (BCJC) Delegated Authority, as set out in Appendix A.

8. **BCJC Secretary's Annual Report - Constitution and Timetable of meetings 2024/25**

Emma Bennett referred to the report previously circulated and explained that this was her annual report as Secretary to advise that of the updated Constitution and Protocols which were for noting as a result of the changes made to the Delegations to Officers.

Emma advised that the report also contained a recommendation for the 2024/25 Forward Plan publication dates along with the request that there would no longer be a 12 month schedule of meetings. The recommendation was that the BCJC would still meet at least once a year at its AGM in June as there is a requirement for the LEP Legacy funding streams to be reported and monitored for a few years yet.

Emma reminded Members of the delegations given to the Section 151 Officers to make any small changes to ensure that programmes are completed, therefore regular BCJC meetings are not needed. Again, additional BCJC meetings can be called when required as there is provision within the BCJC Constitution for this purpose.

Decision number 24/0006

Councillor Simkins 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 Black Country Executive Joint Committee Constitution (Appendix A) has now been updated to include the replacement Delegation approved at the meeting of the BCJC on 24 January 2024.

Note the Protocols have now been updated to reflect the change in the Constitution (Appendix B).

Approve the Forward Plan publication dates for 2024/2025 as set out in Appendix C of the report.

Agree that from June 2024, the Black Country Executive Joint Committee will no longer have a 12 month schedule of meetings but will meet in June each year and also any other time requested by its Members subject to the provisions in the Constitution.

The meeting closed.