



21st March 2019 at 10.45pm
Bassett Suite, The Hawthorns,
West Bromwich Albion Football Club

Present:

Stewart Towe	Chair;
Cllr. Peter Bilson	City of Wolverhampton;
Cllr. Mike Bird	Walsall MBC;
Simon Eastwood	Richardsons;
Lindsey Flynn	Well Associates;
Cllr. Judy Foster	Dudley MBC;
Cllr. Bill Gavan	Sandwell MBC;
Ninder Johal	Nachural Communications;
Tom Westley	Westley Group.

In Attendance:

Sarah Middleton	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Lara Cragg	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Shannon Nicklin	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Aaron Toussaint	BEIS;
Gareth Wilson	BEIS;
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Consortium Ltd.

Apologies: Councillors Qadar Zada and Roger Lawrence and Paul Brown, Andrew Cox, Prof. Jackie Dunne, Prof. Geoff Layer, Chris Handy, Jatinder Sharma and Deborah Williams.

Public - 0

36/19 **Declarations of Interest**

Agreed that the following Declarations be noted: -

37/19 – Minutes (21st January 2019) – Minute 20/19 - GPS Thomas

Dudley Foundry – Tom Westley referenced he had declared a personal interest as the applicant was known to him and had taken no part in the consideration or voting thereon and had left the room during consideration of the report.

37/19 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2019 were circulated.

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2019 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

38/19 **Notes of the Meeting held on 25th February 2019**

The Notes of the meeting were submitted for consideration.

Agreed that the LEP Board confirmed and approved notes 1 – 31 of the inquorate meeting held on 19th November 2018 and all recommendations contained therein to include: -

4. National Assurance Framework and Black Country Assurance Framework – Revisions

Agreed that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Note the contents of the report.
- 2) Note that a further revision of the BC Local Assurance Framework will come back to the Board once the outcome of the LEP Review is published.
- 3) Approve the following tranche of amendments/additions: -
 - a) Replace Members Code of Conduct with Government pro forma;
 - b) Replace Conflict of Interest with Government pro forma;
 - c) Include a process for considering Urgent Business for which a decision is required upon before the next scheduled meeting of the Board;
 - d) Include within the Assurance Framework the confidential reporting arrangements;
 - e) Appoint Chris Handy as Deputy Chair.

- f) Inclusion of the Exempt Statement
 - g) Set out the process for handling information not to be placed in the public domain.
- 4) Confirm that the BC LEP Chair and Section 151 Officer of the Accountable Body in consultation with the BC Consortium Ltd. Chief Executive be delegated authority to approve the further revisions required to the Black Country LEP Assurance Framework.
 - 5) Confirm and approve the new quorum arrangements – eight Members in attendance, two of whom must be public sector (local authority Leaders or their nominated representative) and six private sector members.

5. LEP Creative Industries and BC Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism Board – Draft Terms of Reference

Agreed that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Note the WMCA Creative Industries Update;
- 2) Approve the Black Country Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism Sub Board Terms of Reference; and
- 3) Confirm that Lindsey Flynn and Ninder Johal are the LEP Board Champions for Black Country Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism.

6. Aldridge Mill Lane & Aqueduct GRIP 2-3 Study

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Internal Agreement with Walsall Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Aldridge Mill Lane & Aqueduct GRIP 2 – 3 Study project with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

7. i54 Western Extension – Access Package

Agreed that the LEP Board:

Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the I54

Western Extension – Access package Project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

8. A34 Corridor Development Funding

Agreed that the LEP Board:

Notes the withdrawal of £70,000 for the A34 Corridor Development Funding project from within the Growth Deal Programme.

9. i54 Western Extension

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to the value of £5,000,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the i54 Western Extension Project - with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

10. LEP Core and Strategic Funding Report

Agreed that the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the LEP funding and expenditure position as at 31st December 2018.
- 2) Approve the Programme Office and SEP Proposition Funding expenditure at 31st December 2018.
- 3) To agree the Strategic fund budget for 18/19 financial year and to authorise the use of the balance brought forward if necessary
- 4) To agree that the Growth Hub external audit fee incurred by Walsall MBC (Mazar's UK accountancy firm £2,280 inc vat) can be charged to the LEP Strategic Fund
- 5) That the LEP board approve the budget allocation of £24,000 2018-19 LEP core funding towards Black Country Consortium Limited premises and operating costs as reported in the November 2018 finance report.
- 6) To note the financial position of those LEP projects operated through BCC Ltd.

11. Innovation Alliance for the West Midlands and the WM Innovation Programme

Agreed that the LEP Board:

- 1) note the leading role played to date by the Black Country in shaping and benefiting from the work of the Innovation Alliance WM in its first year of operation.
- 2) continue to support the Innovation Alliance WM as a bottom-up alliance influencing innovation strategy within the WMCA, providing a financial contribution of £25k per year in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and acting as accountable body and managing the budgets on behalf of the six resourcing partners (others are WMCA, GBS LEP, WM Academic Health Science Network, Sustainability WM and Innovation Birmingham).
- 3) supports the ongoing involvement of Sarah Middleton as Chair of the Innovation Alliance WM Steering Group, ensuring ongoing alignment with Black Country strategy and action.
- 4) endorses the work of the Innovation Alliance in developing a West Midlands Innovation Programme to enable realisation of the innovation ('ideas') elements of the WM LIS and, pending approval for funding of the FBC by the WMCA, and to agree to being a strategic partner in this regional programme.
- 5) endorses the Innovation Alliance WM and the Black Country Consortium being involved in delivery of the West Midlands Innovation Programme once it is approved.

19. Funding Sub-Group – 6th February 2019

Agreed that the LEP Board approve and confirm the minutes of the 6th February 2019.

39/19

i9 – Wolverhampton – Change Request

Simon Eastwood presented the application submitted to the Funding Applications Sub-Group.

Agreed that the LEP Board:

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with ION Property Developments Ltd (IPDL), to ION Projects Ltd (IPL) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the i9

(Block 9) Wolverhampton with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year; and

- 2) Notes that the Change Request relates to the original grant award made on 16th August 2018 (Minute No. 130/18) and the additional funding request, submitted to 25th February 2019 LEP Board, which was inquorate and submitted for approval at Item 4 on the Agenda – Notes of the LEP Board meeting held on 25th February 2019.

40/19 **Bilston Urban Village East Site Investigation (SEPPL112)**

Simon Eastwood presented the application submitted to the Funding Applications Sub-Group.

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Bilston Urban Village East Site Investigation Project with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

41/19 **Priority Sectors – Alucast Ltd (SEP B1)**

Simon Eastwood presented the application submitted to the Funding Applications Sub-Group.

Agreed that the LEP Board:

- 1) Approves the Change Request for the Alucast Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Notes that this includes a change in scope.

42/19 **Dudley Brownfield Land Phase 2 (SEPPL36)**

Simon Eastwood presented the application submitted to the Funding Applications Sub-Group.

Agreed that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton Council) to proceed

to amending the existing Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land Phase 2 – with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

2) Note that this Change Request relates to change in scope.

43/19 **Black Country City Deal (Working Together Pilot)**

Simon Eastwood presented the application submitted to the Funding Applications Sub-Group.

Agreed that the LEP Board:

- 1) Approves the transfer of the underspend from Black Country City Deal (Working Together Pilot) to the Black Country ESF Community Grants Programme.
- 2) Notes the successful delivery and closure of the City Deal Programme – Working Together Pilot Project.

44/19 **Black Country Growth Hub Grant Agreement Approval 2019-20**

Simon Eastwood presented the application submitted to the Funding Applications Sub-Group.

Agreed that the LEP Board approves Walsall Council to receive £328,000 from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to fund the Black Country.

45/19 **Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 6th March 2019**

Agreed that the LEP Board to confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2019.

46/19 **Date of Next meeting**

Agreed that the LEP Board note that the next meeting will be held on Monday, 15th April 2019 – Dudley College, The Broadway, Dudley.

47/19 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Agreed that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

48/19 **Private minutes of the LEP Board – 21st January 2019**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2019 were received and confirmed as a correct record.

49/19 **Private Notes of the LEP Board held on 25th February 2019**

Agreed that the LEP Board confirmed and approved notes 1 – 31 of the inquorate meeting held on 19th November 2018 and all recommendations contained therein to include: -

26. Exclusion of the Press and Public: -

‘That the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 for the reasons stated on the agenda’.

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and where Government have advised it is not for public release.

27. Private minutes of the LEP Board – 21st January 2019

Agreed that the Private minutes of the meeting of the LEP Board held on 21st January 2019 be approve and confirmed.

28.a Private Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group meeting held on 6th February 2019

Agreed that the Private minutes of the meeting of the LEP Board held on 6th February 2019 be approve and confirmed.

28.b Black Country LEP Programme Funding Proposals

Agreed

- 1) That the LEP Board note and confirm the minutes of the Funding Sub-Group meeting held on 6th February 2019;
- 2) That the LEP Board note the LEP Funding Programme Funding Proposals.

29. i9 (Black 9) Wolverhampton

Agreed

That the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with ION Property Developments Ltd (IPDL) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton Project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

30. Sandwell Aquatics Centre

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell MBC, to the value of £5,000,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre Project - with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

50/19 **LPIF - Sandwell Aquatic Centre**

Simon Eastwood presented the application submitted to the Funding Applications Sub-Group.

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell MBC, to the value of £5,000,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre Project - with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

(The meeting closed at 11.10am)