

BLACK COUNTRY LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Monday 24th February 2020 at 3.00pm
Walsall College, Littleton Street West, Walsall WS2 8ES

DECISION NOTICE

Minute No.	Item	
	Present	<p>Stewart Towe, Cllr. Adrian Andrew, Paul Brown, Cllr. Ian Brookfield, Kevin Davis, Simon Eastwood, Rachel Eade, Cherry Elliott, Lindsey Flynn, Chris Handy, Cllr. Ian Kettle, Prof Geoff Layer; Cllr. Danny Millard, Jatinder Sharma, Amanda Tomlinson, Tom Westley and Deborah Williams</p> <p>Apols – Councillors Mike Bird, Yvonne Davies and Patrick Harley and Prof Jackie Dunne, Ninder Johal and Prof Nazira Karodia.</p>
20/20	Declarations of Interests, etc.	<p>Minute No. 41/20 - Project Change Request: Woods Lane Phase 2</p> <p>Simon Eastwood and Chris Handy declared their respective pecuniary interests, in the item, as Members of the Accord Group’s Board of Directors.</p>
21/20	Minutes of the LEP Board held on 20th January 2020	Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020 be received and confirmed as a correct record.
22/20	West Midland Growth Company – Presentation and Question & Answer Session	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) welcome the presentation and thank Neil Rami, Chief Executive, and Roger Mendonca, Chief Operations Director, for their attendance; and

		2) note the thanks of the West Midlands Growth Company officers to Stewart Towe for the support provided by himself, as Chair of the LEP, to the establishment of the Growth Company.
23/20	<p>Policy Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Country Members of Parliament – meetings with Chair • LEP Progress on Recruitment of Chair • Annual Performance Review • Peer Review – 2nd March 2020 • Government Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Budget 2020 ➢ HS2 ➢ ESIF extension letter • Coronavirus and West Midland business – WMCA briefing <p>EIU Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions Report from January 2020 • Regional Labour Productivity • Black Country School Performance – Key Stage 4 	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board receive and note the policy updates, to include Board comments, on: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Country Members of Parliament – meetings with Chair • LEP Progress on Recruitment of Chair • Annual Performance Review • Peer Review – 2nd March 2020 • Government Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Budget 2020 ➢ HS2 ➢ ESIF extension letter • Coronavirus and West Midland business – WMCA briefing <p>EIU Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions Report from January 2020 • Regional Labour Productivity • Black Country School Performance – Key Stage 4
24/20	Brexit Market Readiness Analysis (incorporating WTO Rules of Origin)	Agreed that the LEP Board note the data presented and noted that data gathering work continues to inform Growth Hub activity.
25/20	WMCA#2041 – Black Country Response	Agreed that the LEP Board 1) note the work undertaken on the proposed LEP response to the

		<p>WMCA#2041 consultation to include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the developing implementation process of #WM2041 (appendix 1) and its potential impacts on the Black Country. b) the next steps for the Black Country LEP to lead on and agree timescales at which actions will take place. c) note the review of the Sector Action Plans that the BC LEP led on for the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) through a 'zero carbon' lens to ensure the sector is resilient in a changing climate, as well as in a changing economy. d) considering the potential of including carbon accounting in a project lifecycle to understand its impact on carbon emissions on LEP funded projects. <p>2) Note that the consultation response deadline is 23rd March 2020; and</p> <p>3) Agree to feedback any further comments through to the LEP team prior to the 23rd March 2020, so that they can be incorporated into the LEP response.</p>
26/20	<p>LEP Core and Strategic Funding Report</p>	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board approve the LEP Core and Strategic funding and expenditure position as at 31st December 2019, as detailed below: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Core Funding – for the six-month period to 31st December 2019 the current year grant expenditure showed an underspend of £3,727 against budget, and an underspend of £23,832 on the unallocated funding from previous years. It was noted that these have

		<p>arisen due to vacant capacity posts and underspends on other budget lines;</p> <p>b) Strategic Funding – for the six-month period to 31st December 2019 the current year grant expenditure showed an underspend of £2,023 against budget and a nil overspend against unallocated funding from previous years. It was noted that variances were considered immaterial;</p> <p>c) LEP Review Implementation and Local Industrial Strategy Funding – for the period to 31st December 2019 expenditure against budget was considered satisfactory and it was noted that it was anticipated that the grant funding would be defrayed by 31st March 2020.</p>
27/20	<p>Local Programmes – Dashboards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Flight Current Financial Year • Future Years • Pipeline • Land and Property Investment Fund • Growing Places • Enterprise Zones 	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board note the updates in relation to the following dashboards: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Flight Current Financial Year • Future Years • Pipeline • Land and Property Investment Fund • Growing Places • Enterprise Zones
28/20	<p>Land and Property Investment Fund – Cavendish House</p>	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approve the removal of the Portersfield Phase 1 - Cavendish House project, from within Land and Property Investment Fund programme; and 2) note that the removal of the scheme creates capacity of £664,725 within the Land and Property Investment Fund.

29/20	Draft Minutes of the Place Making & Land Theme Advisory Board – 11th February 2020	Agreed that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2020 be received and noted.
30/20	Black Country Executive Joint Committee – Decisions 4th December 2019 and 12th February 2020	Agreed that the decisions of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee held on 4 th December 2019 and 12 th February 2020 be received and noted.
31/20	PR and Communications	Agreed that the LEP Board receive and note the contents of the report.
32/20	Date of Next Meeting	Agreed that the LEP Board note that date of the next meeting would be 23 rd March 2020, to be held in a Wolverhampton venue.
33/20	Exclusion of Press & Public	<p>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'.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda (Not Open to Public and Press) Exempt Information</p> <p>Paragraph 1 - Information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular officeholder, former officeholder or applicant to become an officeholder under, the authority.)</p> <p>Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p>

34/20	Private Minutes of the LEP Board held on 20th January 2020 (Paragraph 3)	Agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020 be received and confirmed as a correct record.
35/20	Black Country LEP Chair – Update (Paragraph 1)	Agreed that the LEP Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approved and confirmed the appointment of Tom Westley DL, as Chair of the Black Country LEP Board, commencing on 1st March 2020. 2) noted that the Chair of the Black Country LEP Board was also the Chair of Black Country Consortium Limited. 3) noted that the Audit Committee would need to have a new Chair from amongst the private sector Board members, commencing 1st March 2020; and 4) noted that the BC LEP Board would seek to appoint a new Deputy Chair as part of its ongoing recruitment campaign.
36/20	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Board Black Country Local Implementation Plan	Agreed that the LEP Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) noted and supported the “Asks” submitted to Government for pre-budget consideration; 2) noted the comments on the “Asks” submitted in relation to the ambition to grow the BC economy; and 3) request the WMCA to provide equitable resources to each LEP area in the CA, to deliver their respective lead elements of the WMCA Local Industrial Strategy.
37/20	Private Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group meeting held on 18th January 2020 (Paragraph 3)	Agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2020 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

<p>38/20</p>	<p>Project Change Request: i54 Western Extension (SEPPL95) (Paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Agreed the LEP Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approved 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 project – with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year. 2) noted that all project outputs would be claimed and split across more than one LEP funding programme, with the proportion of the output split still to be confirmed. 3) Confirmed that the grant amount to be awarded from the Local Growth Deal was a sum detailed in the private report; and 4) Noted that the appropriate Grant Agreements were in place and would be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee
<p>39/20</p>	<p>Project Approval Recommendation: YMCA Cleveland Road (SEPPL142) (Paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the YMCA to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the YMCA Cleveland Road Project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year using the Growing Places Fund to support for any Local

		<p>Growth Deal over-programming required; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Approve the funding sum detailed in the private report; and 3) Noted that the appropriate Grant Agreements were in place and would be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.
40/20	<p>Project Change Request: Birchley Island Development Phase (SEPPL121) (Paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Birchley Island Development Phase Project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year; 2) noted that this change request related to a revised financial spend profile; 3) Noted that the appropriate Grant Agreements were in place and would be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee

<p>41/20</p>	<p>Project Change Request: Woods Lane Phase 2 (SEPPL103) (Paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approved the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Vistry Partnerships Limited to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Woods Lane Phase 2 Project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year; 2) noted that the change request related to a change of company name and registered office address; and 3) Noted that the appropriate Grant Agreements were in place and would be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee <p>(NB: Simon Eastwood and Chris Handy declared their respective pecuniary interests, in the item, as Members of the Accord Group’s Board of Directors, took no part in the voting or consideration thereon and left the room for this item.)</p>
<p>42/20</p>	<p>Project Change Request: Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track (SEPB5) (Paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approve the change request, to include the associated funds for Test Track 1, for the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track project from within the Growth Deal Programme.

		<p>2) Noted that the associated costs were detailed in the private report; and</p> <p>3) Noted that the appropriate Grant Agreements were in place and would be utilised by the Accountable Body (Walsall Council), and include all conditions passed onto the LEP by Government, together with all terms, conditions, performance measures and sanctions as required by the approvals/conditions received from Government or approved by the LEP Board or the Joint Committee.</p> <p>(NB Councillor Ian Kettle raised the issue of a potential conflict as Rachel Eade, Board Member, was a member of the University of Birmingham. Rachel Eade whilst not aware of a conflict agreed to leave the room and took no part in the consideration or voting thereon.)</p>
43/20	Risk Register (Paragraph 3)	Agreed that the risk register be noted.

The meeting closed at 16.55 hours