



Black Country Consortium Ltd (BCC Ltd)

Annual General Meeting

(As captured in the approved accounts for the financial period April 2019 – March 2020)

**Monday, 22nd February 2021 at 3.00pm
Microsoft Teams**

AGENDA

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| 1. | Welcome and purpose of AGM
(to include Minutes of AGM held on
20 th January 2020). | Chairman BCC Ltd and BC LEP
Tom Westley DL |
| 2. | Principal Activities of Black Country Consortium Ltd | Sarah Middleton, CEO BCC Ltd |
| 3. | Guarantee Members and Directors BCC Ltd | Sarah Middleton, CEO BCC Ltd |
| 4. | Review of 2019/20 Audited Financial Reports
(To view the company Director's Report and Financial
Statements as approved on 23 rd November 2020, click here) | Simon Atkins
Cooper Parry Auditors |
| 5. | Questions | Chairman BCC Ltd and BC LEP
Tom Westley DL |
| 6. | Close | Chairman BCC Ltd and BC LEP
Tom Westley DL |

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Black Country Consortium Ltd

20th January 2020 at 3.00 pm
National Metalforming Centre,
47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6PY

Present:

Stewart Towe	Chair;
Chris Handy	Accord Group;
Cllr. Ian Brookfield	City of Wolverhampton;
Paul Brown	EY;
Kevin Davis	The Vine Trust;
Rachel Eade	Red Limited;
Simon Eastwood	Eastwood Consulting;
Lindsey Flynn	Well Associates;
Chris Handy	Accord Group;
Ninder Johal	Nachural Communications;
Prof Geoff Layer	University of Wolverhampton;
Cllr. Danny Millard	Sandwell MBC
Jatinder Sharma	Walsall College;
Amanda Tomlinson	Black Country Housing Group;
Cllr David Vickers	Dudley MBC;
Tom Westley	Westley Group; and
Deborah Williams	Active Black Country Chair.

In Attendance:

Kevin O'Keefe	Dudley MBC;
David Stevens	Sandwell MBC;
Sarah Middleton	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Richard Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton;
Katherine Birch	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Lara Cragg	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Prof Delma Dwight	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Kelly Valente	Walsall MBC; and
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Consortium Ltd.

Apologies: Councillors Adrian Andrew, Mike Bird, Yvonne Davies and Patrick Harley and Prof Jackie Dunne and Cherry Elliott.

Public – 3

1. Welcome and Purpose

The Chair advised Members and the public that Black Country Consortium Ltd (BCC Ltd) would present via a series of presentations, information relating to functions of the business, directors and financials, as captured in the approved accounts for the financial period April 2018 – March 2019.

2. Principal Activities of BC Consortium Ltd.

The Chief Executive advised on the Principal Activities of the company BC Consortium Ltd and in regard to how it was structured around 4 prime roles;

- capacity to support public and private sector partners on strategic priorities,
- enabling partnership working between the public, private and voluntary sectors to improve the economic performance of the area,
- providing data, intelligence and policy advice on economic issues,
- acting as an advocate and champion for the Black Country.

BC Consortium provides support for a number of aligned boards including the BC LEP and the BC Active Partnerships and the related activity to these boards.

There is coordinated support on Economic Intelligence Unit, marketing & communications, corporate support and secretariat support.

Our activities have been aligned in part to the Local Enterprise Partnership with its priorities aligned with the Black Country Strategy;

- Infrastructure Development and place making
- Business Competitiveness
- Education, Employability & Skills

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership is a voluntary partnership formed in 2011 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within a defined local area. It is a private sector chaired partnership and looks to understand and address the barriers to business growth.

The Active Black Country Partnership is the strategic lead for Sport and Physical Activity across the Black Country, advocating the health, social and economic benefits of sport, physical activity and play for our residents. The partnership focusses on testing approaches to tackling physical inactivity

amongst under-represented groups and impacting on wider socio-economic outcomes.

The Company is also responsible for the Black Country Skills Factory and the Black Country Careers and Enterprise Company.

3. Guarantee Members and Directors of BCC Ltd

It was noted that the Leader of each of the four Black Country Local Authorities served as Guarantee Members for BCC Ltd during their elected period of office.

Private sector business members of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership served as Directors of BCC Ltd.

The AGM was presented with details of Guarantee Members and Directors who had served on the Board of BCC Ltd during the period of April 2018-March 2019 and presented with the details of those that were currently members of the BCLEP Board.

4. Financial Statements

- a) Financial Statement – Summary of income
- b) Financial Statement – Summary of expenditure
- c) Confirmation of Auditors

The Chair of the Audit Committee advised that the Financial Statements were signed off by the Board of Directors at October 2019 and filed at Companies House. They are available on line via the LEP's website and at Companies House. and available online.

The Directors Report captures the principle activities of the company including that of the principal aim of the company is to champion the urban renaissance aspirations of the Black Country region, comprising the City of Wolverhampton and the boroughs of Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.

It holds stakeholders to account on the implementation of the integrated economic and spatial strategy – the Black Country Strategy for Growth and Competitiveness, documented in the published Black Country Strategic Economic Plan.

The company's operations are structured around 4 prime roles; capacity to support public and private sector partners on strategic priorities, enabling partnership working between the public, private and voluntary sectors to improve the economic performance of the area, providing data, intelligence and policy advice on economic issues and acting as an advocate and champion for the Black Country.

This support is provided to the overarching strategic partnership – Black Country Consortium and a number of aligned boards including the Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) and the Active Black Country Partnership (BCABC).

The Company manages the Black Country Skills Factory which focusses on skills development addressing the shortfall in the BCLEP's Transformational sectors through additional apprenticeship opportunities, brokering bite sized training courses for both large and small employers and developing careers resources and activities between schools and business as part of the national Careers and Enterprise initiative.

In 2018/19, the LEP committed significant resources, working with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP, Coventry & Warwickshire LEP and the West Midlands Combined Authority in the development of a Local Industrial Strategy for the West Midlands – the first in the UK.

Importantly, the Black Country has played an integral role in developing the West Midlands LIS and has influenced the priorities that underpin it. The Black Country Economic Intelligence Unit is responsible for the collation of all the evidence for the West Midlands LIS, allowing partners to make informed decisions about what aspects of the economy and society the LIS should focus on.

We are also leading on West Midland wide action plans for four sectors – metals and materials, aerospace, construction and rail.

Black Country Consortium is one of the partners in the Midlands Engine Observatory which is a partnership led by City-REDI at the University of Birmingham and includes Nottingham Trent University, SQW and Cambridge Econometrics. The Economic Intelligence Unit of Black Country Consortium provides the Midlands Engine with a Quarterly Economic Commentary which provides intelligence that can inform, support and influence important decision making to ensure strategy and policy is evidence led.

The central role of LEP's in promoting growth has been reflected in a number of recent announcements:

- Facilitating and developing the Black Country Programme Management Office and the development of an integrated pipeline of propositions and programmes including the Single Local Growth Deal Fund, a six year programme, 2015-2021, utilising £217M funding for transport infrastructure, employment, skills and housing projects;
- Facilitating the development of a specific Land and Property Investment Fund programme securing a minimum of £53M with an ambition to increase this to at least 150M from the West Midlands Combined Authority
- Shaping a minimum of £170m of European Structural Investment Funds for the 2014/20 period
- Facilitating the development of a pipeline of propositions, programmes and projects creating the Black Country Delivery Plan underpinning the proposed Black Country Local Industrial Strategy
- Leading and programme management of resources from BDUK and BT for the support of Broadband infrastructure resulting in a £12m investment programme and exploring the opportunities from the WMCA 5G programme.
- Providing economic intelligence in support of the Combined Authority arrangements for the West Midlands including the production of the 'Annual State of the Region' report on behalf of the WMCA and providing strategic support in the development of the 'Office of Data Analytics'.
- Founding member of a multi-faceted consortia to provide economic intelligence to the Midlands Engine.
- Supporting co-design on the development of the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy and the provision of the evidence base to under the WM LIS and the associated sector action plans.
- Supporting and leading on the development of the Black Country Active Black Country Strategic Framework – Towards an Active Black Country.
- Identifying a pipeline of propositions, programmes across stakeholders working within targeted geographical areas to get Black Country residents more active and moving more.
- Implementation of the UK's first Sector Skills Action Plan for Sport and Physical Activity in partnership with the Active Black Country Board.
- Leading and managing the introduction of senior level, volunteer Enterprise Advisers in to each Senior School to enhance the CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance)

offering at the school through improving the schools Business Engagement Strategy as part of the national Careers & Enterprise Company programme.

5. Questions

- a) What is the LEP doing to ensure draw down of the Shared Prosperity Fund into the Black Country particularly for proving Access to Finance for SMEs – Paul Kalinauckas**

Mr Kalinauckas was advised that whilst the fund was yet to be announced the LEP had a robust pipeline of projects and economic data that could evidence the economic needs of the region with

- b) “The Committee on Climate Change has estimated that 1.5 billion trees will need to be planted if the UK is to achieve its statutory target of getting to net zero carbon by 2050 and that this will involve planting at least 30.000 hectares every year. What can the Black Country Consortium do to encourage more tree planting, particularly in areas where new development or regeneration is taking place?” - Nick Sandford, The Woodland Trust.**

Mr Sandford was invited to attend the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board to present on The Woodland Trust’s Tree Planting programme.

- c) Given the cost of the rent for BCC Ltd premises had the Board given consideration to purchasing premises rather than leasing them?**

The Chair stated that this would be considered by officers and reported back through to the LEP Board.

6. Date of Next meeting

Agreed that the 2019/20 AGM be scheduled towards the year end.

(The meeting closed at 3.25pm)