

**Black Country *LEP***

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 3.00pm**

**The Hub, Walsall College, Littleton Street West, Walsall**

**Present:**

Chris Handy	Accord Housing (in the Chair);
Cllr. Adrian Andrew	Walsall MBC;
Paul Brown	EY;
Andrew Cox	Cox & Plant;
Jackie Dunne	University of Wolverhampton;
Lindsey Flynn	Well Associates Ltd;
Cllr. David Hosell	Sandwell MBC;
Ninder Johal	Nachural Communications;
Cllr. Ian Kettle	Dudley MBC;
Cllr. Roger Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton; and
Tom Westley	Westley Group.

**In Attendance:**

Simon Tranter	Walsall MBC;
Sarah Middleton	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Katherine Birch	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Ian Cribbes	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Peter Smith	BEIS; and
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Consortium Ltd.

**Apologies:** Councillors Bird, Eling, Harley and Simon Eastwood, Prof. Geoff Layer, Stewart Towe and Deborah Williams.

Public - 0

137/18 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

138/18 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were circulated.

**Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

139/18 **Policy Update**

The meeting considered the following Policy Updates: -

- i. LEP Review Update – Members noted that the overall update would be given in private session.
- ii. Birmingham City Council – Clean Air Zone (CAZ) – ABCA response and presentation – Stuart Everton provided a presentation highlighting the ABCA response and detailing the impact of the CAZ and which vehicles would be affected.
- iii. UK Export Strategy – it was noted that the aim was to increase exports from 30% to 35%.
- iv. Garden City – BC Submission – the meeting was advised that there was another round of proposals from Government and a need for the LEP to identify suitable locations to cluster together, for a bid to be submitted. The Chair welcomed the approach, as this would include existing settlements.
- v. Boundary Commission – proposed new constituencies – this was noted.
- vi. Letter received from Head of European Social Fund – the letter was circulated detailing that because of exchange rate changes more funding had been made available.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note the Policy update.

140/18 **WMCA Board meeting decisions**

The meeting received the decisions of the WMCA Board held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**Agreed** – that the WMCA Board decisions from the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, be noted.

141/18 **5G – Urban Connected Communities**

The meeting was advised that the WMCA had been successful in their bid to be a testbed area for 5G.

Reference was made to paragraph 3.8 regarding the need for a funding package to accelerate deployment of 5G. It was noted that a request had been submitted for £250,000 to support this accelerated deployment. Whilst the initiative was to be welcomed there needed to be a granular review to fully understand the benefits for Black Country businesses.

Lindsey Flynn asked how 5G would work through the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and public sector reform. She was advised that the potential to provide accelerated performance for businesses across the region.

Ninder Johal noted that the BC coverage appeared poor and Cllr. Ian Kettle, added that the first tranche went elsewhere, with potential that it would be a further five years until the second deployment was reached. Sarah Middleton acknowledged that the spatial coverage was not balanced and there should be an assumption that it could work anywhere within the BC but there was a need to map the base infrastructure. She stated that the comments of the LEP Board would be fed back through the WMCA.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board notes: -

- 1) The detail of what 5G will provide;
- 2) Notes the proposed next steps from Government;
- 3) Note the 5G survey is to be sent to all Black Country stakeholders from the LEP, along with the arrangements for maintaining communications and PR activity during the period prior to roll out of any 5G solutions, ensuring continued engagement with local authorities, local councillors and community organisations.
- 4) Notes the request for additional funding from the WMCA, and indications the LEP has provided; and
- 5) That further updates be submitted to the Board.

142/18 **Transport Projects Update**

Stuart Everton provided his Clean Air Zone presentation and the meeting received an update on the following projects: -

- i54 Western Extension
- Dudley Interchange
- Portersfield Development
- Westside Highways Improvements Wolverhampton

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note the transport update.

143/18

### **Commonwealth Games (CG) – Terms of Reference and BC LEP Champion Update**

Lindsey Flynn presented the report, acknowledged the work undertaken by the Active Black Country Director and stated that the BC CG Steering Group would agree a strong vision and sense of purpose with the aim to get the legacy right for the BC. She stated that there was a clear narrative emerging for the BC and that the legacy would be aligned to existing priorities across the LEP, to include businesses, skills, health and wellbeing, as well as sport.

Lindsey Flynn highlighted the need for lead from each local authority, with the ability to approve actions. The aim was for an initial stakeholder consultation in November with the specific actions and priority areas to be reported back to the LEP Away Day in December.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) The LEP board approves the revised Terms of Reference for the Black Country CG steering group;
- 2) Endorses a Black Country stakeholder consultation exercise to be held November 2018;
- 3) Provides initial feedback on the headline themes for the Black Country CG Legacy Framework;
- 4) Identifies Local Authority representatives to represent the 4 Authorities on the steering group;
- 5) Acknowledges the development of an outline business case for additional capacity to develop and coordinate the Black Country CG Legacy Framework.

144/18

### **Local Programme Dashboards**

The meeting received the following dashboards: -

- In Flight Current Financial Year
- Future Years

- Pipeline
- Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)
- Growing Priority Sectors
- Enterprise Zones

**Agreed** that the LEP Board receive and note the updates on the respective dashboards.

145/18 **Local Growth Fund – Managing Short Trips Change Request**

The Managing Short Trips Change Request was submitted.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approves the Change Request for the Managing Short Trips Tranche 2 Project from within the Growth Deal Programme; and
- 2) Notes that the Change Request relates to a change in scope.

146/18 **Funding Sub-Group – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

The Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were submitted.

**Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 be confirmed and approved.

147/18 **LEP Core and Strategic Funding Report**

The LEP Core and Strategic Funding Report was submitted.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approve the LEP funding and expenditure position as at 31st March 2018.
- 2) Approve the Programme Office and SEP Proposition Funding expenditure at 31st March 2018.
- 3) Agree the 2017/18 expenditure and carry forward figures (Core £158,128 and Strategic £116,173).
- 4) Agree that Walsall MBC continue to operate as Accountable Body.

148/18 **PR and Comms Report**

Ninder Johal presented the report.

**Agreed** that the report and dashboard be noted.

149/18 **Date of Next Meetings 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Agreed** that the LEP Board notes that the next meeting would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 at Dudley College.

150/18 **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).

151/18 **Private minutes of the LEP Board – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

The Private Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were submitted.

**Agreed** that the minutes of the private session of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

152/18 **WMCA – Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Consultation**

The Board were advised of the current direction of travel and the timescales for the forthcoming consultation on the LIS.

**Agreed:** -

- 1) That the LEP Board note the update on the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS); and
- 2) Note the arrangements for the forthcoming West Midlands LIS consultation.

153/18 **LPIF Dashboard**

**Agreed** that the LEP Board receive and note the LPIF dashboard.

154/18 **Phoenix 10**

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Note the contents of the report and details provided regarding the ongoing due diligence that is required to ensure that the Phoenix 10 project will meet the requirements of the Accountable Body and the Joint Committee for approval.
- 2) Recommends that the Joint Committee approve the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Walsall Council to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Phoenix 10 Project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.
- 3) Approve in principle a maximum grant, detailed in the private minutes, for the Phoenix 10 project from the Black Country allocation of the Land and Property Investment Fund;
- 4) The approval is subject to meeting the conditions outlined in paragraph 3 of this report and within section 5 of the report submitted to and approved by the Advisory Board on 3rd September 2018, and subject to the satisfaction and approval of the Accountable Body.

155/18 **M6 Junction 10**

**Agreed** that the Black Country LEP Board note the contents of this report, and the progress of the project.

156/18 **Birchley Island**

**Agreed** that the Black Country LEP Board note the contents of this report, and the progress of the project.

157/18 **LEP Review Update**

The proposed principles of the Black Country LEP response was provided and a discussion ensued.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board support the suggested principles of the Black Country LEP response to the Review with specific reference to

the determining the 'geography' as outlined in the Annex B table in the report.

(The meeting closed at 4.50pm)