

**Note of an 'Away Day' Session of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 12.30pm**  
**at GTG Centre, Bearings Drive, Wednesfield**

**Present:**

Stewart Towe	Chairman;
Paul Brown	Ernst & Young;
Cllr Sean Coughlan	Walsall MBC
Simon Eastwood	Carillion plc;
Chris Handy	Accord Group;
Ninder Johal	Nachural Communications;
Cllr Ian Jones	Sandwell MBC;
Prof Geoff Layer	Wolverhampton University
Jat Sharma	Walsall College;
Cllr David Sparks	Dudley MBC;
Tom Westley	Westley Group.

**In Attendance:**

Paul Linton	Employment & Skills Board
Peter Suddock	Visit The Black Country Partnership
Mike Hawes	NES Ltd;
Kim Rowlands	BIS;
Keith Ireland	Wolverhampton CC
John Polychronakis	Dudley MBC;
Paul Sheehan	Walsall MBC;
Sarah Middleton	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Nick Bubalo	Sandwell MBC;
Simon Neilson	Walsall MBC;
Phil Coyne	Dudley MBC;
Laura Shoaf Director	Black Country Transport
Heather Clarke	Wolverhampton CC;
Delma Dwight	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Wayne Langford	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Colin Parker	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Nigel Easom	Black Country Consortium Ltd;

**Apologies:** Councillors Cooper and Lawrence and Andy Cox.

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**Away Day Session – Presentations and Discussion – Confidential Item**

The focus of the session was to:

- to develop LEP Board thinking on the implications of the move towards a combined authority;
- Contribute to the design of and facilitate a strengthened pipeline for the delivery of the SEP

In moving toward these objectives the session considered:-

- The impact of the current project pipeline.
- The perspective of Government;
- The progress of the development of Team Black Country
- The progress of discussions on a Combined Authority,
- Presentations on potential developments in nuclear processing and foundry industries
- Presentations by the Directors of Regeneration and BCC Chief Executive on “Game Changing propositions” around themes of HVM City, a programme of Black Country Urban Garden Villages, a skills system that fits, Public Service Reform, Black Country transport proposal

The Group discussed the propositions and the feedback is summarised in the ‘Black Country proposition’ appended to this note.

In concluding the discussion emphasis was given to the need for the Black Country to be able to align resources to make progress and establish a ‘route map’ towards its objectives.

The Board **Agreed** proposals for the appointment a SEP Delivery Director and a Verto Management System Operator (Programme Management Officer), subject to further consideration of the salary of Delivery Director to reflect the responsibilities of the post, and adopted the ‘mission statement’ appended to these notes to form the basis for further work on the strategic direction of the Partners and the

development of the SEP. Further reports will be submitted on the steps in implementing and monitoring progress towards these aims

Session closed at 4.20pm.