



**18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 3.00pm**  
**The Hub, Walsall College, Little Street West, Walsall**

**Present:** Stewart Towe Chair;  
Simon Eastwood Carillion plc;  
Paul Brown Ernst & Young;  
Chris Handy Accord Group;  
Patrick Harley Dudley MBC;  
Lee Jeavons Walsall MBC;  
Roger Lawrence City of Wolverhampton;  
Tom Westley Westley Holdings;  
Lowell Williams Dudley College.

**In Attendance:** Paul Sheehan Walsall MBC;  
Sarah Middleton Black Country Consortium Ltd;  
Delma Dwight Black Country Consortium Ltd;  
Rachel Goodwin Black Country Consortium Ltd;  
Wayne Langford Black Country Consortium Ltd;  
Peter Smith BEIS;  
Hywel Ruddick Black Country Consortium Ltd.

**Public attendees** - 1

**Apologies:** Councillors Coughlan, Eling and Moore and Andy Cox, Ninder Johal and Geoff Layer.

89/17 **Chairman's announcements**

It was noted that this would be Paul Sheehan's, Chief Executive of Walsall MBC, last attendance at a BC LEP Board meeting before his forthcoming retirement. The Chairman thanked him for his support for the BC LEP over the years and work undertaken to support the aims of the Board.

It was noted that this was Wayne Langford's last meeting of the BC LEP Board prior to him moving to a new role with a new university consortium, on a three-year secondment. The Chairman thanked him for his work for the BC LEP.

90/17 **Declarations of Interest**

Lowell Williams declared his pecuniary interest in the Dudley College application, Minute No. 108/17 and took no part in the voting or consideration of this item. He left the meeting during its consideration.

Tom Westley declared his non-pecuniary interests in Minute No. 109/17 the Elite Centre for Manufacturing and Dudley College 108/17.

91/17 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were circulated.

**Agreed** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

92/17 **Policy Update**

The following updates were submitted: -

- a) LEP Review;
- b) 2017 Budget;
- c) Fostering More Industrious Places – getting the devolution revolution back on track;
- d) M54 to M6/M6 Toll Link Road Options: Public Consultation;
- e) Freedom of Information requests;
- f) House of Commons;
- g) Growth Company;
- h) Garden City Panel.

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

93/17 **West Midlands Combined Authority Update (WMCA)**

Cllr. Roger Lawrence provided an update on the WMCA.

The meeting was advised of the decisions taken at the respective WMCA Board meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

It was noted that Birmingham had been chosen as the UK's prospective Commonwealth Games City, should the Government decide to submit an English bid.

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

94/17 **Energy Capital Programme**

The meeting was advised of the work being undertaken collectively at WMCA with the three West Midlands LEPs, in launching the Energy Capital Partnership, to facilitate regional economic development through a strategic approach to energy investments. It was noted that the Black Country had initiated the concept of Energy Innovation Zones, which was one of the fundamental policies driving the development of the Energy Capital Programme ask for the next round of Devo Deals at WMCA level.

It was noted that the Black Country and the other two WM LEPS had been successful in securing funding of £120, 000 aligned to Energy Capital for the deployment of: -

- A programme of energy demand mapping focused particularly on manufacturing energy demand to build (working with industrial partners) to build the evidence base for investment in future energy projects in the Black Country
- A CA-wide study to develop an outline business case for the concept of Energy Innovation Zones, a key part of the Energy Capital/CA energy strategy and currently under discussion with government as part of the Devo Deal negotiations;
- The opportunity would fund some initial technical resource to support and develop the five defined Energy Capital workstreams in facilitating LEP and CA energy strategy delivery across all three LEPs;
- Work would be undertaken to consolidate existing work into a single high level WMCA energy strategy as requested by BEIS at the Energy Capital Steering Group. The work would summarise how the LEPs will work together through Energy Capital to deliver shared objectives – namely to optimise energy systems and economic opportunities across our geography.

Tom Westley welcomed the initiative and stated that there was a need to progress it quickly.

**Agreed:** -

- 1) That the LEP Board note the leading role played to date by the Black Country in shaping the Energy Capital Initiative;
- 2) That the Board notes the content of the report and endorses the aligning of the Energy Innovation Zones with the Black Country Enterprise Zones as a focus for mapping work.

95/16 **Black Country Strategic Economic Plan – Update and Pipeline – Investment Plan**

The meeting received presentations on the SEP information in relation to the City North Gateway and City East Gateway to Walsall Town.

It was noted that BEIS had welcomed this approach as it included the ambitions.

Reference was made to the key statistics and the need to get local people into jobs. It was highlighted that the BC LEP was the only LEP in the West Midlands that had saw a positive movement in apprenticeship opportunities in the last 12 months.

The Chairman welcomed the presentation of the information which provided an integrated way to look at all connected activity being undertaken.

**Agreed**

- 1) that the LEP Board receive and endorse the Place based information on the City North Gateway and City East Gateway to Walsall Town; and
- 2) that the presentation slides be circulated to all Board Members.

96/17 **Local Growth Fund Programme Dashboards**

Rachel Goodwin provided updates on the respective Dashboards.

**Agreed** that the Board note and receive the Local Programme Dashboards.

97/17 **Very Light Railway and Autonomous Technologies**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for the refurbishment of Very Light Railway and Autonomous Technologies.

**Agreed: -**

That the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approve the funding request for the Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies project. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £18,494,243 with delivery to commence in the 17/18 financial year; and
- 2) Note that the project be part funded through the Growth Deal to the value of £13,070,000 (for which funding had been earmarked) and the balance to be funded through the Land and Property Investment Fund; and
- 3) Note that a formal proposal to confirm this funding split will be brought back to the LEP Board in October.

98/17 **Accessing Growth - Springfield Campus – Site Investigation**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for additional funding for the Accessing Growth - Springfield Campus – Site Investigation.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board approve the funding request for the Springfield Campus - Site Investigation project from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £83,195 with delivery to commence in the 17/18 financial year.

99/17 **Springfield Campus Interchange Phase 2**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Site Investigation for the Springfield Campus Interchange Phase 2

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the funding request for the Springfield Campus Interchange Phase 2 project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Noted that additional grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £550,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

100/17 **Sandwell Residential Programme – Site Investigation**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Sandwell Residential Programme – Site Investigation.

**Agreed: -**

That the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approve the funding request for the Sandwell Residential Programme - Site Investigation project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that the additional grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £62,244, with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

101/17 **Walsall College Digital Engineering and Construction expansion**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Walsall College Digital Engineering and Construction expansion.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the funding request for the Walsall College Digital Engineering & Construction project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that additional grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £984,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

102/17 **Accessing Growth - Westside Link – Wolverhampton Development**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Accessing Growth - Westside Link – Wolverhampton Development.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the funding request for the Westside Link, Wolverhampton Development project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note the grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £155,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

103/17 **City North Gateway – Phase 1**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for City North Gateway – Phase 1.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the funding request for the City North Gateway – Phase 1 project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that the grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £6,371,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

104/17 **Accessing Growth – City North and City East Gateway – Major Scheme Development**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Accessing Growth – City North and City East Gateway – Major Scheme Development

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the additional funding request for the City North and City East Gateway – Major Scheme Development project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that the additional grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £420, 000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

105/17 **Aldridge Mill Lane & Aqueduct GRIP 3 (LTB)**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Aldridge Mill Lane & Aqueduct GRIP 3 (LTB).

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the Additional Funding request for the Aldridge Mill Lane & Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that the additional grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £70,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

106/17 **Former Severn Trent Works – Site Investigation**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Former Severn Trent Works – Site Investigation.

**Agreed** That the LEP Board approve the Change Request for the Former Willenhall ST Works project from within the Growth Deal programme to transfer £8,085 of funding allocated to the Former Willenhall ST Works - Site Investigation from 2017/18 financial year into 2018/19.

107/17 **Very Light Rail SEED Funding**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Very Light Rail SEED Funding

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the Change Request for the Very Light Rail SEED Funding project from within the Growth Deal programme, to transfer £188,963 of SEED funding, allocated for advanced works for the VLR project, from 2016/17 financial year into 2017/18; and
- 2) Note that it was anticipated that the defrayed expenditure would be claimed in Quarter 2 of 2017/18.

108/17 **Dudley College Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Dudley College Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre

**Agreed** that the LEP Board approve the Change Request for the Dudley College Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre project from within the Growth Deal programme to transfer £92,753 funding allocated for the Dudley College Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre project, from 2016/17 financial year into 2017/18.

(Lowell Williams declared his pecuniary interest in the Dudley College Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre application, and took no part in the voting or consideration of this item. He left the meeting during its consideration.

(Tom Westley declared his non-pecuniary interest and reserved his right to speak and vote, should he decide to do so)



109/17 **Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board approve the Change Request for the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) project from within the Growth Deal programme and endorse the transfer of £24,266 into 2017/18.

(Tom Westley declared his non-pecuniary interest and reserved his right to speak and vote, should he decide to do so)

110/17 **Managing Short Trips Tranche 2**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Managing Short Trips Tranche 2.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board approve the Change Request for the Managing Short Trips Tranche 2 project within the Growth Deal programme and endorse the request for route SAN05: Oldbury Towpath linking to Smethwick development sites and on into Birmingham cycle links be replaced with DUD04: Deepfields Bridge to Factory Junction Towpath Improvements.

111/17 **Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre – Additional Funding Request**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre – Additional Funding Request.

**Agreed:** -

- 1) that the LEP Board approve the Additional Funding request for the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre project from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that additional grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £223,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

112/17 **Black Country Growth Hub – Additional Funding Grant Agreement Approval**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Black Country Growth Hub – Additional Funding Grant Agreement Approval.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board approve for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement to the value of £328,000 with City of Wolverhampton Council to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding within the 2017/18 financial year.

113/17 **Growing Priority Sectors – A&M EDM Ltd**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the application received for Growing Priority Sectors – A&M EDM Ltd.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the A&M EDM Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £58,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

114/17 **Growing Priority Sectors – Liberty Performance Steels Ltd**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the application received for Growing Priority Sectors – Liberty Performance Steels Ltd.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the Additional Funding Request of £127,000 for the Growing Priority Sectors project, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Approve the Funding Request for Liberty Performance Steels Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 3) Note that grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £127,000 with delivery to commence in the 17/18 financial year.

115/17 **Growing Priority Sectors – Millennium Pressed Metal Ltd**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the application received for Growing Priority Sectors – Millennium Pressed Metal Ltd.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the Millennium Pressed Metal Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £70,000 with delivery to commence in the 17/18 financial year.

**116/17 Growing Priority Sectors – Repose Furniture Ltd**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the application received for Growing Priority Sectors – Repose Furniture Ltd.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the Repose Furniture Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £73,000 with delivery to commence in the 17/18 financial year.

**117/17 Growing Priority Sectors – R P Technology Ltd**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the application received for Growing Priority Sectors – R P Technology Ltd.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the R P Technology Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) Note that grant funding was to be awarded to the value of £78,603 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

**118/17 Growing Priority Sectors – Hawthorn Trading Ltd**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the application received for Growing Priority Sectors – Hawthorn Trading Ltd.

**Agreed**

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve the Hawthorn Trading Ltd Project Change Request, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and

- 2) Note that the additional funding was to be awarded to the value of £30,000 with delivery to commence in the 2017/18 financial year.

119/17 **Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were submitted.

Simon Eastwood, Chairman of the Funding Sub-Group, advised that in addition to the items reported for LEP Board approval his Group had received updates on the Growth Deal Provision of Development Fund for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) and Walsall MBC. He also advised of the project applications that the Group had not approved.

**Agreed: -**

- 1) That the Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be approved and confirmed;
- 2) That it be noted that the reports on the Growth Deal Provision of Development Fund for Walsall and Sandwell MBC had been submitted, with Walsall MBC having allocated the full £250k profile and Sandwell MBC having committed £95,500;
- 3) That the applications not approved by the Group be noted: -
  - a) Growing Priority Sectors – First Components Ltd
  - b) Smart Waste Ltd.
  - c) Grand Post House.

120/17 **Draft Minutes of the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

The Draft Minutes of the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 were submitted.

Chris Handy highlighted the following key points, considered at the meeting: -

- Smart Cities – needed to be explored in greater details.
- LA Core Strategy – Chris Handy advised that this was to set the Core Strategy for the four BC Local authorities through to 2036, stated that this was currently out to consultation and encouraged all Board Members to input into the consultation.
- HCA representation was now embedded on the Advisory Board;

- Energy Capital and Garden City were integral in order to deliver the ambition of 40,000 homes.

It was noted that currently the SEP ran to 2033, whilst the Core Strategy was being revised to 2036.

**Agreed:** - that the draft minutes of the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 be received and noted;

121/17 **Black Country Executive Joint Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The decisions of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were submitted.

**Agreed**

That the decisions of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be noted.

122/17 **PR and Communications Update**

The Board received the regular update on PR activity since the last meeting and updates on work to improve response rates to e-communications from the LEP.

**Agreed** that the report be noted.

123/17 **Dates of Future Meeting**

The dates of future meetings were noted, with the next meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at a Dudley venue.

124/17 **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.

125/17 **Commonwealth Games Bid**

The meeting was advised of the ongoing work of the BC LEP with WMCA, Birmingham City Council and the other two West Midlands LEPs.

**Agreed**

- 1) That the LEP Board note and confirm the Black Country LEP's position as outlined in the Chairman's letter, that the "in principle" expression of support for the Aquatics Centre, be subject to full appraisal in accordance with the BC LEP Assurance Framework;
- 2) That the LEP Board note, the Government has indicated they are prepared to fund 75% of the net cost of the Games.
- 3) That the LEP Board note that the WMCA, at their meeting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017: -
  - a) Approved a capital contribution of £25 million towards the 2022 Commonwealth Games, subject to the conditions outlined in their report;
  - b) Delegated authority to the Director of Finance together with the WMCA Investment Board to enter into any necessary agreements with Birmingham City Council relating to the £25 million capital contribution; and
  - c) Noted that more work was to be undertaken on the games village.

126/17 **Minutes of the Directors meeting**

**Agreed** that the minutes of the Directors meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be confirmed and approved.

(The meeting closed at 4.15pm)