

Black Country LEP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

23rd July 2018 at 3.00pm

**Business Solutions Centre, Wolverhampton Science Park,
Glaiser Drive, Wolverhampton**

Present: Chris Handy in the Chair;
Cllr. Adrian Andrew Walsall MBC;
Paul Brown Ernst & Young;
Simon Eastwood Carillion Developments Ltd;
Lindsey Flynn Well Associates Ltd;
Cllr. Bill Gavan Sandwell MBC;
Ninder Johal Nachural Communications;
Cllr. Ian Kettle Dudley MBC;
Cllr. Roger Lawrence City of Wolverhampton; and
Tom Westley Westley Group.

In Attendance: Mark Taylor City of Wolverhampton;
Sarah Middleton Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Katherine Birch Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Ian Carey Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Robbie Chahal Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Ian Cribbes Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Delma Dwight Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Peter Smith BEIS; and
Hywel Ruddick Black Country Consortium Ltd.

Apologies: Councillors Bird, Eling, Harley and Vickers and Prof. Geoff Layer, Jatinder Sharma, Stewart Towe and Deborah Williams.

Public - 0

91/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Tom Westley declared his personal interest Minute No. 104/18 – Growing Priority Sectors Thomas Dudley Foundry Ltd, insofar as he knew the Managing Director, and took no part in the consideration or voting thereon.

92/18 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2018 were circulated.

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2018, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

93/18 **Notes of the LEP Board Away Day meeting held on 11th June 2018 and Progress**

The Notes of the LEP Board Away Day held on 11th June 2018 and Progress update were circulated.

The meeting was advised that the outcomes arising from the Health & Care Sector Task & Finish Group would be reported up to the Board.

Agreed: -

- 1) That the Board note and confirm the outcomes of the Away Day contained in the Action Note; and
- 2) That the Board note the update on the Health & Care Sector Task & Finish Group, held on 9th July 2018.

94/18 **Policy Update**

The meeting received an update on the following matters: -

- i. PM Council of LEP Chairs – 19th June 2018
Stewart Towe had attended and advised that Greg Clarke MP had commented on the good work being done in the Black Country. The PM Council of LEP Chairs would continue on a bi-annual basis.
- ii. Health and Care Task and Finish Group

Initial gapping and mapping work had been undertaken; providers had been identified; consideration was being undertaken on innovation in the sector; and the outcome would be reported through to the next Policy Away Day.

- iii. Careers Hubs
BC LEP had been successful in securing funding to establish a BC Careers Hub.
- iv. LEP Review Update
- v. Government White paper – The Future Relationship between the UK & EU
- vi. LEP Network – LEP Review Section 151 Officer CIPFA consultation response

Agreed that the LEP Board note the Policy Updates.

95/18

West Midlands Combined Authority

- i. WMCA Appointments 2018/19
- ii. Leadership Commission
- iii. Regional Skills Strategy
- iv. 5g Connected Communities
- v. Mayors Business Advisory Board
- vi. Midlands Connect Sub-National Transport Body Proposal – WMCA Mayor response
- vii. Northern Powerhouse – LEPs – NP11

Cllr Roger Lawrence provided an update on the two meetings held since the Board last met, with particular reference to the State of the Region report, produced by BC Economic Intelligence Unit and the Police and Crime Commissioner discussions at the WMCA Board meeting on 20th July 2018.

In regard to the specific items the following comments were made: -

- Regional Skills Strategy – linked to this was a bid by the WMCA for a Skills Deal and this would be reported to a future meeting of the LEP Board.
- 5g Connected Communities – the current bid boundaries were noted and it was noted that there needed to be a greater

coverage for the Black Country to enable “smart” factories and the Industry 4.0.

Comments were made with concerns expressed regarding the coverage and it noted that the BC had originally been left behind on 4g coverage and did not want to be left behind on the introduction of 5g. There needed to be better coverage to support the BC economy. The meeting was advised that 4g was now at 99.6% coverage across the BC, with the exception of the City of Wolverhampton. The Chair commented there was a strong argument for better coverage and this could be outlined by the Smart Cities Group.

- Mayors Business Advisory Board – the meeting had been attended by the Chair.
- Midlands Connect Sub-National Transport Body Proposal – WMCA Mayor response – the Mayors response was provided for information.
- Northern Powerhouse – LEPs – NP11: The meeting was advised that Government had provided funding for the 11 LEPs within the Northern Powerhouse to establish a secretariat and hold regular meetings under the NP11 banner. It was noted that the West Midlands LEPs had met as a group since the inception of LEPs with the secretariat being provided by BCC Ltd.

Agreed

- 1) that the Board noted the update on the WMCA;
- 2) that Board Members note the appointments to the WMCA and associated Boards;
- 3) that the WMCA be asked if a substitute member can be appointed to the Investment Board; and
- 4) that Members be asked for nominations to the Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism Advisory Group; and
- 5) that an update on the WMCA Skills Deal bid would be reported to a future meeting.
- 6) that the BC Smart City Group be asked to consider the 5g proposal by WMCA.

96/18

WMCA State of the Region – Key Messages

The key messages of the WMCA State of the Region report were outlined with a summary of the Performance Management Framework table. On a question the meeting was advised that the data provided could be shown on at each LA level.

The Chair noted that the BC was still behind on many national averages.

Paul Brown queried if there was information on the Midlands Engine (ME) region and it was noted that the ME were bidding to have their own Observatory.

It was observed that there was a need to promote the positive messages with the strongest PMF for the BC being the growth in business births.

Agreed that the LEP board note the key findings of the WMCA State of the Region for the Black Country.

97/18

Commonwealth Games and Developing a Legacy

The meeting was advised of the creation of BC steering group being established for the Commonwealth Games and the Terms of Reference were submitted.

With regard to a Commonwealth Games Champion member were supportive of appointing Lindsey Flynn to the role given her background with the London 2012 and other high-profile projects.

Councillor Bill Gavan advised that in his role as Cabinet Member, the Sandwell Aquatics Centre was under his portfolio.

Ninder Johal advised that John Crabtree, Chair of the 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee wanted to have links with the BC.

Agreed that the LEP board –

- 1) Acknowledge the work completed to date and the opportunity provided by CG2022;
- 2) Receive and provide input to the Director of ABC on the terms of reference for the proposed Black Country Commonwealth Games steering group.
- 3) Appoint Lindsey Flynn as the CG2022 Black Country LEP Lead;
- 4) Appoint Cllr Bill Gavan to the CG2022 Black Country Steering Group;
- 5) Acknowledge the draft plan and receive a report and developed legacy plan at the September 2018 LEP board meeting; and

- 6) Acknowledge the Active Black Country nomination to the Black Country CG2022 steering group.

98/18

Black Country Local Industrial Strategy – Approach and Emerging Themes

The meeting was advised that building on our recent work at the West Midlands level, Black Country Consortium had started to develop a Black Country Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). The Black Country LIS would build on and assist in delivering the Strategic Economic Plan, which sets out key actions to deliver the region's 2033 ambition.

A brief summary of the work undertaken so far at the West Midlands level was detailed: -

- Produced draft sector action plans for Automotive, Aerospace, Construction, Creative, Life Sciences, Metals & Materials, Rail.
- Developed an emerging evidence pack, working with BEIS analysts and sharing expertise with Greater Manchester, to ensure that the WM LIS is comprehensive and meeting Government expectations.
- Work was underway to establish an independent evidence panel to test the conclusions arising from the significant pieces of evidence the WM had amassed.
- Identification of 9 WM 'opportunity spaces' through Grand Challenges work and grounding it into the reality of WM policy.
- Further refinement of BC contribution to the Grand Challenges with WM policy teams for TfWM, Office for Data Analytics and others.
- Significant WM engagement to secure buy in and input including businesses via BROs and with University Vice-Chancellors.
- Linked local sector teams into national sector leads and sector deals. Meetings with the sector expert for Automotive and Office for Life Sciences team held.
- Integrating Skills and Productivity Commission recommendations into WMIS along with other Commission recommendations.
- Undertaken national engagement with Government, including Number 10 SPADs and MHCLG DGs. Ongoing dialogue with What Works Centre, Centre for Cities and GMCA.

It was noted that a future Board meeting would receive the BC LIS and how it "nested" into the WM LIS.

Reference was made to battery technology, 5g and the metals sector in the BC and the BC Metals Sector Action Plan was highlighted.

Peter Smith advised that C&W LEP were doing something similar and suggested that it would be good for BC LEP to compare notes to ensure all fitted together.

Agreed that the LEP Board:

- 1) Note the Black Country's emerging development of a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), both within and outside the WMCA.
- 2) Support the development of a Black Country LIS, providing feedback on the initial programme areas and suggestions for additional areas of focus.
- 3) Provide ongoing engagement on the LIS development, eventually agreeing a key set of actions/asks that will underpin the strategy.

99/18 **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

The meeting was advised that the PMO had submitted the final claim submission to BEIS of £31.16m, which was slightly under forecast by approximately £100k and that continued work was being undertaken with Walsall MBC regarding housing outputs. Peter Smith advised that this was a good achievement for BC LEP.

With reference to the LPIF and the initial allocation of £53m the meeting was advised that approximately £18m of grant has been allocated to the following projects: BC Music Institute, Dudley Brownfield land, Goscote Lane, Brownfield Research and Innovation Centre and Springfield Site Investigation. Currently a number of further schemes were being appraised with the view that they would be reported through to the BC Joint Committee on 26th September for a final decision.

The Chair welcomed the geographical distribution of schemes across the BC.

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

100/18 **Growing Priority Sectors – A&M EDM Ltd**

Agreed: -

- 1) that the LEP Board approves the A&M EDM Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme; and
- 2) that grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £50,000 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

101/18 **Growing Priority Sectors – Mellish Engineering Ltd**

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Mellish Engineering Services Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £178,740 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

102/18 **Growing Priority Sectors – Professional Polishing Services Ltd**

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Professional Polishing Services Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £50,000 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

103/18 **Growing Priority Sectors: Strimech Ltd**

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Strimech Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £75,228 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

104/18 **Growing Priority Sectors: Thomas Dudley Foundry Ltd**

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Thomas Dudley Foundry Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £315,000 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

(NB Tom Westley declared his personal interest in this item insofar as he knew the Managing Director of Thomas Dudley Foundry Ltd and took no part in the consideration or voting thereon).

105/18 **Growing Priority Sectors – Vanity Hall Ltd**

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Vanity Hall Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £81,765 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

106/18 **Growth Deal Project Change Request – Dudley Brownfield Land Phase 1**

Agreed that the LEP Board approves -

- 1) Approves the Change Request for the Dudley Brownfield Land Improvement Programme - Phase 1 Project from within the Growth Deal Programme. Grant funding of £416,213 is to be removed from future years of the programme; and
- 2) Notes that this Change Request relates to a reduction in scope.

107/18 **Black Country Living Museum (BCLM)**

Lindsey Flynn advised that it would be link this project to the digital agenda and Sarah Middleton advised that work could be undertaken with Andrew Lovatt, Chief Executive of the BCLM to consider added value to the project.

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Living Museum, to the value of £9,000,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Black Country Living Museum – Forging Ahead project - with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

108/18 **Tibbington (The Cracker) Site Investigation**

Agreed that the LEP Board:

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a

Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council, to the value of £23,800 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Tibbington Open Space (The Cracker) Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year; and

- 2) Notes that the Site Investigation is to be underwritten by Sandwell Council.

109/18 **Funding Sub-Group – 4th July 2018**

The Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 4th July 2018 were submitted.

Agreed that the minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 4th July 2018, to include all recommendations and conditions contained therein be confirmed and approved.

110/18 **BC Growth Hub Business Plan**

The meeting was advised that the business plan sets out the Growth Hub's ambitious but realistic aims and objectives for the next three years, with the recognition that core funding had been allocated for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years, and that discussions were on-going about the potential to extend the current European Regional Development Fund which supports the direct delivery of business engagement and support.

It provided clarity to the partners, the Local Enterprise Partnership and BEIS on the Growth Hub's priorities and sets out the actions which all partners will take to realise them.

Agreed that the LEP Board approve the BC Growth Hub Business Plan 2018-20, subject to the final confirmation of the Executive Summary by the BC Strategic Growth Hub Board.

111/18 **Draft Minutes of the Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board – 24th May 2018**

Paul Brown presented the Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board minutes and highlighted: -

- WM Growth Company (WMGC) business plan – a representative of WMGC to attend the September meeting.

- AN energy update from Tom Westley.
- Growth Hub discussions.
- Dept of International Trade presentation and further work required on the impact of their projects/trade visits.

Agreed that the draft minutes of the Employment & Skills Theme Advisory Board held on 24th May 2018 be noted.

112/18 **Draft Minutes of the Place Making & Land Theme Advisory Board – 24th May 2018**

Sarah Middleton presented the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board minutes and highlighted: -

- A presentation on the Light Railway had been received.
- Garden City had been considered.
- Update on UNESCO Global Geo-park.
- Homes England – discussion on investment.
- Smart Cities – moving forward with 5g and updated Terms of Reference.
- Update on energy provided.
- Focus on Apprenticeship Training availability across the construction sector.

Agreed that the draft minutes of the Place Making & Land Theme Advisory held on 5th June 2018 be noted.

113/18 **PR and Communications Report –2018**

Ninder Johal presented the report and highlighted the success of the Made in the Black Country campaign.

Agreed that the report be noted.

114/18 **Date of Next Meetings –7th August 2018 and 17th September 2018**

Agreed that the dates of future meetings be noted.

115/18 **Any Other Business – City of Wolverhampton College**

Agreed that the LEP Board confirm the nomination of Sarah Middleton to become a governor at the City of Wolverhampton College.

116/18 **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).

117/18 **Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships**

The meeting was provided with an initial overview of the LEP Review, which was under a Government embargo until the formal launch.

Agreed that the initial overview of the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships be noted.

118/18 **Black Country Consortium Ltd. Directors meeting**

The Directors meeting considered the following matters: -

BCC Ltd Business Plan
Minutes of the Audit held on 29th May 2018

(The meeting closed at 4.20pm)