

Black Country LEP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

16th August 2018 at 3.00pm
Dudley College, The Broadway, Dudley

Present:

Stewart Towe	Hadley Group;
Cllr. Mike Bird	Walsall MBC;
Jackie Dunne	University of Wolverhampton;
Simon Eastwood	Carillion Developments;
Lindsey Flynn	Well Associates Ltd;
Cllr. Bill Gavan	Sandwell MBC;
Chris Handy	Accord Housing;
Ninder Johal	Nachural Communications;
Prof. Geoff Layer	University of Wolverhampton;
Cllr. John Reynolds	City of Wolverhampton;
Jatinder Sharma	Walsall College; and
Cllr. David Vickers	Dudley MBC;

In Attendance:

Tim Johnson	City of Wolverhampton;
Simon Tranter	Walsall MBC;
Sarah Middleton	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Katherine Birch	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Robbie Chahal	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Ian Cribbes	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Peter Smith	BEIS; and
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Consortium Ltd.

Apologies:

Councillors Andrew, Eling, Harley and Lawrence and Paul Brown, Andrew Cox, Tom Westley and Deborah Williams.

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119/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Jackie Dunne, Ninder Johal and Prof Geoff Layer declared their respective pecuniary interests in Minute 126/18 and Minute 129/18, took no part in the voting and left the room during the consideration of these items.

Minute No. 126/18 - **Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills – change request**

Minute No. 129/18 - **School of Architecture and Built Environment – approval**

120/18 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2018 were circulated.

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2018, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

121/18 **Policy Update – LEP Review**

The meeting considered the LEP Review published by the Government and potential outcomes for the LEP.

The timescale of reporting back on the geography issue of 28th September 2018 and an Implementation Plan by end of October were noted.

The Chair commented that he felt the BC LEP was fine as part of the cohesive whole, as there were no boundary overlaps. However, he noted that there was a broader issue of the Worcestershire LEP and Stoke and Staffordshire LEP.

Peter Smith advised that Government wanted the decision to be made locally, thus no single solution had been put forward. It was noted that LEP overlaps were not acceptable to Government as there was a need for transparent decision making.

Sarah Middleton advised that the collaboration the BC undertook with partners should make a powerful point and Cllr. Mike Bird highlighted

that the BC had its own identity and that collaboration was cross-party for the benefit of the area.

Ninder Johal commented on the issue of “local” and advised that any bigger and the local business voice would be diluted. He noted that the main geography problem was with Birmingham and Solihull LEP. He stated that the BC LEP had performed within the region and questioned what Government wanted.

Peter Smith advised that the overlapping geographies was a “red line” for Government; that they felt 38 LEPs was too many; CA relationships should be considered as most had a single LEP, co-terminus with their boundaries. However, reflecting local communities and business communities, there was not one single solution and Government wanted to work with LEPs and not impose a solution.

Prof Geoff layer observed that Government Policy was to value the “place” agenda and that a CA LEP would resemble a regional development authority. AS BC LEP had been high performing then the focus should remain on place and delivery.

On a question on the CA view it was noted that the Mayor was supportive of no change.

A view was expressed that the GBSLEP and C&W LEP should be talking together.

Agreed that the LEP Board note the LEP Review update and associated comments.

122/18 Local Programme Dashboards

The meeting received the following dashboards: -

- In Flight Current Financial Year
- Future Years
- Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)

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.

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

123/18 **Changes to Growth Deal Programme – Approval of 2017/18 Year End Position**

Agreed that the LEP Board approve the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and, to maximise the 2017/18 Growth Deal allocation expenditure, requests approval for various changes appended to the Decision Notice.

124/18 **Growing Priority Sectors (GPS) – Lathams Security Doorsets Ltd**

Agreed that the LEP Board approve the Lathams Security Doorsets Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding to be awarded to the value of £250,000 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

125/18 **Growing Priority Sectors – Recycled Plastics Ltd**

Agreed that the LEP Board approve the Recycled Plastics (UK) Ltd project, part of Growing Priority Sectors, from within the Growth Deal programme. Grant funding is to be awarded to the value of £200,000 with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

126/18 **Change Request – Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills**

Agreed that the LEP Board

- a) Approves the Change Request for the Elite Centre Manufacturing Skills Project from within the Growth Deal Programme; and
- b) Note that the Change Request relates to a change in scope.

(NB Jackie Dunne, Ninder Johal and Prof Geoff Layer declared their respective pecuniary interests in the item, left the room and took no part in the voting or consideration thereon.)

127/18 **Change Request – Wolverhampton Interchange**

Agreed that the LEP Board

- a) Approve the Change Request for the Wolverhampton Interchange Project from within the Growth Deal Programme; and

- b) Notes that the Change Request relates to a reduction in outputs.

128/18 **Narrowboat Way Site Investigation**

Agreed that the LEP Board

- a) approves the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Blackacres Property Ltd, to the value of £48,747 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Narrowboat Way Site Investigation project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year; and
- b) Notes that the Site Investigation would be underwritten by Blackacres Property Ltd.

129/18 **School of Architecture and Built Environment**

Agreed that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Wolverhampton City Council), to proceed to a Grant Agreement with University of Wolverhampton to the value of £3,520,000 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the School of Architecture and Built Environment project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

(NB Jackie Dunne, Ninder Johal and Prof Geoff Layer declared their respective pecuniary interests in the item, left the room and took no part in the voting or consideration thereon.)

130/18 **i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton**

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 Ion Property Development Limited (IPDL), to the value of £3,722,477 to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the i9 (Block 9) Wolverhampton project - with delivery to commence in the 2018/19 financial year.

131/18 **Phoenix 10**

Agreed that the LEP Board 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.

132/18 **Withdrawal – Parkrose Industrial Estate**

Agreed that the LEP Board

- a) Noted the withdrawal of the Parkrose Industrial Estate – Main Scheme project from the Land and Property Investment Fund; and
- b) Noted that the removal of the scheme would create capacity of £757,839 for future Land and Property Investment Fund bids.

133/18 **Funding Sub-Group – 7th August 2018**

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

Agreed that subject to the insertion at Minute 107/18 of “Minute No. 113/18 School of Architecture and Built Environment” in respect of Ninder Johal’s declaration of interest, the minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2018 be confirmed and approved.

134/18 **Date of Next Meetings 17th September 2018**

Agreed that the dates of the next meeting be noted.

135/18 **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).

136/18 **Phoenix 10**

Agreed that the LEP Board 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.

(The meeting closed at 4.05pm)