



16th October 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;
Paul Moore Sandwell MBC;
Tom Westley Westley Holdings;
Lowell Williams Dudley College.

In Attendance: Sarah Middleton Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Delma Dwight Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Rachel Goodwin Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Paul Mellon Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Peter Smith BEIS;
Hywel Ruddick Black Country Consortium Ltd.

Apologies: Councillors Coughlan, Eling, Jeavons, Lawrence and Andy Cox and Deborah Williams.

127/17 **Declarations of Interest**

Tom Westley declared his non-pecuniary interests in the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills and Dudley College.

128/17 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2017 were circulated.

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2017, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

129/17 **Policy Update**

The following updates were submitted: -

- a) Industrial Strategy
- b) Policy Away Day
- c) Harder to help disabled People
- d) Changes to improve access to apprenticeships for people with learning difficulty and / or disability
- e) Small Business Charter – Opportunities on the Management Board
- f) Autumn Budget 2017
- g) Institutes of Technology Update
- h) Future Funding

In regard to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) the meeting was advised that this would be a consideration for the LEP Board Away Day in December. The meeting was advised that there was need to highlight the cross LEP working to the WMCA Mayor's office.

A discussion ensued on the sectors that would feed into the LIS to include the work around digital with HVM City and BIM (Building Information Modelling), which would feed into each sector. It was noted that the WMCA Productivity and Skills Commission work would need to be reflected in the LIS. The Chair advised that there was a need to focus on place based themes in the LIS, with the context how it fitted into the national Industrial Strategy. It was noted that the LEP had the SEP delivery for the LIS.

BEIS advised that the launch of the Industrial Strategy would be Spring 2018 with the intention that all was in place ready for 2019.

Reference was made to the WMCA SEP Board, attended by the Chair and Professor Geoff Layer. It was noted that the Life Sciences presented a potential opportunity of inward investment and with reference to a question on resources the meeting was advised that the other two WMCA LEPs were reliant on the BC Economic Intelligence Unit to inform their economic strategies.

With regard to delivering the Place based agenda across the identified BC corridors, it was observed that the landscape now had other inputs

to include Midlands Engine, WMCA, the Mayor and his offices, the WM Growth and thus the BC should focus on their strengths.

Agreed that the LEP Board note the Policy Update.

130/17 **West Midlands Combined Authority Update (WMCA)**

The meeting was advised of the decisions taken at the WMCA Board meeting held on 13th October 2017.

The meeting was also advised of cross LEP collaboration work and that the Black Country Economic Intelligence Unit had dedicated time to provide support to both C&W LEP and GBSLEP.

Further collaborative work had been undertaken with GBSLEP and C&WLEP in regard to them: -

- linking into the original Black Country supported HVM Platform – providing a wider catchment area for both contracts and potential contractors;
- the Innovation Alliance – the three LEPs undertaking joint discussions with the West Midlands Universities with a view to establishing a private sector led Innovation Board;
- the three Growth Hubs across the three LEP geography were undertaking joint working;
- working with the Growth Company to produce a Business Simplification model;
- the three LEPs working together to support the Combined Authority West Midlands 3 LEP Strategic Economic Plan Board – the three LEPs’ provided officer time and support to report through to the Board, which was jointly chaired by the three LEPs respective Chairmen, with the BC Economic Intelligence Unit and the BC Secretariat providing data and Board support.

The Chair advised of the Branding update given to the WMCA SEP Board and expressed concerns with how it had developed, moving away from the original concept of reflecting the seven constituent local authorities. It was noted that the WMCA Board had established a Sub-group to consider the branding and that consultation would also be undertaken on the proposed LEP element of the WMCA branding.

Councillor Paul Moore advised that Sandwell MBC were not supportive of the “Make Your Mark” brand, as it was not meaningful to the region.

Agreed: -

- 1) That the LEP Board note WMCA decisions from 13th October 2017; and
- 2) That the LEP Board note the three LEP Collaboration across
 - i. Innovation Alliance
 - ii. HVM City
 - iii. Growth Hubs joint working
 - iv. SEP Board – 3 LEPs
 - v. Growth Company – Business Simplification model BC EIU.

131/16 **Black Country Strategic Economic Plan – Wednesbury to Brierley Hill**

The meeting received presentations on the SEP information in relation to the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill corridor.

Reference was made to the key statistics and the need to get local people into jobs.

The Chairman welcomed the presentation of the information which provided an integrated way to look at all connected activity being undertaken. The meeting was advised that a key element was the sequencing of projects, especially with the transportation infrastructure.

Agreed that the Board receive and endorse the place-based propositions as detailed in the report - Wednesbury to Brierley Hill.

132/17 **Local Growth Fund Programme Dashboards**

Paul Mellon provided updates on the respective LGF Dashboards and Stuart Everton provided an update on Transportation.

It was noted

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

133/17 **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) that the VLR project be fully funded through the Growth Deal programme by creating additional capacity in the Growth Deal funding sufficient to absorb the full £18.5m bid;
- 2) that the Middlemore Lane scheme be removed from the Growth Deal programme to create this additional capacity; and
- 3) that a condition of this project and other high value projects, to include the Music Institute, be to have a senior officer of BC LEP represented on the Project Board to mitigate the risk of the project not progressing in accordance with the approved timescales.

134/17 **Sandwell Residential Programme – Site Investigation**

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

Agreed that the Change Request to transfer the funding award of £62,244 from 2017/18 into 2018/19 be approved.

135/17 **Moxley Tip – Site Investigation**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received Moxley Tip Site Investigation.

Agreed: -

- 1) that, following the cost savings made on the Alexander Metals SI, £23,298 is transferred to fund the additional work undertaken at the Moxley Tip site; and
- 2) that officers seek clarification on the expenditure and the reported costs of the project £21,630 and report back to the next meeting.

136/17 **Funding Proposal for Management and Administrative Functions**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Funding Proposal for Management and Administrative Functions.

<u>Additional Funding</u>		<u>17/18</u>	<u>18/19</u>	<u>19/20</u>	<u>20/21</u>	<u>21/22</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
<u>LEP</u>	<u>Capital</u>		<u>181,000</u>	<u>181,000</u>	<u>181,00</u>		<u>543,000</u>	<u>543,000</u>

PMO								
Walsall	Capital		<u>175,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>		<u>525,000</u>	<u>525,000</u>
Transport Director	Capital		<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>		<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
		<u>0</u>						<u>1,368,000</u>

Additional Funding		<u>17/18</u>	<u>18/19</u>	<u>19/20</u>	<u>20/21</u>	<u>21/22</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
Walsall (Interest)	Revenue	<u>122,192</u>	<u>129,379</u>	<u>137,757</u>	<u>155,366</u>	<u>137,652</u>	<u>560,154</u>	<u>682,346</u>
Total M&A		<u>122,192</u>	<u>129,379</u>	<u>137,757</u>	<u>155,366</u>	<u>137,652</u>	<u>560,154</u>	<u>682,346</u>

Additional Funding		<u>17/18</u>	<u>18/19</u>	<u>19/20</u>	<u>20/21</u>	<u>21/22</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
Grand Total		<u>122,192</u>	<u>585,379</u>	<u>593,757</u>	<u>611,366</u>	<u>137,652</u>	<u>1,928,154</u>	<u>2,050,346</u>

Agreed that the LEP Board approve the administrative costs of supporting effective programme development delivery and ongoing monitoring of schemes funded through the Growth Deal, to continue to be recovered through a top slice of the total fund as set out in the above table.

137/17 Middlemore Lane

The LEP Board gave consideration to the bid received for Middlemore Lane.

Agreed

That the LEP Board:

- 1) Approve to remove the Middlemore Lane project from the Growth Deal programme.
- 2) Note that removal of this scheme will create capacity of £4,033,395 for future Growth Deal scheme bids.
- 3) Note that a revised Middlemore Lane bid is anticipated to come forward for consideration against the Land and Property Investment (LPIF) Programme.

138/17 Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group – 3rd October 2017

The Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 3rd October 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

Agreed that the Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 3rd October 2017 be approved and confirmed.

139/17 **Walsall Waterfront Project**

The LEP Board gave consideration to the Change Request received for the Walsall Waterfront Project.

Agreed that the LEP Board approve the Change Request for Walsall Waterfront project from within Growth Deal Programme in regard to grant funding of £20,000 from 2016/17 to 2017/18.

140/17 **Draft Minutes of the Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board 2017**

The Draft Minutes of the Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board held on 19th September 2017 were submitted.

Paul Brown highlighted that the Midlands Engine Investment Fund had been launched with two elements of the Fund available now – the Debt Fund and the Small Business loans, with the other 2 elements out to tender.

Agreed: - that the draft minutes of the Competitiveness Theme Advisory Board held on 19th September 2017 be received and noted;

141/17 **Draft Minutes of Employment and Skills Theme Advisory Board – 10th October 2017**

The Draft Minutes of Employment and Skills Theme Advisory Board – 10th October 2017 were submitted.

Agreed that the draft minutes of Employment and Skills Theme Advisory Board held on 10th October 2017 be noted.

142/17 **PR and Communications Update**

The Board received the regular update on PR activity since the last meeting.

Agreed that the report be noted.

143/17 **Dates of Future Meeting**

The dates of future meetings were noted, with the next meeting to be held on 20th November 2017 at NMC, 47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich.

144/17 **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.

145/17 **Directors Business**

- a) Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 21st September 2017;
and
- b) Audited Accounts – Year Ending 31st March 2017

(The meeting closed at 4.15pm)