

BLACK COUNTRY LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Monday, 18th January 2021 at 3.00pm

DECISION NOTICE

Min No	Item	Decision
	Apologies and welcome	<p>Tom Westley – Chair; Cllr Adrian Andrew – Walsall MBC; Cllr Ian Brookfield – City of Wolverhampton; Paul Brown – EY; Kevin Davis - The Vine Trust; Martin Dudley – Thomas Dudley Ltd; Rachel Eade MBE - Red; Cherry Elliott – Higgs & Sons; Maxine Espley – Accord Group; Chris Handy – Accord Group; Cllr. Patrick Harley – Dudley MBC; Ninder Johal – Nachural Communications; Prof Geoff Layer - University of Wolverhampton; Cllr Danny Millard – Sandwell MBC; Amanda Tomlinson – Black Country Housing Group;</p> <p>Apologies Cllrs Mike Bird, Maria Crompton and Paul Brown, Prof. Nazira Karodia and Jatinder Sharma.</p>
1/21	<p>Declarations of Interests (relating to this meeting and notification of any changes that require the Declaration of Interest form to be revised.)</p> <p>Gift Register - to notify the Company Secretary of any gifts or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 which you receive in your role as a member of the LEP.</p>	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board note that there were no declarations or gifts made at the meeting.</p>
2/21	<p>Decision – quorum required Minutes of the LEP Board held on 14th December 2020</p>	<p>Agreed that the minutes of the LEP Board held on 14th December 2020 be confirmed and approved.</p>
3/21	<p>Confirmation of New Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maxine Espley, Executive Director Accord Group • Martin Dudley, Managing Director, Thomas Dudley Ltd 	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board: -</p> <p>1) Note that following formal interview by the Chair and Chief Executive, that the four Black Country Consortium Ltd Guarantee Members</p>

		<p>(the four local authority leaders) had approved the appointment of the applicants to be Non-Executive Directors of the Consortium and consequently, LEP Board Members.</p> <p>2) Note and endorse the appointment of Maxine Espley, Executive Director, Accord Group, and Martin Dudley, Managing Director, Thomas Dudley Ltd.</p> <p>3) Note that the recruitment campaign was ongoing and that the requirement was to achieve a Board that had a 50/50 gender split by 31st March 2023.</p>
4/21	Annual General Meeting – arrangements – 22 nd February 2021	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board: -</p> <p>1) Note the advice received from Higgs & Sons, in respect to the provisions of the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020, which allowed for AGMs to held virtually, had been extended through to 31st March 2021, thus enabling a virtual AGM of the BCC Ltd to be held as advised on 22nd February 2021; and</p> <p>2) Approve and confirm the arrangements for the AGM to include the agenda and arrangements for public questions.</p>
5/21	Local Growth Deal - Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre project	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement to the value of £650,000 with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.</p>
6/21	Get Building Fund Programme Approval - Capital and Revenue Funding	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <p>1) Approves the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to use the revenue funding of £25,000, and capital contingency funding of £12,625, for:</p> <p>a) Walsall Council to carry out its role as Accountable Body to</p>

		<p>the Getting Building Fund programme;</p> <p>b) the Black Country Consortium for the Management and Administration functions of the Getting Building Fund, and;</p> <p>c) Walsall Council to cover the costs of the external legal and technical fees in support of managing the programme.</p> <p>2) Approves the reprofile of project funding allocation for 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.</p>
7/21	Growing Places Fund Wolverhampton Canalside	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <p>1) Approve for Sandwell Council to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF) funded elements of the Wolverhampton Canalside project with delivery to conclude in the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>2) Note that the change request relates to the removal of outputs, as the scope of the original project has changed significantly.</p>
8/21	Land and Property Investment Fund - Programme Change Request Approval recommendation: LPIF Programme Extension	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <p>1) Approve that the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund programme, be reprofiled to allow expenditure and outputs to be claimed up to March 2025.</p> <p>2) Approves that programme management costs, within this fund be reprofiled for an additional year to March 2026, to ensure that the expenditure and outputs are audited in line with the Black Country Assurance Framework.</p>
9/21	Land and Property Investment Fund - Sandwell Housing Gap Funding	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board:</p> <p>1) Approve the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Land</p>

		<p>and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1 project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>2) Notes that the financial forecast for the grant award has changed, and differs to what is scheduled in the contract with the Accountable Body.</p>
10/21	Growth Hub EU Transition Business Readiness Programme Approval	<p>Agreed that the LEP board confirm approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd for the additional award of EU Transition Business Readiness Growth Hub Grant Funding with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.</p>
11/21	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public: - '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 for the reasons stated on the agenda'. Agenda (Not Open to Public and Press) Exempt Information Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p>	<p>Chair to move 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 for the reasons stated on the agenda'. Private session as it is the LEP Policy Away Day</p>
12/21	Policy Away Day Agenda	<p>Agreed that the LEP Board end and the Policy Away Day Session commence.</p>
13/21	Date of Next Meeting	<p>Agreed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that the LEP Board noted that the next meeting would be held on 22nd February 2021; 2) that the LEP would commence following the Black Country Consortium Ltd – AGM, scheduled at 3.00pm.