

Black Country LEP

Public Minutes of a Meeting of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

18th November 2019 at 3.00 pm
National Metalforming Centre,
47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6PY

Present:

Chris Handy	in the Chair, Accord Group;
Cllr. Adrian Andrew	Walsall MBC;
Cllr. Ian Brookfield	City of Wolverhampton;
Paul Brown	EY;
Cllr. Yvonne Davies	Sandwell MBC;
Kevin Davis	The Vine Trust;
Prof Jackie Dunne	University of Wolverhampton;
Rachel Eade	Red Limited;
Simon Eastwood	Eastwood Consulting;
Cherry Elliott	Higgs & Sons;
Lindsey Flynn	Well Associates;
Chris Handy	Accord Group;
Cllr. Ian Kettle	Dudley MBC;
Prof Geoff Layer	University of Wolverhampton;
Jatinder Sharma	Walsall College;
Amanda Tomlinson	Black Country Housing Group;
Tom Westley	Westley Group; and
Deborah Williams	Active Black Country Chair.

In Attendance:

David Stevens	Sandwell MBC;
Sarah Middleton	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Richard Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton;
Katherine Birch	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Lara Cragg	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Prof Delma Dwight	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Rebecca Hill	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Kelly Valente	Walsall MBC; and
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Consortium Ltd.

Apologies: Councillors Mike Bird and Patrick Harley and Stewart Towe.

Public – 0

182/19 **Declarations of Interest**

Minute No. 186/19 Local Growth Fund – Bilston Urban Village East – Site Investigation

Simon Eastwood, Chris Handy and Ninder Johal, as Members of the Accord Group Board, declared their respective interest in the application, took no part in the consideration or voting thereon and left the room during the consideration.

Dudley College Institute of Technology – Tom Westley declared his interest as a Board Member insofar as any item might relate to the College. There were no items on the Agenda.

There was nothing to add to the Gift Register.

Agreed that the respective Declarations be noted.

183/19 **Minutes**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2019 were submitted.

Agreed that the public minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2019 were received and confirmed as correct.

Strategy

184/19 **Policy Update**

The meeting received updates on the following: -

- LEP Board – Progress on Recruitment of Chair
- Towns Fund Prospectus
- BC LEP December Away Day
- West Midlands Creative Scale Up Programme
- Midlands Engine Investment Fund
- UK-China Leaders' Summit

EIU Statistics

- Earnings
- Exports

Agreed that the LEP Board note and receive the respective Policy updates.

Delivery

185/19 **Local Programmes – Dashboard**

Lara Cragg presented the dashboards.

Growth Deal –

Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) –

Enterprise Zones –

Growing Places –

Agreed that the updates on the following dashboards be noted: -

- In flight Current Financial Year
- Future Years
- Pipeline
- LPIF (Public)
- Growing Priority Sectors
- Growing Places
- Enterprise Zones

186/19 **Local Growth Fund – Bilston Urban Village East – Site Investigation**

Lindsey Flynn took the Chair and presented the item. She advised that the Site Investigation had been delivered under budget of the Grant Agreement and thus the amendment to the grant agreement would see money coming back into the LGF monies.

Agreed that the LEP Board: -

- a) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with

Wolverhampton City Council from £69,059 to £58,225 and revised leverage from £44,000 to £37,097, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Bilston Urban Village East Site Investigation project to enable finalisation of outputs and project closure; and

- b) Note that there was a positive outcome of an underspend on the Site Investigation. The LEP funds were underspent by £10,834 and the applicant's leverage reduced by a further £6,903.

(NB

1) Simon Eastwood, Chris Handy and Ninder Johal, as Members of the Accord Group Board, declared their respective interest in the application, took no part in the consideration or voting thereon and left the room during the consideration; and

2) Lindsey Flynn took the Chair during the consideration of this item.)

187/19 **Minutes of the Employment & Skills Theme Advsiory Board**

Prof Jackie Dunnee .

Agreed that the LEP Board note the contents of the draft minutes of the meeting of the Active Black Country Partnership Board Held on 24th September 2019.

188/19 **Draft minutes of the Place Making & Land Theme Adviosyr Board – 18th September 2019**

The Chair

Agreed that the LEP Board receive and note the decisions of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee held on 25th September 2019.

189/19 **PR and Communications**

Ninder Johal

Agreed that the PR and Communications dashboards for September be received and noted.

190/19 **Date of Next meeting**

Agreed that the LEP Board note that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 18th November 2019 at the NMC, 47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6PY.

191/19 **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).

Governance

192/19 **Private Minutes of the LEP Board held on 21st October 2019**

The Chair presented the private minutes of the LEP Board held on 21st October 2019.

Agreed that the Private Minutes of the LEP Board meeting held on 21st October 2019, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

193/19 **Local Industrial Strategy Update**

Agreed That the LEP Board: -

- a. Considered the wider mid-year economic review and potential challenges that these will have on the implementation of the Local Industrial Strategy and endorse the approaches being taken to mitigate;
- b. Discussed the emerging approach being taken to the Future of Mobility new opportunity and the related auto sector action plan;
- c. Discussed early emerging thinking on the future of business growth support in the West Midlands, looking ahead to future funding;
- d. Agreed to the the more detailed approach being taken to implementation and delivery, set out in the report;
- e. note progress being made and note emerging future funding asks of Government; and
- f. Agreed the next steps on engagement and communication.

194/19 **Private Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group – 6th November 2019**

The Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 6th November 2019 were submitted.

Agreed that the LEP Board approve and confirm the minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 6th November 2019.

Delivery – Local Growth Fund

195/19 **City Learning Quarter (CLQ)**

Agreed that the LEP Board: -

- a) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council for an additional £88,025, (the original grant award of £120,000 allocated to the city centre campus) to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the City Learning Quarter Site Investigation project with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year; and
- b) Notes that the additional funding request relates to the Bilston Campus and is to be underwritten by Wolverhampton City Council. Any Site Investigation funds will be considered revenue and are subject to standard clawback conditions, until such time as a capital scheme is delivered.

196/19 **Local Growth Deal Changes to The Growth Deal Programme – Approval of the 2018/19 Year End Position**

Agreed that the LEP Board: -

- a) Approves the current position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all the changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and, to maximise the 2018/19 Growth Deal allocation expenditure, requests approval for various changes detailed in the private minutes; and

- b) Note that Sandwell MBC require clarification on the projects detailed in the attachment.

197/19 **Risk Register**

Lara Cragg presented the Risk Register and advised that an updated report would be submitted to the next meeting.

With reference to specific projects it was noted that there needed to be a strategic conversation on future priorities at the LEP Away Day.

Agreed: -

- 1) that the Risk Register and the respective risks be received and noted;
- 2) that the PMO be requested to develop a scoring matrix, so that the level of risk could be tracked and monitored.

(The meeting closed at 4.45pm)