

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

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 3.25 pm**  
**National Metalforming Centre,**  
**47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich B70 6PY**

**Present:**

Stewart Towe	Chair;
Chris Handy	Accord Group;
Cllr. Ian Brookfield	City of Wolverhampton;
Paul Brown	EY;
Kevin Davis	The Vine Trust;
Rachel Eade	Red Limited;
Simon Eastwood	Eastwood Consulting;
Lindsey Flynn	Well Associates;
Chris Handy	Accord Group;
Ninder Johal	Nachural Communications;
Prof Geoff Layer	University of Wolverhampton;
Cllr. Danny Millard	Sandwell MBC
Jatinder Sharma	Walsall College;
Amanda Tomlinson	Black Country Housing Group;
Cllr David Vickers	Dudley MBC;
Tom Westley	Westley Group; and
Deborah Williams	Active Black Country Chair.

**In Attendance:**

Kevin O'Keefe	Dudley MBC;
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;
Kelly Valente	Walsall MBC; and
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Consortium Ltd.

**Apologies:** Councillors Adrian Andrew, Mike Bird, Yvonne Davies and Patrick Harley and Prof Jackie Dunne and Cherry Elliott.

Public – 1

## **Governance**

### 1/20 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made and there was nothing to add to the Gift Register.

**Agreed** that the update be noted.

### 2/20 **Minutes**

The Public Minutes of the LEP Board held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were submitted.

Ninder Johal advised that he had been present but omitted from the list of attendees.

#### **Agreed**

- 1) That, subject to the inclusion of Ninder Johal in the list of those present, the public minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were received and confirmed as correct; and
- 2) that the actions identified above be carried forward to the LEP Away Day, when rescheduled.

### 3/20 **Black Country LEP Assurance Framework – Approval of Revised Assurance Framework**

Sarah Middleton provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Assurance Framework, to include Walsall MBC, as the Single Accountable Body, as detailed in the table below: -

Report Paragraph	Current Change	Proposed Change
3.4.1	All references to the “Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal, Growth Deal and	Amended to – “Black Country Joint Executive Joint Committee”

	Combined Authority” throughout the LEP Assurance Framework	
3.4.2	All references to the “City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority Advisory Board” throughout the LEP Assurance Framework	Amended to – “Joint Committee Advisory Board”
3.4.3	All references to the “City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority” throughout the LEP Assurance Framework	Amended to – “Heads of Regeneration (Working Group)”
3.4.4	Key Abbreviations Updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BCJC Secretary – the BCJC Secretary responsible for preparing the agenda and submitting reports prepared by either of the Councils or other bodies to the Joint Committee, minutes of the Joint Committee, and making arrangements for the publishing in accordance with Access to Information requirements all meetings, agenda, agenda items and minutes as appropriate. The BCJC Secretary and such other officers as may be deemed necessary for the due conduct of the business of the Joint Committee is Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council;</li> <li>- EZ – Enterprise Zones;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GPF – Growing Places Fund;</li>   <li>- SAB – Single Accountable Body</li>   <li>- SAB Working Group – the Single Accountable Body Working Group attended by senior officers at the Single Accountable Body, including Section 151/ nominated Finance officers, and the Chief Executive and the Head of Programme Management Office (PMO) at the BCC Ltd;</li>   <li>- SAB Team – the Single Accountable Body Programme Management Team is led by the Joint Committee Programme Manager. Senior officers at the SAB Team are the Joint Committee Programme Manager, SAB Team Leader and Section 151 and/or nominated Finance officer. Team comprises the Programme Management, Contracting, Governance, Monitoring, Compliance and other officers as may be deemed necessary for the due conduct of the business of the SAB;</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Deal - the Local Growth Fund, City Deal Housing Jobs and Prosperity Pilot, Enterprise Zones, Growing Places Fund, Land and Property Investment Fund, Growth Hub and BC LEP Core and Strategic funding; and any other funds directly allocated to the BC LEP, requiring an accountable body (collectively known as The Deal);</li> <li>- SRO – Senior Responsible Officer is named in the Full Business Case of each project and is responsible for a project meeting its objectives, delivering the required outcomes and realising the required benefits. The SRO steers and champions the project and should ideally hold a senior position within the organisation of the grant applicant and have control or influence over the business area or resources into which the project outcomes will be delivered. Where a grant applicant appoints a third-party organisation to deliver the project (effectively devolves delivery to a third-party organisation) the SRO will have the same role and will</li> </ul>
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		<p>operate to the same principles of transparency and consistency i.e. there will be no devolving of responsibility of the SRO to third party applicants. The SRO will review reports that go through the Assurance Framework governance process for accuracy and completeness. The SRO is responsible for escalating all key project issues internally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSRO – Sponsoring SRO. A SSRO is a named local authority officer in the Full Business Case that is required when the SRO is a non-local authority person because the grant applicant is a third-party organisation. The SSRO will be employed by the local authority in the same geographical area as the grant applicant. SSROs will review reports that go through the Assurance Framework governance process for accuracy and completeness.</li> </ul>
3.4.5	Section 1.3 updated as over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The BC LEP Board has been established since 2012 and currently comprises of up to 20 voting members with up to 5 co-opted</li> </ul>

		<p>Members appointed on an annual basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note: Higher Education Representative – there is one University in the Black Country, the University of Wolverhampton. Representation on the LEP includes the Leaders of the four Black Country Authorities, senior business people who are leaders in their respective fields and education representatives. The LEP requires the leader of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, to be the University representative on the main LEP Board. Whilst it is acknowledged that this is outside of the agreed 8-year term for Board Members, the post holder of Vice Chancellor is the most appropriate representative of the HE sectors and as such has a dispensation to extend the term of tenure, so long as they remain in office. This can be reviewed if another university is created in the Black Country.</li> <li>- Note: The revised tenure, agreed by the LEP Board in May 2018 - that LEP Board Members “will normally</li> </ul>
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		<p>serve for a period of two years, renewable for three further terms subject to approval of the LEP Board” required, at the time, approval of the Black Country Joint Executive Committee, received in September 2018 In accordance with the approval by the BCJC four members will serve through to September 2020, as the Board goes through a transition period. During 2020 the LEP recruitment campaign will continue, with positive action to improve both the gender and ethnic diversity of the Board, when vacancies arise.</p> <p>- All new BC LEP Board members, to include the Chair, (except Council Leaders) appointed post January 2019 will normally serve for a period of three years renewable for one further term subject to the approval of the BC LEP Board and subject to such performance review as the BC LEP Board may establish.</p>
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		- The Black Country has appointed a Board Diversity Champion.
3.4.6	Section 1.7 (Cross LEP Working and Engagement)	Updated in line with the National Assurance Framework requirement for LEPs in MCA areas to publish a statement in their Local Assurance Frameworks outlining respective roles and responsibilities.
3.4.7	Section 3 (Accountable Decision Making)	Updated with Black Country LEP Equality and Diversity Statement & further clarification on the Single Accountable Body Section 151 Officer, whose role in overseeing the proper administration of financial affairs is extended to include those of the Local Enterprise Partnership. Section 3 covers a significant role change for the appointed Single Accountable Body Section 151 Officer, as illustrated by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance, and sets out the principles for Section 151 Officer in relation to overseeing the financial affairs of their Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Section 3 clearly sets out how the funds are to be

		administered and the roles of officers in doing so, including the responsibilities of the Section 151 Officer and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.
3.5	Appendix 10 - Constitution and Functions of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee	As outlined in the para 3.4.1 above
	Appendix 11 - Constitution and Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee Advisory Board	As outlined in the para 3.4.2 above
	Appendix 12 - Constitution and Terms of Reference of the Heads Regeneration / Working Group	As outlined in the para 3.4.3 above
	Appendix 13	BCEJC Collaboration Agreement 2020 (widening the scope to include all funds secured by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership);
	Appendix 24a	All Programmes Monitoring and Assurance Framework Programme (applicable to all funding streams not only Growth Deal)
	Appendix 24b	All Programmes Monitoring and Assurance Framework Projects (applicable to all funding streams not only Growth Deal);
	Appendix 37	Removed - BC Land and Property Investment Fund Project Governance Lifecycle (will follow established governance process outlined

		in the section 4 of the Black Country LEP Assurance Framework)
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Sarah Middleton advised that as well as these changes, as a “live” document subsequent revisions would be required to include Enterprise Zone governance and a “lessons learnt” excursive being conducted by the five Chief Executives (4 local authorities and the Consortium) arising from the growth deal applications, and these would be reported through to future meetings, as and when required.

Councillor Danny Millard queried if the review exercise would speed up the applications process. He was advised that there was a required approval process to be undertaken but that if the review highlighted an area or areas that could be streamlined this would be reported back. The Chair added that the processed, after LEP Board approval were very much for the Accountable Body to review.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board:

- 1) Approves the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework, following the implementation requirements of the new National Local Growth Assurance Framework, and the programme of continuous improvement to further enhance the Black Country LEP governance and transparency above and beyond published government standards, with changes included in the above table: and
- 2) Notes that, as a “live” document, further revisions would be submitted as required.

4/20 **Collaboration Agreement – Black Country Local Authorities and BC LEP**

Sarah Middleton advised of the changes to the Collaboration Agreement between the Black Country Local Authorities and BC LEP, highlighting the new Single Accountable Body, Walsall MBC: -

- That the scope of the Collaboration Agreement is widened and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee will be the body responsible for approving all expenditure associated with the Black Country Growth Deal and City Deal Programmes, West Midland Combined Authority and the funds directly allocated by Government and / or secured by the Black Country Local

Enterprise Partnership and requiring an accountable body, by amending the Constitution and Functions (Terms of Reference) of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, included as in the Appendices Pack.

- That all references to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority throughout the Collaboration Agreement are amended to: Black Country Executive Joint Committee.
- That references to the City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority Advisory Board throughout the Collaboration Agreement are amended to: Joint Committee Advisory Board.
- That all references to the City Deal, Growth Deal and Combined Authority Working Group throughout the Collaboration Agreement are amended to: Heads of Regeneration (Working Group).
- That the following descriptions are added to section 1 (Definitions) part of the Collaboration Agreement as follows:
  - Assurance Framework means the National Assurance Framework as issued by central Government together with the Black Country Assurance Framework, which sets out how this is to be applied and adhered to by all Parties.
  - Deal means City Deal and / or Growth Deal, Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) and / or any subsequent amended or replacement for them as determined by central Government and/ or funding provided by the Combined Authority, generated through any Black Country Enterprise Zone/s and/or any funding secured by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP), requiring an accountable body.
  - End Date means the date specified in any grant or funding agreement by which the agreed activity must have been completed by, and when any claw-back provision may be exercised.
  - Enterprise Zone means those areas specified as such locally or externally and falling within the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnerships area.
  - Single Accountable Body means the Local Authority appointed by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP) and the Joint Committee to act in

- this role to manage on their behalf all funds forming part of the Deal with central Government, the West Midlands Combined Authority or any funding secured.
- Third Party means any organisation which is not a Party to this Agreement.
- That the following clauses are added to the section 3 (Appointment of Roles) part of the Collaboration Agreement as follows:
- Following instructions received from central Government in 2019, the Black County Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP) is required to appoint a Single Accountable Body, effective from 20 February 2020. The Joint Committee will be required to approve the appointment of one of the Authorities into the role of the Single Accountably Body.
  - Working with or to the Single Accountable Body, it may be required to appoint a Lead Authority to deliver agreed projects and/or activities. This appointment will require approval by both the Black County Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP) and the Joint Committee.
- That the following clauses are added to the section 4 (Project Approval) part of the Collaboration Agreement as follows:
- All project will follow / meet the requirements of the central Government National Assurance Framework, as articulated through the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's Assurance Framework. As the Government amends or places additional duties or responsibilities, these will be reflected in the Assurance Framework and must be adhered to by all Parties.
  - Proposals will also be required to seek and secure Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP) approval in accordance with the Assurance Framework as part of the decision-making process and governance arrangements, no projects are to be presented to the Joint Committee unless approved by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BC LEP).
- That the following sections 7A (Rights of the Single Accountable Body) and 7B (National Local Growth Assurance Framework, the Black Country Local Assurance Framework and the Section 151

Officer) are added to the Collaboration Agreement, which is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Kelly Valente referenced the £150,000 security requirement within the agreement - *“If Growth Deal Grant requested is greater than £150,000, you are required to provide security to the Council. Please confirm what form of security against the Grant you propose to offer the Council, if required.”*

She advised that Walsall MBC required this to be removed, thus going forward all applicants, irrespective of the amount of Growth Deal Grant awarded would be required to provide security.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approves the proposed amendments, as detailed above and referenced at 3.6.1 – 3.6.8, to the Collaboration Agreement, covering the widening of the scope of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, its roles and responsibilities, and the Constitution and Terms of Reference.; and
- 2) That the requirement to provide security for Growth Deal Grant apply to all applications under the revised Collaboration agreement.

## Strategy

5/20

### Policy Update

The meeting received updates on the following: -

- Black Country Members of Parliament  
It was noted that the Chair had written to the newly elected and re-elected Black Country MPs. Two had come back to accept the offer of a meeting and the other responses were awaited.
- LEP Board – Progress on Recruitment of Chair  
It was noted that interviews were to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
- BC LEP Away Day
- Annual Performance Review  
It was noted that the APR would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Government had released provisional ratings for the LEP.
- New Government Announcements  
The Chair noted that there was a lot of talk about “The North” from Government where it needed to be “The Midlands and The North”.

Councillor Danny Millard made reference to the “Funds Tracker” and was advised that it showed real time information across spatial geographies, on the set of investment requirements needed, blending private sector and public sector funds. It was noted that the document could be re-titled.

The Chair referenced a number of legacy funds coming forward and stated that there was a need to ensure that the BC received its entitlement.

- WMCA – Climate Change Consultation document

It was noted that the consultation would be reported through the Place Making & Land Theme Advisory Board, with their recommendations coming through to the Board in February.

### EIU Statistics

- Apprenticeship Starts

The meeting was advised of the Apprenticeship Starts across the Black Country to include: -

- In 2018/19 there were 10,300 apprenticeship starts across the Black Country LEP area. This is an increase of 9.4% or 890 in absolute numbers from 2017/18.
- Nationally, the number of apprenticeships increased by 17,580 from 375,800 in 2017/18 to 393,380 (4.7%).
- Apprenticeship starts increased in each of the four local authority areas: Dudley up 7.3%, Sandwell up 11.7%, Walsall up 10.0% and Wolverhampton up 8.9%.
- The number of apprenticeships starts at Intermediate Level decreased by -8.9% across the Black Country - reflecting trends nationally which fell by -11.0%.
- Advanced Level apprenticeships increased by 13.6% compared to the national increase of 5.1%
- Higher Apprenticeships increased by 67.3% compared to 55.7% nationally.

Prof Geoff Layer welcomed the figures which highlighted what the Black Country had got in terms of apprenticeships but stated that there was a need to track what the Black Country required in terms of new apprenticeships.

Lindsey Flynn advised that it would be useful to include the retention rates of the apprenticeships being undertaken.

Sarah Middleton advised that the LEP had brokered a conversation with companies to encourage the use of the levy. Kevin Davis commented on the WMCA levy transfer and stated that it would be useful to see their figures. It was noted that the EIU would liaise with the CA to provide these figures.

Lindsey Flynn suggested that Board Members pre-circulate any questions they had on EIU statistics to the secretariat to enable them to be answered at the Board meeting.

- Gross Added Value and Gross Domestic Product

The Black Country growth rates were highlighted and it was noted that GVA was at an all-time of £21.2BN: -

- In 2018, the Black Country GVA was £21.2bn, up by 2.5% (+£518m) since 2017. Nationally, total GVA increased by 3.1%.
- GVA per head is £17,759, an increase of 1.9% (-£328) since last year. This is compared to a 2.5% increase in England.
- GVA increased in 8 key sectors with 1 remaining the same across the Black Country, the largest increase in percentage terms was seen in environmental technologies at 14.4% (+£125m), followed by an 11.1% increase in the sports sector (+£38m).
- In the Black Country, total GDP was £24.5bn, an increase of 2.3% since last year (+£561), this is compared to a 3.1% increase across England.
- The Black Country GDP per head has increased by 1.7% (+£347) since 2017 to reach £20,518 in 2018. England saw an increase of 2.5%.

It was noted that three boroughs had seen growth, with Sandwell MBC being strong at 7.5%. Walsall had seen a drop.

Chris Handy queried the Walsall factor and was advised that there had been a number of large company closures and a change in profile of the population, within the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Ninder Johal noted that retail had increased following recent press announcements.

Amanda Tomlinson requested that a Deep Dive be undertaken into the Sports Sector.

### **Agreed**

- 1) that the LEP Board note and receive the respective Policy updates; and
- 2) that in relation to Apprenticeship Starts, the actions detailed in respect of what apprenticeships the BC economy required, WMCA Levy transfer, and apprenticeship retentions rates be reported to the next meeting;
- 3) That for future EIU statistical updates, Members be asked to submit their questions in advance of the meeting, to enable them to be answered on the day of the meeting; and
- 4) That a “Deep Dive” be undertaken into the Sports Sector GVA contribution to the BC economy.

6/20

### **Black Country Local Industrial Strategy Implementation**

The Table of Black Country “Asks” was submitted, linked to business support programmes, which totalled £1.4bn and it was noted that in previous years the Black Country had secured £1.2bn.

Rachel Eade referenced that region wide was the CA LIS and asked how did BC initiatives, such as the BC Skills Factory fit in. Sarah Middleton advised it was emerging as a “double header”, she stated that the three WM LEPs did work with the CA but there was also specificity required in each LEP geography, thus there was a regional plan a number of sub-sets.

Ninder Johal referenced Inward Investment was down and exports were red, under the RAG rating. He asked whose role it was to influence these. Rachel Eade advised that there was a need to marry the regional and local plans together. Chris Handy added that the LA level was important too, plus there was a need to consider the “mood music” from the new Government. He welcomed the early engagement with the new MPs, referenced earlier in the meeting.

Paul Brown queried what the WM Growth Company were doing and stated that he would welcome the opportunity for them to attend the LEP Board. Tom Westley commented that they should be lobbying for the WM and Prof Geoff Layer commented that they were active with WM5G and the Springfield site in Wolverhampton, although, given the legacy of Marketing Birmingham, they possibly retained a Birmingham centric view.

Councillor Danny Millard queried where the money was coming from and was advised that the Table in the report showed £2.4bn, in the short term there was £1.4bn and the longer-term projects were £1bn, although these were needed, they were, as yet, unfunded.

Lindsey Flynn asked if it was ambitious enough. Sarah Middleton stated that it did not represent all that was needed and acknowledged that more investment was required.

It was suggested that at the LEP Away Day the ambitions could be revisited.

### **Agreed**

- 1) That the Board note the current priority pipeline 'asks' in the Black Country Implementation Plan; and
- 2) That the West Midlands Growth Company be invited to the next Board meeting to provide an update on investment activity being undertaken in the Black Country and the wider West Midlands.

## **Delivery**

7/19

### **Local Programmes – Dashboard**

Lara Cragg presented the dashboards.

**Growth Deal Dashboards** – she advised that the early indications, subject to some revisions, was that the PMO would meet the £31m target in 2019/20.

In regard to the In-flight and Future Years she advised that she had met with some of the newer members to take them through the dashboards.

Councillor Danny Millard referenced the Outputs regarding performance against planned and targeted outputs. Lara Cragg advised that there was a time lag between for the delivery of outputs but that there was no problem in achieving the targets, apart from the number of business assists. Simon Eastwood added that for the BEIS review they required real time information.

Rachel Eade referenced the risks table, particularly in relation to transport and asked if this had been addressed. She was advised that the Black Country Director of Transport was creating a BC Transport Team, which should address these risks.

**Land and Property Investment Fund** - It was noted that the £53m tranche was fully allocated and that the first project funded, the Music Institute had been delivered on time and within budget. The planning application on the linked residential units had now been submitted.

The Chair advised that an index cover would be useful for members to direct them to the correct dashboards. Lindsey Flynn added that she would like to see some case studies on success stories.

Growing Places – it was noted that the fund was being used for the over programming on the Growth Deal funding.

Enterprise Zone – a report would come to the Board in March as the Accountable Body were working with the three local authorities to develop a consistent funding model to be used by each council. Kelly Valente added that she had produced a consolidated model which had been circulated to the three councils and would be considered by ABCA on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Agreed**

- 1) that the updates on the following dashboards be noted: -
  - In flight Current Financial Year
  - Future Years
  - Pipeline
  - LPIF
  - Growing Priority Sectors
  - Growing Places
  - Enterprise Zones
- 2) that an index be produced for the future dashboard reporting.

8/19

**Local Growth Fund – Daisy Bank Site Investigation**

Simon Eastwood presented the report.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board

- 1) approves the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the funded elements of the Daisy Bank Site Investigation project to enable finalisation of outputs and project closure; and
- 2) Notes that this change request relates to an underspend of £3,005.

9/20

**Local Growth Fund – Wolverhampton Environment Centre Site Investigation**

Simon Eastwood presented the report.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growing Places (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the funded elements of the Wolverhampton Environment Centre Site Investigation project to enable finalisation of outputs and project closure; and
- 2) Notes that this change request relates to an underspend of £2,323.

10/20

**Draft minutes of the Place Making & Land Theme Advisory Board – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

The draft minutes of the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 were submitted.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board receive and note the minutes of the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

11/20 **Draft minutes of the Active Black Country Partnership Board – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The draft minutes of the Active Black Country Partnership Board – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were submitted.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board receive and note the minutes of the Active Black Country Partnership Board – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

12/20 **PR and Communications**

It was noted that: -

- the BC Growth Hub had undertaken a tour of the region to provide business advice in localities.
- Active Black Country had a partnership with the University of Wolverhampton; and
- Formula One in Schools – Leasowes School was in the national finals.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note the update provided.

13/20 **Date of Next meeting**

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

14/20 **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).

15/20 **Private Minutes of the LEP Board held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Agreed** that the private minutes of the meeting would on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

16/20

**Private Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The meeting was advised of a number of updates required: -

Minute 184/19 Black Country Strategic Economic Plan – Growth Deal Report to Funding Sub Group

It was noted that there was a revised spend profile for M6 J10.

Minute 185/19 Black Country Strategic Economic Plan – Enterprise Zone Report to Funding Sub Group

It was noted that the minute should reflect that a further report would be submitted in due course.

Councillor Danny Millard advised that Alison Knight had asked that Minute 187/19 Sandwell Aquatic Centre be revised to capture her comments.

Councillor Danny Millard also advised that Councillor Yvonne Davies wished it to be recorded that she expected the decision on the Birchley Island scheme to be resolved as soon as possible.

**Agreed**

- 1) that, subject to the amendments detailed at Minute 184/19 and 185/19, the private minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 16th December 2019 be confirmed and approved; and
- 2) that the minutes as revised be submitted to the next meeting of the Funding Sub-Group to be held on 5th February 2020;
- 3) that the clarification on Minute 187/19 be noted and reported through to the Funding Sub-Group; and
- 4) that the comments received in respect of Birchley Island be noted.

17/20

**Local Growth Fund – i9 Change Request**

Simon Eastwood presented the report.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board:

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Ion Projects Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the i9 Wolverhampton project from within the Growth Deal Programme.

- 2) Notes that this change request relates to a revised financial spend profile over the project lifecycle, with no change to the overall allocation.

18/20 **Risk Register**

Lara Cragg advised that following comments there had been a change in format, as presented, but that this was a draft of work in progress at the moment. A final draft would be submitted to the next meeting.

The Chair stated that there would be more time allowed at the next meeting to consider the risk register and Chris Handy asked that it incorporates the mitigating actions being undertaken.

**Agreed** that the update and comments be noted.

19/20 **Date of Next meeting**

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

(The meeting closed at 5.00pm)