

**Black Country LEP**

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

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 at 3.00 pm**  
**PB019, Business Solutions Centre,**  
**Wolverhampton Science Park, Glaisher Drive, Wolverhampton**

**Present:**

Stewart Towe	Hadleys;
Chris Handy	Accord;
Cllr. Adrian Andrew	Walsall MBC;
Cllr. Ian Brookfield	City of Wolverhampton;
Paul Brown	EY;
Cllr. Yvonne Davies	Sandwell MBC;
Ninder Johal	Nachural Communications;
Prof Geoff Layer	University of Wolverhampton;
Cllr. Angus Lees	Dudley MBC; and
Tom Westley	Westley Group.

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Harman Banger	City of Wolverhampton;
Cllr. Ian Kettle	Dudley MBC;
Cllr. Brian Edwards	South Staffordshire BC;
Sarah Middleton	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Lara Cragg	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Ian Cribbes	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Delma Dwight	Black Country Consortium Ltd;
Richard Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton;
Helen Martin	Dudley MBC;
Aaron Toussaint	BEIS;
Gareth Wilson	BEIS;
Hywel Ruddick	Black Country Consortium Ltd.

**Apologies:** Councillors Mike Bird and Patrick Harley and Prof Jackie Dunne, Simon Eastwood, Lindsey Flynn, Jatinder Sharma and Deborah Williams.

Public - 0

101/19 **Declarations of Interest**

**Agreed** that the following Declarations be noted: -

Chris Handy declared his pecuniary interest in Minute No. 112/19 – Local Growth Fund Woods Lane Phase 2, left the room during consideration of the item and took no part in the voting or consideration thereon.

Tom Westley declared his interest in any items pertaining to Dudley College and the Elite Centre for Manufacturing if any matter arose in connection with these.

Prof Geoff Layer declared his interest in any items pertaining to the University of Wolverhampton, if any arose in connection with University.

There were no declarations for the Gift Register.

102/19 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were submitted.

**Agreed** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

103/19 **Notes and Outcome of the LEP Away Day – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

The Notes of the LEP Away Day held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 were submitted.

Sarah Middleton highlighted the recommendations that had arose from the discussion groups.

**The Climate Emergency**

The LEP Board was recommended to:

- Exploit the concentration of automotive businesses and expertise in the area to pilot a new diesel scrappage scheme to encourage the use of electric and hybrid vehicles;
- Work with councils, schools, businesses and other partners to raise awareness about the climate emergency and action that can be taken individually and collectively to address it;

- Promote the adoption of good practice across the Black Country on the contribution of planning guidelines and policies;
- Use its contacts in Whitehall to secure government action to support this approach.

She advised that the Agenda contained the Climate Change Evidence pack for the Black Country to commence the conversation and that further reports would follow.

## **Confidence**

The LEP Board was recommended to:

- Improve the way in which the strengths and successes of the Black Country economy are communicated in order to encourage:
- Inward investment, new starts and indigenous growth;
- More deployment of capital spends within existing businesses;
- People to see the area as a great place to live and work.
- A one-page narrative which everybody could use as a core script;
- The production of more industry case studies;
- Mobilising the private sector voice more effectively.

She advised that reports would be submitted to future meetings.

## **The next big thing**

The LEP Board was recommended to convene a commission of national (and potentially international) experts to help shape a programme of activity to establish the Black Country as an investable location using a focus on improved health and wellbeing to grow the business base and revitalise the area's town centres with technological and digital innovation at the core.

She advised that reports would be submitted to future meetings.

## **Social Mobility**

The LEP Board was recommended to:

- Encourage the pooling of data and networks to identify gaps and opportunities – for example lack of BAME participation in apprenticeships, parental perceptions of the value of apprenticeships (compared with degrees) and the needs of children in care and offenders;

- Work with employers, employees and schools to maximise opportunities – for example, enabling and incentivising small businesses to participate, lobbying for more flexible use of the apprenticeship levy.

### **The WMCA**

The business board members agreed to work with the four Black Country Councils to ensure that a strong, coherent and compelling Black Country voice was articulated in WMCA discussions and decision-making.

The LEP board was recommended to communicate to the WMCA its expectation that the authority will:

- Make better use of the expertise available in the LEPs and constituent councils;
- Integrate its activities more closely with the those of the LEPs and councils working in the spirit of principles such as “one team” and “no surprises”.

**Agreed** that the Notes of the LEP Away Day held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 be received and confirmed as a correct record

104/19

### **Policy Update**

- Public Accounts Committee Report

The meeting was advised that the focus of the Public Accounts Committee was primarily related to the Department and how they captured each LEPs’ performance. It was noted that as well as extensive dashboards on funding streams to include Local Growth Fund, Enterprise Zones and Land and Property Investment Fund, that the LEP attended all four local authority scrutiny committees, at least once during each municipal year. The issue of overlapping boundaries still required to be resolved.

- LEP Network

The LEP Network had an evolving approach and was establishing formal peer reviews, with the Black Country paired with Cheshire and Warrington LEP and updates on this approach would be submitted to future meetings.

The Chair advised that there was a meeting of WM LEP Chairs on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 and he would report back to the next meeting.

➤ LEP Women Leaders

Cllr. Yvonne Davies referenced the 150 senior women business leaders and entrepreneurs and asked what the ethnicity breakdown of the attendees was. It was agreed to provide this.

➤ Black Country EIU Statistics

- Experimental Statistics: Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty in England, 2019 (2017 data)

The meeting was advised that 66,000 people across the Black Country were living in fuel poverty, which was higher than the national average. There were a number of actions seeking to address this, one of which was the work being undertaken on Energy Capital.

Chris Handy highlighted the incidence of excess winter deaths and that some people, whilst “asset rich” as a homeowner were “savings poor”. Tom Westley highlighted that within the Energy Capital work stream consideration was being given to tackle fuel poverty.

Councillor Yvonne Davies highlighted the issues of insufficient finances and inadequate homes, and there was potential to reduce fuel costs by addressing issues with the home.

The Chair suggested that the local authorities should share information of what was working, as it appeared that Dudley MBC were having some success. There was then the question of what the LEP could do to support a shared approach. Sarah Middleton highlighted that through the Garden City approach, consideration was given to retro-fitting existing housing, although this would require a bigger investment.

- Homes England Housing Statistics: 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

The report detailed the number of housing starts and housing completions during 2018 -19.

- Enterprise Research Centre Benchmarking Local Innovation 2019

Reference was made to the Innovation Index and it was noted that the Black Country had improved its ranking across most of the innovation indicators utilised in the study and now was in the top 10 of all LEPs in five categories: product/service innovation, process innovation, collaboration, marketing innovation and new methods of work organisation. For the latter, the study ranked the Black Country as ranked number 1 of all LEPs.

Ninder Johal asked what factors had led to improvements and what factors had had a negative impact. Cllr Yvonne Davies asked for a breakdown on the size of employers.

- Black Country Mid-Year Population Estimates

It was noted that the Black Country population was growing and in 2018 was 1.19m residents, an increase of 0.6% from 2017. The Black Country LEP also had one of the youngest populations with 21.2% being between 0-15 years of age.

Sarah Middleton advised the LEP that work was being done to feed in views of young people into the Board.

- Black Country CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Estimates – 2017

It was noted that there was a more detailed report on Climate Change later on the agenda.

- State of the Region 2019

The Black Country Economic Intelligence Unit had produced the State of the Region on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority, using statistics centred around the performance of economic growth, business competitiveness and productivity, skills, people and place.

### **Agreed**

- 1) that the LEP Board note the respective policy updates; and
- 2) that the actions contained therein relating to additional information to be provided be actioned.

105/19 **Black Country LEP Board - tenure**

The meeting was advised of the remaining tenures of Board Members.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Term (1st,2nd, 3rd or 4th (final))</b>	<b>Current Term of office Ends</b>
Stewart Towe (Chair)	4th	September 2020
Paul Brown	4th	September 2020
Kevin Davis *	1st	June 2022
Jackie Dunne	N/A	Appointed as Chair of the Employment & Skills Advisory Board (January 2019)
Simon Eastwood	4th	September 2020
Lindsey Flynn	1 <sup>st</sup>	September 2020
Dr Chris Handy (Deputy Chair)	4th	September 2020
Ninder Johal	4th	September 2020
Tom Westley	4th	May 2021
Prof Geoff Layer	N/A	Higher Education representative
Jatinder Sharma	N/A	Appointed by Black Country Colleges (review – May 2020)
Deborah Williams	N/A	Appointed as Chair of the Active Black Country Partnership Board
Councillor Patrick Harley	N/A	Leader – Dudley MBC
Councillor Yvonne Davies	N/A	Leader – Sandwell MBC
Councillor Mike Bird	N/A	Leader – Walsall MBC
Councillor Ian Brookfield	N/A	Leader – City of Wolverhampton

\* Post January 2019 appointment – new term of office Assurance Framework rules apply

Sarah Middleton advised that the next paper to come back to the Board would detail the programme of succession, especially in relation to the role of the Chair, and would consider the potential impact of the LEP Review.

The Chair advised that the terms of office going forward could be synchronised with the local government elections and thus if some members wished to end their term of office earlier this would provide some transition for incoming members.

Paul Brown commented that whilst the main board may require change there were various sub-groups on which members were active participants, to include as Chairs, which could provide continuity in those work areas.

It was commented that a lot of people and associated experience would be going at once and Cllr. Adrian Andrew stated that mitigation should be undertaken to try and alleviate the impact, as this would be better for the LEP and for the business community.

The Chair stated that whilst not minimising the impact, if a staged recruitment was undertaken going forward, this would make the transition easier over time.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Note the remaining term of offices of private sector Board Members; and
- 2) Note that these terms of offices do not apply to elected Members; Higher Education and Further Education appointees; the Chair of the Active Black Country Board and the Chair of the Employment and Skills (People) Theme Advisory Board, which are appointed under different processes.

The Board received an update on the latest recruitment campaign in line with the National Assurance Framework (NAF) (V3 – January 2019), which states:

*‘Improve the gender balance and representation of those with protected characteristics on boards with an aim that women make up at least one third of Local Enterprise Partnership boards by 2020 with an expectation for equal representation by 2023, and ensuring all Local Enterprise Partnership boards are representative of the businesses and communities they serve’.*

It was noted that steps would be taken in relation to succession planning for the BC LEP Board Chair, whose term of office expires in September 2020.

The meeting was advised that Kevin Davis of The Vine Trust had joined the Board and that a positive recruitment campaign had been undertaken to improve the gender balance of the Board, with 12 applications having been received. This would necessitate the establishment of meetings of the Nominations Committee with the aim to undertaking recruitment in September/October 2019.

The meeting was advised that following discussions Cllr. Yvonne Davies had agreed to be the Board’s Diversity Champion and that a further report would be submitted in September on measures to be taken to enhance the LEP’s engagement with young people.

Delma Dwight advised of the statistics on Black Country Strategic Companies and the public sector. It was noted that across England 35% of local councillors were women, however in both Sandwell MBC and City of Wolverhampton the split of female and male councillors was 50/50.

Sarah Middleton advised that the report provided some useful context for members and stated that the statistics would be regularly reported through.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board:

- 1) Notes the Nomination Process and positive action campaign;

- 2) Notes the Leadership Diversity in the Black Country: Evidence Review findings in the context of the existing Board and future recruitment campaigns.
- 3) Confirm Councillor Yvonne Davies, Leader Sandwell MBC, as the Board Lead Member on diversity issues.
- 4) Note that a report on enhancing engagement with young people will be submitted to the September board meeting.

107/19 **Joint Committee Advisory Board - appointments**

The meeting was advised that Black Country authorities Joint Committee Advisory Board were seeking four nominations to the Board and the meeting was advised that traditionally this had been the Funding Sub-Group (FSG) members. It was agreed to continue this practise with the four longest serving members of the FSG being nominated.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board confirm that: -

- 1) That the 4 longest serving Members of the Funding Sub-Group be appointed to the Joint Committee Advisory Board: Simon Eastwood, Chris Handy, Ninder Johal and Tom Westley; and
- 2) That Lindsey Flynn be appointed as the named alternate.

**Strategy**

108/19 **Black Country Climate Change Evidence Report**

It was noted that carbon reduction efforts needed to be increased in order to meet the 2050 target of zero emissions. The breakdown of emissions was reported with approximately 1/3 from industry and the commercial sector; 1/3 from domestic use; and 1/3 from transport.

Cllr. Yvonne Davies advised of the impact on Sandwell residents with the M6 and drivers actively avoiding the M6 Toll motorway. She suggested that either the M6 Toll be removed or tolls should be introduced elsewhere to manage and ease the situation.

Tom Westley welcomed the statistics and suggested that they be monitored more regularly.

Cllr. Harman Banger stated that the LEP and local authorities should look to access funds for additional trees. Chris Handy advised that the Woodland Trust provided funds and Sarah Middleton advised that meetings had been held with Natural England regarding strategic planting schemes.

Chris Handy also advised of the sustainability of timber framed houses and it was agreed that in these matters could be reported through the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board for more detailed consideration.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board receive the report and arising from the discussion confirm the following actions for the future work programme of the LEP, at Board and Advisory Board level: -

- a) Through the BC local authorities lobby for the review of tolls in relation to the M6 Toll motorway and other routes through the Black Country;
- b) Receive climate change information on a regular basis to enable variations to be tracked;
- c) With the BC local authorities, investigate available funding sources and sites for increasing tree planting in the Black Country.
- d) Consider how to influence businesses to meet environmental targets set nationally; and
- e) Consider actions to support the retrofit of existing houses to improve their “carbon footprint.”

109/19

### **West Midland Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Implementation – Construction Sector Action Plan**

The meeting was advised that the Black Country remained fully engaged with the LIS process to ensure that the delivery of the WM LIS benefitted the Black Country businesses and communities through increased productivity and inclusive growth.

Ninder Johal commented on the creative sector and stated that this should not only be screen but link into the wider creative industry.

Tom Westley highlighted increased digitisation processes and highlighted that opportunities existed across other industries. Councillor Ian Brookfield advised that there was the 5G testbed in the region and the creative sector based at the Wolverhampton Science Park.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board receive the report and: -

- 1) the developing implementation process for the WM LIS was discussed and it was agreed that the next steps would be to obtain further assurances from the WMCA that:
  - a) Black Country LEP colleagues be included in high-level discussions between WMCA and Government departments, notably the Cities & Local Growth Unit, to ensure greater Black Country representation on all aspects LIS implementation.
  - b) the WMCA define the criteria for prioritising actions within the LIS pipeline to ensure the final actions put forward reflect the whole region.
  - c) Key Black Country priorities needed to be reflected more clearly in the key LIS proposals.
- 2) Note that the Black Country LEP would lead as an enabler on the creative, content, techniques and technologies, as a new strategic opportunity within the WM LIS.
- 3) Note the production of a construction sector action plan summary for the WM LIS, and the linkages with Black Country priorities and pipeline programmes; and
- 4) Agree that next steps be undertaken to produce similar summaries for all sectors, aligning with sector priorities in the Black Country including noting the Black Country lead on behalf of the WMCA for the sectors of construction, rail, aerospace and metals.

## 110/19 **Measuring Impact 2019/20**

The meeting was advised that monitoring and evaluation were critical elements in the development and the delivery of the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan. The Black Country approach was the development of an effective M&E plan:

- a) The **vision lead strategy (the BCSEP)** sets out the strategic objectives for the area and a set of indicators to measure these form the basis of the Performance Management Framework.
- b) The **Black Country Performance Management Framework (PMF)**, provides a clear framework to monitor progress and the economic changes required to achieve our 30-year vision and the ambitions across the twelve programmes in our Strategic Economic Plan. The PMF is composed of a selection of strategic headline indicators, which measure the impact of the various programme's areas of the BC SEP. These indicators cover a range of theme areas including economic, fiscal, social and environmental impacts. The PMF will provide a framework against which BC success can be measured, both across strategic programmes and in individual projects. The ambitions are based on an agreed vision led economic future for the area underpinned by extensive modelling work undertaken using the Oxford Economic model.
- c) The **Assurance Framework** is aligned to the strategic objectives and the business case templates will show the links to the objectives and quantify the related outputs.
- d) **Logic Chains Pathways** will be used to evaluate the impact of the investment from outputs to outcomes and the impact on the strategic objectives for the area.
- e) **Robust, proportional evaluation** of all activity. Evaluation will be proportionate and targeted with a robust and systematic approach across the Black Country. Evaluation will take place at project level and at overall programme level.

Members were advised that they were being asked to agree the full evaluation plan and approach across all programme areas including working with the academic sector, the What Works Centre for local economic growth and the WMCA Office of Data Analytics to ensure peer validation.

It was highlighted that reports to future meetings would include an evaluation of the Growing Priority Sectors programme, Wolverhampton Civic Centre and Wolverhampton Interchange. Through the Employment & Skills (People) Theme Advisory Board there was activity on apprenticeships and garden city was undertaken through the Place Making and Land Theme Advisory Board. Members were asked to identify other areas they would wish to be evaluated.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Note and approve the work programme for evaluation of activity as reported to clearly demonstrate the impact of the LEP's key programmes on the local economy; and
- 2) Note that further evaluation reports would be submitted to the Board as outlined in the report.

## **Delivery**

### 111/19 **BC LEP Programme Risk Management**

Lara Cragg and Ian Cribbes provided the Risk Programme being monitored through the PMO, which were centred around the three main funding streams. These would be developed and presented to Board meetings going forward.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board

- 1) That the LEP Board note the on-going risk management undertaken by the PMO to the BC LEP, and the following Risk Registers provided for consideration: - Local Growth Deal; Land & Property Investment Fund; and the Growing Places Fund; and
- 2) Note that a risk analysis exercise would commence in August 2019 for the Black Country Enterprise Zone and be reported through to the Board in due course.

### 112/19 **Local Growth Fund – Change Request – Woods Lane Phase 2**

(It was noted that, as Chris Handy had declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting, there were only 5 private sector Board Members in the meeting thus the meeting was no longer quorate. Therefore Members, if minded would recommend action to be approved at the next quorate meeting).

Ninder Johal advised that the project was seeking to re-profile the funding from 2018/19 to 2019/20, as there had been delays in finalising contract negotiations. He advised that it was still anticipated that the new housing units would be completed by December 2021.

**Recommended** that the LEP Board approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the Grant Agreement with Galliford Try Partnerships Ltd to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Woods Lane Phase 2 project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

(Chris Handy declared his pecuniary interest in Minute No. 112/19 – Local Growth Fund Woods Lane Phase 2, left the room during consideration of the item and took no part in the voting or consideration thereon.)

113/19 **Growing Places - YMCA**

The meeting was advised that due to a delay in receiving the Due Diligence appraisal, the report would now go through to the August meetings of the Funding Sub-Group and LEP Board.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note this item had been withdrawn and would be resubmitted in August.

114/19 **Local Property and Investment Fund – Change Request Goscote Lane**

Ninder Johal advised that the change request was seeking to reduce the incorrectly reported figure to the LEP board and the Joint Committee in 2018, which was 17.6ha and to record the actual and completed figure of 8.8ha. It was noted that the correct amount of 8.8ha was reflected in the signed and completed Grant Agreement.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board approves the Accountable Body for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amend the existing Grant Agreement with the St Francis Group to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Goscote Lane Residential Scheme project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

115/19 **Local Programmes – Dashboard**

Lara Cragg presented the dashboards.

**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
- Transport

116/19 **Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019**

Ninder Johal presented the Minutes of the Funding Sub-Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board to confirm and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.

**Advisory Board Minutes and BCJC Decisions**

117/19 **Black Country Joint Committee - Decisions**

The Decisions of the Black Country Joint Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were submitted.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note the Decisions of the Black Country Joint Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

118/19 **PR and Communications Report**

Ninder Johal presented the report and highlighted the success of social media campaigns.

**Agreed** that the update on the PR and Communications be noted.

119/19 **Date of Next meeting**

**Agreed** that the LEP Board note that the next meetings would be held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.

120/19 **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**

### 121/19 **Private Minutes of the LEP Board held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Agreed** that the Private Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

## **Delivery – Local Growth Fund**

### 122/19 **Very Light Rail Main Scheme**

An extensive discussion was undertaken on the status of the project following which a vote was taken and all were in favour of the agreed action, except Councillor Angus Lees who voted against.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to terminate the existing Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies project and instructs the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to inform Dudley Council of the decision;
- 2) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into the appropriate Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies project - Development Phase, totaling £1,145,747, for works carried out during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 LGF programme periods;

- 3) Notes that BC LEP and Dudley MBC will work to confirm the blend of funding to deliver this project to programme as already presented to the Combined Authority, Department for Transport, Network Rail and European Regional Development Fund, with a report on the main scheme, the delivery of the innovation centre, to be submitted to the Funding Sub-Group, to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and to the following LEP Board, to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019; and
- 4) Notes that further Change control requests will be submitted through to Funding Sub-Group Members as and when required.

123/19 **Sandwell Aquatic Centre**

Ninder Johal advised that further to the BC LEP programme funding proposals, it was recommended to transfer the Sandwell Aquatic Centre project from the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), to be funded through the Local Growth Deal Programme.

The change request would enable the LPIF programme to deliver all of the committed projects within the first tranche of funding.

**Agreed** that the LEP Board: -

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council, to the value detailed in the report, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.
- 2) Notes the withdrawal of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre project, to the value detailed in the report, from within the Land and Property Investment Fund.

124/19 **Birchley Island Main Scheme**

Ninder Johal advised that in order to continue to support Sandwell Council with the CPO process and placing of the statutory orders, a change request has been developed and proposed to split the already approved Birchley Island Main Scheme into two phases. He advised that this element of the proposed change would:

- Separate the funding currently allocated to the Main Scheme as detailed in the report.
- Reduce the current Grant Agreement for the delivery of Birchley Island in 2019/20, as detailed in the report.
- Remove the 3-month Grant Agreement Sign Off condition.

**Agreed that the LEP Board: -**

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Birchley Island Main Scheme project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.
- 2) This change includes a reduction in the funding from the original Grant Funding request.

125/19 **Birchley Island Development Phase**

Ninder Johal advised that in order to continue to support Sandwell Council with the CPO process and placing of the statutory orders, a change request has been developed and proposed to split the already approved Birchley Island Main Scheme into two phases. He advised that this element of the proposed change would:

- Separate the funding currently allocated to the Main Scheme as detailed in the report.
- Reduce the current Grant Agreement for the delivery of Birchley Island in 2019/20, as detailed in the report.
- Remove the 3-month Grant Agreement Sign Off condition.

**Agreed that the LEP Board: -**

- 1) Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council, to the value detailed in the report, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF), funded elements of the Birchley Island Development Phase Project – with delivery to commence in the 2019/20 financial year.

2) This request details a creation of a new development phase Grant Agreement for the scheme.

126/19 **LEP Review Update**

Sarah Middleton advised that no outcome had been received.

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

(The meeting closed at 5.00pm)