

**BLACK COUNTRY JOINT COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTION
[2013]**

1. (i) Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC, Walsall MBC and Wolverhampton City Council established an Executive Joint Committee known as the Black Country Joint Committee (“the Committee”) for the purpose of discharging the functions mentioned in Annex A. The Committee is a joint committee of the Executive for the purposes of Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 and Part I Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the provisions of thereof that are applicable to Joint Committees of the Executive shall apply to the Committee.

2. (i) The Committee shall comprise four members, each Council being entitled to appoint one voting member who shall be a member of the Councils Cabinet making the appointment. In the event of a voting member of the Committee ceasing to be a member of the Council which appointed him/her, the Council shall forthwith appoint another voting member in his/her place. Only a voting member is entitled to be elected as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Committee.

(ii) Each Council may appoint members of its Executive as substitute for the voting members appointed under (i) above to attend meetings of the Committee and its sub-committees in the absence for any reason of the voting members or observer members appointed under (i) above and in attended meetings of the Committee and its sub-committees the substitute voting members or observer members shall be treated in all respects if they were appointed under (i) above as the case may be. The Secretary for the Committee shall be informed prior to the commencement of the meeting of the names of the substitute members.

(iii) The Chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership shall be an ex officio member of the Committee on matters relating to City Deal and Growth Deal. Ex officio members may speak at meetings of the committee but not vote. The Chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership shall present reports to the Joint Committee from the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board.

(iv) The Black Country Consortium Ltd will be responsible for writing reports to the Joint Committee from the City Deal and Growth Deal Advisory Board in the format provided for at Annex B. A representative of the Black Country Consortium Ltd can be in attendance at meetings of the Joint Committee on matters relating to City Deal and Growth Deal in an advisory role.

(v) The Committee shall at its Annual Meeting, elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its voting members or chose to adopt for that year to have a rolling Chair and Vice Chair being upon rotation. In the event of both being absent from the meeting, the Chair and Vice-Chair for whatever reason, the Committee shall elect a chair from amongst the voting members present for that meeting but shall not count for purposes of rotation.

(vi) Three voting members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Except as otherwise provided by statute, all questions shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the voting members present, the Chair having the casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member of the Committee.

(vii) The Committee shall meet as agreed at its AGM. However a meeting of the Committee may be convened at any time by the Secretary in consultation with the Chair for the meeting that would be convened. A meeting of the Committee must also be convened by the Chair within 28 days of the receipt of a requisition of any two voting members of the Committee addressed to the Secretary of the Committee. All requisitions shall be in writing and no business other than that specified in the requisition shall be transacted at such a meeting.

(viii) The Committee shall from time to time to make such standing orders for the carrying on of the business of the Committee as the Committee shall deem necessary and or desirable.

(viii) For the avoidance of doubt and subject to there being no changes to the law on this issue, where a Council is operating executive arrangements pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000 (and any regulations made under it), it will be a matter for the Executive of the Council to appoint any voting member, or substitute member of the Committee as long as that member is a member of the appointing Councils Cabinet.

3. The Committee shall from time to time appoint such sub-committees and Advisory Boards to consider and deal with any of the functions of the Committee as may be thought desirable.
4. The Committee Secretary and such other officers as may be deemed necessary for the due conduct of the business of the Committee shall be Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council.
5. Meetings of the Joint Committee shall be held at Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council unless otherwise directed by the Joint Committee.
6. The Secretary shall:
 - i. Be responsible for preparing the agenda and submitting reports prepared by either of the Councils or other bodies to the Joint Committee and minutes of the Joint Committee.
 - ii. Be responsible for making arrangements for the publishing in accordance with Access to Information requirements all meetings, agenda, agenda items and minutes as appropriate.
7. That the relevant Standing Orders for Black Country Joint Committee are those of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council.

Annex A – Terms of Reference

Functions of the Committee

1. To receive reports from any Sub Committee of the Joint Committee or Advisory Board of the Joint Committee.
2. At any time review and agree proposed changes to the Functions of the Committee, and seek approval of the same from the four Council Executives of the Black Country authorities.
3. To agree and approve any proposed governance and or reporting structure that the committee sees fit.
4. In relation to the City Deal and Growth Deal:
 - 4.1 To act as a strategic body; setting and reviewing objectives for strategic investment across the Black Country, including;
 - a. Providing a coherent single position on the major strategic City Deal and Growth Deal issues;
 - b. Agreeing allocation of spending;
 - c. Agreeing major priorities;
 - d. Consider and agree recommendations made by any Sub Committee of the Joint Committee or Advisory Board of the Joint Committee;
 - e. Refer recommendations received back to any Sub Committee of the Joint Committee or Advisory Board of the Joint Committee for further consideration as and when minded in the first instance to not follow recommendations at all or to materially change the substance of the decision except in the case of genuine urgency requiring a decision to be made at that time;
 - 4.2 Agreeing Lead and or Accountable Body status for a body or organisation;
 - 4.3 Agree, review and amend options at any time for City Deal and Growth Deal governance which is fit for purpose;
 - 4.4 influence and align government investment in order to boost economic growth;
 - 4.5 have regard to the duty to cooperate and Joint Committee's overall function as set out above;

- 4.6 to ensure alignment between decision making on City Deal and Growth Deal and decisions on other areas of policy such as land use, transportation, economic development and wider regeneration;
- 4.7 Co-ordinate and align decision making on transport with the LEPs ensuring that business views are taken on board and that LEP growth plans are reflected in strategic priorities;
- 4.8 Deciding on capital expenditure programmes and ensuring policy and programmes are delivered effectively through partners;

Annex B - Report Format

BLACK COUNTRY JOINT COMMITTEE – XXTH XXXXX 20XX REPORT OF THE SECRETARY [insert title of report] BLACK COUNTRY JOINT COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Details of what is being sought in summary

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific decision to be made by the Committee

3. REPORT DETAIL

All relevant and pertinent information so as to enable a fully informed decision to be made by the Joint Committee

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All relevant financial implications

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

All relevant Legal implications

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Key risk identified and explanations as to how they will be managed are to be inserted.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment to be done and equality implications set out in the report as well as how they will be managed.

Background papers

Authors name and contact details