



**Minutes from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on
the Black Country 2nd AGM and 6th Meeting**

Date: Tuesday 8 June 2021
Venue: Online (via Zoom – joining details below)
Time: 3pm – 4pm
Chair: Mike Wood MP
Secretariat: Neil Anderson, appg@blackcountrychamber.co.uk
Speakers / Presenters: Calum Nisbet (Black Country Chamber of Commerce); Karen Webb (Black Country Chamber of Commerce); Stuart Smith (Lord Combustion); David Roberts (Wolverhampton Racecourse); Corin Crane (Black Country Chamber of Commerce); Scott Bernard (The Mount Hotel Country Manor); Anita Bhalla (West Midlands Leadership Commission)

In Attendance:

Parliamentarians

Mike Wood MP; Chair (MW)	Member of Parliament for Dudley South
Nicola Richards MP (NR)	Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton South West
Suzanne Webb MP (SW)	Member of Parliament for Stourbridge
Marco Longhi (ML)	Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton South East
Shaun Bailey MP (SB)	Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton Warley
Jane Stevenson MP (JS)	Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton North East
Paul Brothwood (PB)	Marco Longhi's Office
Dan Horrocks (DH)	Mike Wood's Office
Chole Elkin (CE)	Suzanne Wood's Office

Invited Guests / Secretariat

Neil Anderson, Secretariat (NA)	Director of External Affairs, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Corin Crane (CC)	Chief Executive, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Karen Webb (KW)	Director of Business Services, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Calum Nisbet (CN)	Commercial Director, Black Country Chamber of Commerce
David Roberts (DR)	MD, Wolverhampton Racecourse
Scott Bernard (SBe)	MD, Mount Hotel Manor
Stuart Smith (SS)	MD, Lord Combustion
Anita Bhalla (AB)	Chair, Midlands Leadership Commission
Jon Gray (JG)	West Midlands Growth Company

Apologies: Stuart Anderson, MP (SA), Pat McFadden, MP (PMc)

AGM

NO.	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS/ ACTION POINTS/ DECISIONS	By whom?	By when?
2.01	Purpose of AGM		
	Neil Anderson, Secretariat (NA) outlined the purpose of the AGM and the agenda of the AGM		
2.01	Welcome		
	Mike Wood (MW) opened the AGM, and confirmed that the AGM was quorum		
2.03	Apologies		
	Apologies were received by Stuart Anderson (SA) and Pat McFadden (PMc)		
2.04	Previous AGM and APPG Purpose		
	No actions from the previous AGM were outstanding, the purposed of the APPG was reaffirmed unanimously by vote.		
2.05	Re-election of the Group's Officers		
	MW handed over to NA who confirmed that MW would stand for re-election as the APPG's Chair, Pat McFadden (PMc) as Deputy Chair, and Shaun Bailey (SB); Marco Longhi (ML); Stuart Anderson (SA) as Vice Chair. The motion was moved and unanimously confirmed by members of the APPG.		
2.06	Income and Expenditure Statement		
	Secretariat advised that the APPG receives £9k in-kind contribution from the Black Country Chamber of Commerce to support Secretariat responsibilities. As this amount is below the £12.5k threshold for reporting income, no Expenditure Statement needs to be approved by the Group.		
2.07	Any Other Business		

	None.		
2.08	Notification and Record Update		
	NA advised that the Register of the Result of the AGM would be updated in advance of the reporting deadline (25 June 2021).		

AGM CLOSED

MEETING #6 MINUTES

NO.	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS/ ACTION POINTS/ DECISIONS	By whom?	By when?
6.01	Meeting Overview and Running Order		
	Neil Anderson (NA) outlined the overview and running order.		
6.02	Welcome and Introductions		
	Mike Wood (MW) opened the meeting by welcoming attendees to the fifth meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Black Country.		
6.03	Apologies		
	Apologies received by Stuart Anderson (SA) and PatMcFadden (PMc).		
6.04	Minutes of Last Meeting		
	Minutes of meeting held 2 March 2021 were approved unanimously.		
6.05	Further Education and the Black Country Region		
	Corin Crane (CC) provided an update to members and stated that businesses had welcomed the recent proposals contained in the Further Education Whitepaper with the Chamber network working with the DFE, colleges and stressed that there it was essential businesses play a role in running these plans to ensure that the skills required by businesses are at the forefront of the them. CC		

	shared details of a joint Chamber / FE provider proposal as part of the Local Skills Improvement Plan for the West Midlands region.		
6.06	Business Premises Maintenance Update		
	<p>Stuart Smith (SS) updated members on a campaign being run by Lord Combustion which emphasised the need for business premises maintenance to be a priority given the gradual re-opening of the economy as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>SS invited members to visit Lord Combustion to understand more about this area of work and to support the campaign.</p>		
6.07	Black Country Visitor Economy and Hospitality Sector		
	<p>Karen Webb (KW) introduced work taking place to support the visitor economy and welcomed David Roberts (DR) and Scott Bernard (SB) who shared their experiences of both operating during COVID-19, lockdowns and the challenges facing the sector regarding recruiting to the hospitality industry as the region looks towards full re-opening.</p> <p>Suzanne Webb (SW) observed that challenges around recruitment has been noted in her constituency with MW adding that he aware that this was being discussed at the APPG for the Hospitality Sector.</p>		
6.08	Inclusive Board and Leadership Governance		
	<p>Calum Nisbet (CN) outlined details of work taking place around director development and board governance including an application to the Community Renewal Fund focused on training and equipping individuals from underrepresented groups into board positions. CN introduced Anita Bhalla (AB) who updated members on the work of the West Midlands Leadership Commission (WMLC) and how proposals further support its ambitions.</p>		

	<p>MW enquired about timeframes and asked if these proposals consider diversity in its broadest sense, AB advised that the WMLC is focused on all diversity as intersectionality.</p> <p>SW noted an interest in this work as part of her work with Women and Equalities.</p>		
6.09	Next steps: APPG Asks for Government & Future Agendas		
	<p><u>Asks for Government</u></p> <p>Government to note and support the work around business premises maintenance.</p> <p>Government to note the issues around the hospitality sector recruitment.</p> <p>APPG endorsed the proposals around the Local Skills Improvement Plan and Community Renewal Fund.</p> <p><u>Future Agenda Items</u></p> <p>No agenda items set for next meetings, a meeting will be scheduled between the Secretariat, MW and PMc to outline future themes and topics.</p>		
6.10	Any other business		
	None		
6.11	Date of next Meeting		
	It was noticed that the next scheduled date for the 7 th meeting needs to be rescheduled. The Secretariat will liaise with MW's Office		