

A2 THE BLACK COUNTRY CONSORTIUM

- A2.1 Three years ago the Leaders of the four Black Country local authorities – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – met together with other leading stakeholders and the private sector to begin the process of transforming the Black Country. In recognition of the serious economic and social challenges, the Black Country Consortium (BCC) was given the lead role in setting a new trajectory for regeneration and urban renaissance in the sub-region. A new project was born, 'The Black Country Study', setting radical new aspirations for growth and prosperity over the next 30 years.
- A2.2 Originally established in 1999 to promote the interests of the four Boroughs, the Consortium became a limited company in 2002 in recognition of its growing importance and new role. Since then, (the Black Country Consortium) have made significant progress, strengthening capacity and developing further collaborative relationships with stakeholders.
- A2.3 In addition to the four local authorities, the Board of Directors now includes representatives from the private sector, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), Wolverhampton University, ConneXions, the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), the Faiths, and Black Country Chamber & Business Link. Other regional, sub-regional and local partners also make vital contributions. Advantage West Midlands and the West Midlands Regional Assembly help to shape BCC work at the regional level. Locally, BCC engage with the voluntary sector, community organisations and young people.