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Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Scrutiny Panel

Review of Inward Investment 2015

Aims and Objectives

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The aim of the review is to support the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB to determine if:

- (a) the inward investment service provided in Halton is fit for purpose;
- (b) there is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.

Context/Background

Halton Borough Council's Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team deliver Halton's inward investment service, which includes:-

- Managing inward investment enquiries from both inward investors and local companies wishing to expand and grow
- Managing the commercial property database and service enquiries for commercial property
- Engaging with the key companies in the Borough

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership has proposed the creation of a stand-alone inward investment agency for the City Region called 'Invest Liverpool'. However, any such agency would have to be resourced by the six Local Authorities, primarily through the

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	<p>provision of secondees.</p> <p>The LEP have issued a tender for a private sector consultancy to work with the Local Authorities to identify the ‘Liverpool City Region Offer’ for inward investment. Following this work an analysis will need to be undertaken to determine how city region collaboration would lead to a more effective service to investors and what this would mean in practice.</p> <p>However, in order to contribute to this analysis, it is important to understand the current arrangements for managing Inward Investment enquiries locally, including the source of these enquiries and the resources allocated to delivering the service. This will then help to determine whether there is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.</p>
Methodology	
Timescale	<p>It is proposed that this review will be conducted during the period February to June 2015 with a view to submitting a report/ recommendations to the ELS&C PPB meeting in June 2015.</p> <p>It is proposed that the review will comprise 4 meetings, covering topics set out below, followed up by a final session to consider the content of Scrutiny topic Group report and recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How does Halton’s inward investment service currently operate; 2) The Liverpool City Region Perspective; 3) Halton Business and Chamber of Commerce Perspective; 4) Final session to consider the content of Scrutiny topic Group report and recommendations. <p>Following endorsement by the ELS&C PPB, it is anticipated that the final Inward Investment</p>

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	<p>Scrutiny Topic Group report and recommendations will be submitted to a meeting of the Executive Board .</p>
<p>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 1</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 12th March 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To provide a clear understanding of inward investment in Halton</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Wesley Rourke - Operational Director, Economy Enterprise & Property Tim Leather - Lead Officer – Business Improvement & Growth</p>
<p>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 2</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 30th April 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the inward investment proposals being considered by the Liverpool city Region.</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Mark Basnett (Local Enterprise Partnership)</p>
<p>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 3</p>	<p>Date of meeting: Tbc</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the business perspective of Halton’s inward investment offer</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Paula Gain (Chamber of Commerce tbc) Business representative (tbc) Tim Leather - Lead Officer – Business Improvement & Growth</p>

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<p>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 4</p>	<p>Date of meeting: Tbc</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider and agree the review’s final report and recommendations.</p>
<p>Potential outcomes</p>	
<p>Expected outcomes</p>	<p>It is expected that this review will support the ELS&C PPB in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Providing a clear understanding of inward investment in Halton; (b) Providing a steer as to whether Halton’s approach to inward investment is fit for purpose; (c) Deciding if the approach to inward investment is meeting the needs of Halton businesses; (d) Identify activities that we could undertake to better meet the needs of Halton businesses (e) Inform future inward investment activity in Halton to complement the emerging model proposed within the Liverpool City Region (LCR)
<p>Measuring success</p>	<p>Any recommendations arising out of the review will be considered by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB and once agreed presented to the council’s Executive Board. Subject to Executive Board approval, recommendations will be implemented and monitored.</p>

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Officer/Member involvement	
Members	<p>All Members of the ELS&C PPB will be given the opportunity to be involved in the Scrutiny Topic Group review.</p> <p>Chair of the scrutiny topic group – Cllr Sue Edge</p> <p>The Scrutiny topic Group will be supported by the following council officers:-</p> <p>Wesley Rourke - Operational Director, Economy Enterprise & Property Tim Leather - Lead Officer – Business Improvement & Growth Debbie Houghton – Principal Policy Officer</p> <p>Other officers and guest speakers will be invited to participate in the Scrutiny Topic Group as appropriate.</p>