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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

Contact: Angela Scott
Tel: 0151 511 8670
Date: 26 March 2015

To: All Members of the Liverpool City
Region Combined Authority Scrutiny
Panel

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend a meeting of the **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel** to be held on **Wednesday, 8 April 2015** at **11.15 a.m.** in the Authority Chamber - Mann Island

The agenda for the meeting is attached.

Should Members need to declare an interest in any items included on the agenda, forms are obtainable from the Democratic Services Team or in the meeting.

If you have any queries regarding this meeting, please contact Angela Scott on telephone number 0151 511 8670 or angela.scott@halton.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Parr'.

David Parr
Lead Officer - Scrutiny

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

8 April 2015

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
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This information can be provided in alternative formats on request

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel on Wednesday, 29 October 2014 held in the Authority Chamber - Mann Island, Liverpool

Present: Councillors Brown, Hurley, Lappin, Leech, Moorhead, Preece, Roberts, Stuart, Wainwright and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Burns, Dowd and Sullivan

Also Present: David Parr, Ian Leivesley, Angela Scott

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Action

The Lead Officer – Scrutiny – opened the meeting and invited nominations for Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel. It was moved by Councillor Woolfall and seconded by Councillor Hurley and :-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Kevan Wainwright be appointed Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel.

(COUNCILLOR KEVAN WAINWRIGHT IN THE CHAIR)

Members were advised that Councillor John Hale (Opposition Group nominee) had resigned from the Panel. A replacement nomination would be invited.

Lead Officer -
Scrutiny

The Chair then invited nominations for Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel. It was moved by Councillor Stuart and seconded by Councillor Lappin and:-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Andy Moorhead be appointed Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel.

2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMBINED AUTHORITY'S AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Chair invited nominations for two Members to sit on the Combined Authority's Audit Committee.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Lappin and Councillor Hurley be appointed to sit on the Combined Authority's Audit Committee.

3. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Panel considered a report of the Lead Officer – Scrutiny, which outlined the role and responsibilities of the Combined Authority.

The Panel noted that the remit of the Combined Authority (CA) covered the functions of economic development, regeneration, transport, strategic housing and employment and skills. The arrangements for the discharge of these thematic functions were set out in the report.

It was reported that at its first meeting on 1 April 2014, the CA had appointed Officers to undertake specific functions on behalf of the CA under delegated authority. This information was set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report. Contact details for these Officers would be circulated separately.

Lead Officer -
Scrutiny

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

4. ROLE OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL

The Panel considered a report of the Lead Officer – Scrutiny, which outlined the arrangements for the Combined Authority's Scrutiny function, as detailed in the Constitution approved on 1 April 2014.

The Panel noted that Part 5, Section B of the Constitution set out the Scrutiny Arrangements for the Authority, the Merseytravel Committee and Merseytravel. This covered the following issues:-

- Function of Scrutiny at City Region level;
- Operation of Scrutiny arrangements;
- Meetings of Scrutiny Panel;
- Key Principles for the Operation of the Scrutiny arrangements;
- Scrutiny Working Groups;
- Reviews and Recommendations;
- Budget and Administration; and
- Support and Advice to Scrutiny arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered a report of the Lead Officer – Scrutiny, on the development of a Work Programme for the Scrutiny Panel.

The Panel noted the role of the Scrutiny Panel as set out in the Combined Authority’s Constitution as being:-

- to provide the role of ‘critical friend’ to policy and development;
- to undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for people in the City Region; and
- to monitor the delivery of the Authority’s Strategic Plan.

It was reported that, at the Scrutiny Panel’s Development Day in September 2014, Members present had identified a shortlist of four areas which they felt would warrant scrutiny activity. These were endorsed as being:-

- European funding;
- Skills and Learning/Leadership;
- Housing; and
- Affordable Transport links.

The priority area would be European Funding.

Following discussions, it was agreed that a Work Programme would be developed and circulated, which would set out the process and arrangements for scrutiny, and would include:-

- Terms of Reference;
- Venues;
- Timescales;
- Witnesses; and
- Lessons learned.

It was also agreed that any scrutiny work would be undertaken by all Members of the Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED: That a Work Programme be developed and circulated, as set out above.

Lead Officer -
Scrutiny

6. COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered a report and attachment of the Lead Officer – Scrutiny, on the Combined Authority’s (CA) approved Forward Plan.

It was noted that the Forward Plan set out the planned work of the CA to March 2015, and that the rolling plan was regularly updated.

Panel Members raised the following items:

- The recent announcement on plans for HS3 and the importance of the inclusion of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) in any proposals. As details of this announcement had not been formalised, Members requested that this be included in the Forward Plan;
- The One North document which reinforced the case for East/West and North/South connectivity in transportation in the region;
- The Northern Futures Programme, which advocated the strength of LCR investment and which would be considered by the CA at its next meeting. The document would be circulated to Panel Members.

Lead Officer –
Scrutiny

RESOLVED: That the Combined Authority Forward Plan and Members’ comments be noted.

7. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Panel considered a report of the Lead Officer – Scrutiny, on a proposed calendar of meetings.

The report set out proposed dates for future meetings of the Scrutiny Panel for twelve months. However, the Chair advised that these may need to be reviewed to accommodate Member availability and to co-ordinate the timing of evidence gathering meetings.

RESOLVED: That, following consultation with the Chair, a calendar of meetings be set and circulated to all Members of the Panel.

Lead Officer -
Scrutiny

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: Chair and Members of the Liverpool City Region
Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

Meeting: 8 April 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**REVIEW OF EUROPEAN FUNDING****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Panel's endorsement to the recommendations and comments contained in the attached report, following the Panel's review of European Funding.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

- (1) the report and recommendations be approved; and
- (2) the Combined Authority be requested to consider those recommendations and submit a report back to the Panel on how it intends to respond to the recommendations.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 29 October 2014, the Panel identified 'European Funding' as the first topic that it wished to review. As well as reviewing that important area of activity it would also serve as a way to test a methodology which, if successful, could be used to guide the future review work of the Panel. Attached to this report is the results of the Panel's review work and the Panel is asked to endorse the report and ask that its recommendations be formally reported to and considered by the Combined Authority.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**4.1 Financial**

There are no direct resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained

within the scrutiny review.

4.2 **Human Resources**

There are no direct human resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within the scrutiny review.

4.3 **Physical Assets**

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within the scrutiny review.

4.4 **Information Technology**

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within the scrutiny review.

5. **RISKS AND MITIGATION**

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report or its recommendations.

6. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

7. **COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

7.1 There are recommendations contained in the report which relate to how the Liverpool City Region promotes the benefits to the region of European Funding and how prospective beneficiaries of funding are supported.

8. **CONCLUSION**

8.1 The report seeks endorsement of the attached draft review carried out by Members of the Panel.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

David Parr, Chief Executive, Halton –

Tel: 0151 511 6000

Ian Leivesley, Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, Halton –

Tel: 0151 511 6002

**LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY
SCRUTINY PANEL**

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EUROPEAN FUNDING

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present this first piece of scrutiny review work undertaken by the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel. We chose the topic of European Funding, given its importance to the development of the City Region. This is the first piece of work we have engaged on as a Panel and we wanted to learn from the process to help us when carrying out further pieces of scrutiny activity.

I would like to thank Members of the Panel for their contributions to this review and for the commitment they have shown to the process. I think this bodes well for the future.

I would also like to thank Alan Welby (Liverpool European Partnership), Martin Eyres (Liverpool City Council) and Mike Henesey (Department for Local Government and Communities) for the evidence they presented to the Panel.

**Councillor Kevan Wainwright
Chair**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) was formed in April 2014. One of the requirements of the legislation that put it in place was that it should form a scrutiny body to scrutinise its activities. Hence, the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel was formed. The Panel is made up of fourteen elected Members from the six constituent authorities.

1.2 As well as scrutinising the activities of the LCRCA, the Constitution allows the Panel to undertake reviews of activities in which the LCRCA has an interest and following those reviews, make recommendations and comments to the Authority. At its meeting held on 29 October 2014 the Panel identified four areas of activity that it wished to review, as follows:

- European Funding
- Skills, Learning and Leadership
- Housing
- Affordable Transport Links

The Panel identified European Funding as the first piece of review work it wished to undertake.

- 1.3 It was recognised that, whilst the subject area itself was an important one for the City Region, it was also important for the Panel to develop a review methodology for itself that it could utilise for future review activities. Each of the six constituent authorities had its own approach to scrutiny reviews which differed from one another. Given this was the first review to be undertaken by the Panel it was felt that it should be kept sharply focused and deliver a final report in a relatively short period of time. It is felt that those objectives have been met with the first piece of work.
- 1.4 It was also agreed at the onset that this piece of work would be undertaken by the whole Panel, to enable all Members to be involved in shaping the process. It was recognised that for future reviews the Panel may wish to nominate a smaller group to carry them out.

2.0 THE REVIEW OF EUROPEAN FUNDING

- 2.1 To commence the review the Panel required an overview of the current position in relation to both the existing EU programme (projects can deliver until June 2015) and the new programme 2014-2020. Clearly, Members were most interested in the new programme, particularly as the resources available to the LCR were significantly less than those in previous programmes.
- 2.2 The Panel received a detailed overview of the current position at a meeting held on 21 January 2015. The overview was presented by Alan Welby, Director for Key Growth Sectors at the LEP and Martin Eyres, Head of European Affairs at Liverpool City Council.
- 2.3 The Panel heard that the Liverpool City Region had been allocated £190m as part of the 2014-2020 European Programme. This was only one third of the amount allocated in the previous one. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had led on the City Region's submission, known as the European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy (ESIF). The Strategy sets out the City Region's priorities for use of European monies. It was produced in consultation with local partners across the LCR, including the local authorities. The Panel recognised that its production and submission pre dated the existence of the LCRCA.
- 2.4 The Panel was informed as to how the ESIF was developed via a series of stakeholder events between April and September 2013. The final ESIF had been submitted to Government at the end of January 2014 and had now been signed off by Government. The LCR ESIF was divided into five portfolios, as follows:
- Blue/Green Economy
 - Business Economy
 - Innovation Economy
 - Inclusive Economy
 - Place and Connectivity

- 2.5 A copy of the full ESIF Strategies can be accessed from the website of the Liverpool City Region Local European Partnership.
- 2.6 Following that initial presentation the Panel drew up a Scoping Document to provide a focus to the review they were undertaking. A copy of that Scoping Document is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The two areas Panel Members particularly wished to focus on for the remainder of the review were to consider whether
- (a) the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme are effective, robust and accountable; and
 - (b) the commissioning/bidding framework being developed to underpin the local delivery of the European programme 2014-2020 will secure the right outcomes for the City Region.
- 2.7 The Panel decided to have two evidence gathering sessions to examine each of the above topics in detail. The first took place on 18 February 2015 and the second on 4 March 2015. The key witness for both those sessions was Mike Henesey from the Department for Communities and Local Government. Mike had been involved in regeneration since 1983, including City Challenge Projects, European Projects since 1999 and was Project Director on the Merseyside 2000-06 Agenda One Programme. He was currently involved in managing the 2007-13 North West Operational Programme.
- 2.8 The first session focused on “the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme” The Panel heard that:
- The 2014-20 ERDF programme was one single national programme for England.
 - Each LEP area had been given a national allocation.
 - The ESIF Strategies drawn up by the 39 LEPs were agreed by Government and brought together in one national programme.
 - The EU rules do not allow decision making to be devolved down to LEPs.
 - The Managing Agents for the programme will therefore be the appropriate Government Department.
 - The Government Department concerned will assess projects using the priorities in the ESIF and in consultation with the LEP and the local ESIF Sub Committee.
 - The local ESIF Sub Committee included nominated Elected Representatives from the LCRCA.

- Project sponsors will ‘contract’ with the appropriate Government Department in order to access funds.
- The final approval for projects rests with the Government Department.
- There is no formal role in the process for the LCRCA.
- There is a European Programme Protocol included in the LCRCA’s Constitution which sets out to govern the relationship between the constituent authorities, the LCRCA and the LEP in relation to the European programme.
- That there have been protracted negotiations between the UK Government and the EU about governance arrangements for the programme, which have caused delays in the commencement of the new programme.
- There was a key role for the LEP in promoting the programme.

In helping them to form their views Members discussed and considered:

- How the funds are allocated within the LCR
- How the performance reserve worked
- Who had the final say on project approvals
- Whether there will be support locally from the DCLG to applicants
- Whether ERDF and ESF can be draw down to support the same project
- Were LEPs equipped to promote the availability of the programme
- Whether the role of the LCRCA in this process needed to be developed/enhanced.

2.9 The second session focused on “the proposed commissioning/bidding framework” At that session the Panel heard that:

- A recent letter issued by Lord Ahmad (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government) reiterated that the DCLG will be the managing agent for the ERDF funds and the Department for Work and Pensions likewise for ESF funds.
- Calls for bids from the new programme were scheduled to go live on 16 March 2015 on the gov.uk website (subsequently put back until 23 March 2015).
- DCLG is working closely with LEPs in putting the content together for the calls.

- All applications received by Government will be shared with the LEP.
- The first calls will focus on activity that currently benefits from EU funding that LEPs and partners would like to see continue in the new programme (predominantly mainstream business support and start up) and for activity that has time critical match funding.
- The various dates that have been identified for the various themes within the programme.
- That the DCLG will work with LEPs to co-ordinate and bring together similar projects across the LCR into region wide projects, recognising the reduced funding available across the LCR.

2.10 In helping them to form their views, Members discussed and considered:

- Who could bid for EU funds
- How the voluntary sector had been and will be engaged in the process
- Would the calls go live when expected, given that discussions are still continuing with the EU
- Would the programme deliver to the LCR priorities

2.11 The Panel was very grateful for the detailed input across the two evidence gathering sessions, from Mike Henesey and thanked him for the clarity of his responses, in what was a very complex issue.

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Following on from the two evidence gathering sessions the Panel then held a final 'wrap up' session on 17 March 2015. The purpose of the wrap up session was "to consider and agree the review's final report and recommendations".

3.2 What follows is a series of recommendations/comments which the Panel has developed. The Panel would want those recommendations/comments to be formally considered by the LCRCA and for the LCRCA to respond to them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Governance Arrangements

- The Panel recognises that, whilst there is no formal governance role for the Combined Authority (CA) and the fact that the ESIF (European Structural and Investment Fund) Strategy was produced and submitted prior to the formation of the CA, the CA should seek a more formal role in any future arrangements.

- That a more formal role should include
 - Seeking assurance that projects being approved meet the CA’s own plans and strategies.
 - Assurance that the programme is delivering to its required outcomes.
 - A role for the CA in having strategic oversight of the programme.
- The justification for that greater oversight stems from the overall role and purpose of the CA and from the fact that the Local Authorities will still be providers of significant amounts of match funding to support the delivery of many of the projects and therefore the overall objectives of the ESIF.
- Within the Operational Agreement (as part of its Constitution) approved by the CA as part of it establishing itself, there is a “European Protocol” document. The Panel recommends that the CA reviews that protocol alongside the review of its first 12 months of operation, ensuring it is fit for purpose, clearly defining who is responsible for what in relation to the European Funding Programme for the Liverpool City Region. The Panel felt that greater clarity was required in relation to the responsibility and accountability for the programme.
- The Panel heard evidence that the LEP has a formal role to play in the programme. The Panel felt that this needs to be made clearer that the LEP is an integral part of the CA, being one of its thematic boards. The Panel felt that the inter-relation between the LEP and the CA needs greater emphasis.

Commissioning/Bidding Framework

- The Panel acknowledges the positive work being done by the DCLG locally and the LEP to shape the LCR European Programme to ensure the maximum benefit is derived for the Liverpool City Region and appreciates that delays have been caused by the programme not being signed off by the EU. The process of committing EU funds is complex and the Panel would wish to see the CA having a clearer role in ensuring the LCR gets maximum benefits from the programme.
- Given that the EU funding available to the LCR is considerably less than that for previous programmes it is imperative that it is spent in the most effective manner. The DCLG have indicated that collaborative and co-ordinated bids will be looked upon favourably, the Panel would like to see the CA encouraging constituent local authorities and other partners to work together to ensure that the collaborative bids are developed. With less money available it is essential that duplication and competition are avoided.
- The CA should have a clearer role in any future review (as outlined in Lord Ahmad’s letter) of the priorities and allocation of European Funding for the LCR.

Wider Issues/Comments

- In carrying out its review the Panel considered the issue of publicity of the availability of resources through the European Programme and was keen to see that the opportunity to access funding went beyond the “usual suspects”. The Panel recommends that the CA seeks assurances and commitment from the DCLG and the LEP that local communications are effective and that support arrangements are in place to facilitate bidding from as wide a range of organisations as is possible.
- The Panel also felt that the CA’s role and responsibilities and those of relevant stakeholders should be mapped out and identified both in general terms and specifically relating to European Funding.
- The Panel also felt, generally, that the absence of a LCRCA website was detrimental to a wider understanding of the CA’s role and value. The Panel fully understands the resource restraints on all constituent Councils but feels the introduction of a dedicated website would go some way to promoting the positive role the CA is playing in the development of the LCR.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alan Welby Director for Key Growth Sectors at the Local Enterprise Partnership
Martin Eyres Head of European Affairs, Liverpool City Council
Mike Henesey DCLG
The Scrutiny Support Officer Team from the Constituent Councils

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel	
European Funding – Review of: (a) Commissioning/ Bidding Framework (b) Governance Arrangements	
Aims and Objectives	
Aim and Objectives	<p>The aim of the review is to support the Combined Authority and the Local Enterprise Partnership in ensuring that:</p> <p>(a) the commissioning/ bidding framework being developed to underpin the local delivery of the European Programme 2014-2020 will secure the right outcomes for the City Region; and</p> <p>(b) the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme are effective, robust and accountable.</p>
Context/Background	<p>The Liverpool City Region has been allocated £190m as part of the 2014-2020 European Programme. The Local Enterprise Partnership has led on the City Region's submission (ESIF) to form part of the national European Regional Development and European Social Fund programme. Whilst the City Region's ESIF was signed off by government in mid-2014, the government has yet to agree the final national programme (for England) with the EU.</p> <p>Since the Combined Authority was formed in April 2014, it has discharged its strategic economic development function through the Local Enterprise Partnership. It also approved an operating agreement which incorporated a European Programme Protocol setting out the</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

	<p>respective roles, of the Combined Authority, the constituent authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership in relation to that programme.</p> <p>At its development session in September 2014, followed by its first formal meeting in October 2014, the Scrutiny Panel identified “European Funding” as an area of interest it might wish to examine in more detail in its role to support/ challenge the Combined Authority and its constituent parts. At a briefing session in January 2015, the Panel received a presentation which set out the current context in relation to European Funding in the Liverpool City Region. In considering this information, the Panel agreed two specific aspects of this complex topic that it felt would benefit from closer examination as part of a relatively brief review that could feed its findings into the Panel’s formal meeting scheduled for 8 April 2015. These two aspects were:</p> <p>(a) Local commissioning/ bidding framework; (b) Local governance arrangements.</p>
Methodology	
Timescale	<p>It is proposed that this review will be conducted during the period February to March 2015 with a view to submitting a report/ recommendations to the formal meeting of the Panel on 8 April 2015.</p> <p>It is proposed that the review will comprise 2 evidence sessions, 1 for each topic followed up by wrap-up session to consider the content of final report and recommendations.</p> <p>Following endorsement by the formal Panel meeting, it is anticipated that the report and recommendations will be submitted to a meeting of the Combined Authority in April or June.</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

<p>Evidence session 1</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 11.00am 18th February 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the 2014-2015 programme.</p> <p>Expert witness: Mike Henesey – Department for Communities and Local Government</p>
<p>Evidence session 2</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 11.00am 4th March 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the proposed commissioning/ bidding framework being developed to support the operation of the European Programme 2014-2020 in the City Region.</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Mike Henesey – Department for Communities and Local Government</p>
<p>Wrap up meeting</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 11.00am 17th March 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider and agree the review's final report and recommendations.</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

Potential outcomes	
Expected outcomes	<p>It is expected that this review will support the Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ensuring that the commissioning/ bidding framework being developed for the 2014-2020 European Programme will produce the right results; (b) securing appropriate and transparent governance of the European Programme in the City Region. <p>As this will be the Scrutiny Panel's first in-depth review, it is anticipated that the lessons drawn from carrying it out will inform the Panel's future scrutiny practice.</p>
Measuring success	<p>Any recommendations arising out of the review will be considered by the Combined Authority. Subject to approval, their implementation will be monitored.</p>
Officer/Member involvement	
Members	<p>All Members of the Scrutiny Panel will have the opportunity to be involved in the review, subject to availability.</p>

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: Chair and Members of the Liverpool City Region
Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

Meeting: 8 April 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH PLAN AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Scrutiny Panel the contents of the Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan. A copy of the Plan is accessible from the link below and a presentation on its contents will be made to members at the meeting.

<http://www.liverpoollep.org/PDF/Growth%20Plan%20and%20Stategic%20Economic%20Plan.pdf>

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (1) the Panel consider the contents of the Plan; and
- (2) given the strategic importance of the Plan a further report to the Panel be made in 12 months' time, outlining progress against the Plan's objectives.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In June 2013 Government asked Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to produce long term Growth Plans and Strategic Economic Development Plans (SEPs) for their areas and announced a £2bn 'single pot' (Local Growth Fund) that would be allocated to local areas, based on their Growth Plan submissions. The Growth Plan process has a number of elements:

- A requirement to produce and submit a long term strategy.
- A requirement to submit a Strategic Economic Plan.
- The Local Growth Fund itself.

- A requirement to undertake a 'Growth Deal' negotiation with Government over freedoms and flexibilities or powers which the local area might wish to see devolved from Government.

3.2 Given the strategic importance of these documents and process it was felt important the Scrutiny Panel receive a presentation which will help it in its future scrutiny activities, as it provides important contextual information to much of what the Combined Authority and LEP are progressing on behalf of the LCR.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no direct resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report, although the successful delivery of the Growth Plan and SEP will be crucial to the future development of the Liverpool City Region.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct human resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report or its recommendations.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 It is important that the Panel is kept up to date on activities surrounding the Growth Plan and Deal, given their strategic importance in attracting investment to the City Region.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The purpose of the report and presentation is to provide Panel Members with an understanding of the role of the Growth Plan and SEP in securing vital funding for the LCR. This will allow the Panel to take a view on whether this issue could be incorporated in its future work plan.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

David Parr, Chief Executive, Halton – Tel: 0151 511 6000
Ian Leivesley, Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, Halton – Tel: 0151 511 6002

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: Chair and Members of the Liverpool City Region
Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

Meeting: 8 April 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**A TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to draw to Panel Members' attention the 'Transport Plan for Growth'. The Plan has been developed to create a single strategic framework and delivery plan for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, in support of the two existing Local Transport Plans for Merseyside and Halton. A presentation of the Plan will be made to Members at the meeting. A copy of the plan can be accessed from the link below.

<http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/about-us/local-transport-delivery/Documents/8375%20Plan%20for%20growth%20WEB%20FINAL.pdf>

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (1) the Panel consider the contents of the Plan; and
- (2) that a further report be made to the Panel in 12 months' time, outlining progress that has been made against the Plan's objectives.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Transition Plan and Transport Protocol set out a requirement to produce a joint strategic framework and delivery plan. The document was to be clearly aligned to the Liverpool City Region growth Plan, Strategic Economic Plan, 2014-2020 European Programme and other emerging strategic plans guiding the Liverpool City Region.

3.2 The resulting Transport Plan for Growth is therefore integral to, and supportive of, the City Region wide work being undertaken on:

- a) Freight and logistics
- b) Housing and land use planning
- c) Economic development and regeneration
- d) Employment and skills
- e) Health and wellbeing
- f) Carbon reduction and air quality
- g) Connecting Communities
- h) Visitor Economy

It sets the direction for greater collaboration and for future joint working across the City Region. The Plan is appended to this report.

- 3.3 Given the strategic nature of the Plan it was considered important to bring it to the attention of the Scrutiny Panel as it will be a key document in directing resources to the key priorities of the Combined Authority and its partners.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no direct resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report, although the successful delivery of the Plan will be important for the future investment in the transport infrastructure of the City Region.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct human resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

- 5.1 There are no risks associated with this report or its recommendations.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

- 7.1 It is important to support the Panel in its role that it is kept up to date in relation to the key strategic documents produced by the LCR.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The report brings to the attention of the Panel the LCR 'Transport for Growth Plan', a key plan on the future development of the City Region. This will allow the Panel to take a view on whether this issue could be incorporated in the future work plan.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: Chair and Members of the Liverpool City Region
Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

Meeting: 8 April 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Panel Members' views on the future work programme of the Panel, given the experience of the European Funding review.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

- (1) the Panel indicates its wishes in relation to its future work programme; and
- (2) the Lead Officer – Scrutiny draws those requirements together into a programme to be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting held on 29 October 2014 the Panel identified four areas it felt warranted scrutiny activity. They were:

- European Funding;
- Skills and Learning/Leadership;
- Housing; and
- Affordable Transport.

European Funding was identified as a priority area. This prompted the review and final report elsewhere on this Agenda.

- 3.2 As the first piece of work on 'European Funding' has now concluded the Panel is asked to comment and provide further guidance on the following issues:

- Was the methodology adopted helpful in developing views and recommendations?

- The review was carried out by all Members of the Panel. Should further reviews be the same or should a smaller group or groups be identified?
- Are Panel Members still content with the list identified on 29 October 2014 and therefore content to proceed with a review of 'skills and learning' next?
- If Members decide not to commence with an 'all Member' approach to the review process, could the Panel identify Members to undertake the skills and learning review?

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

Whilst no additional financial resources are required to carry out reviews, Panel Members are asked to bear in mind that any resources needed to undertake them will be need to be found from the existing constituent authorities' resources. The Scrutiny Officer Group will remain an important source of resource to aid the Panel in its work.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct human resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

- 5.1 There is a risk that if there are inadequate resources available to the Panel, scrutiny of the LCRCA will be ineffective. Resources need to be identified across the six constituent Councils to ensure this does not happen.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

- 7.1 It is important that there is seen to be effective scrutiny arrangements in place as part of the mechanism that supports the objectives of the Combined Authority.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The report seeks guidance from the Panel as to the future work programme it wishes to follow.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

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