



Public Document Pack

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

Contact: Angela Scott
Tel: 0151 511 8670
Date: 30 June 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 July 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 July 2015

Agenda

1. **Appointment of Chair for 2015/16**
2. **Appointment of Vice Chair for 2015/16**
3. **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, 8 April 2015 held in the Authority Chamber - Mann Island, Liverpool

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman) Brown, Jones, Lappin, Leech, Preece, Sullivan, and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Dowd

Absence declared on Council business: None

Also Present: Ian Leivesley, Angela Scott, Ann Jones, Mick Noone (Halton Borough Council) and Mike Palin (St Helens Borough Council)

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

8 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2014, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

9 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN FUNDING

The Panel considered a report of the Lead Officer – Scrutiny, on the first scrutiny review undertaken by Panel Members on the topic of European Funding.

A detailed overview on the current position in relation to European Funding had been presented to the Panel by Alan Welby, Director for Key Growth Sectors at the LEP and Martin Eyres, Head of European Affairs at Liverpool City Council at the initial scrutiny session in January 2015.

The Panel then drew up a scoping document to provide focus to the review, and then attended two information gathering sessions which examined each of the aspects of the review in detail. At the final ‘wrap up’ session on 17 March 2015, the Panel agreed a series of recommendations and comments to be presented to the Combined Authority for consideration and response.

The attached appendices contained detailed information on each stage of the review, the evidence

Action

gathering sessions, together with a series of recommendations.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report and recommendations be approved; and
- 2) the Combined Authority be requested to consider those recommendations, and report its response to the Scrutiny Panel.

Lead Officer -
Scrutiny

10 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH PLAN AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN

The Panel received a presentation from Mike Palin, Chief Executive, St Helens Borough Council, on the Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan.

The Panel was advised that Government wanted Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) to have a Growth Plan, a high level and long term document which identified priorities and a strategic approach to specific projects and activity. LEP's were also required to have a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which provided the project-level detail; both documents together were designed to tackle the deficit, support the re-balancing of the City Region's economy and create jobs.

Four Strategic Projects were identified within the Plan:-

- Liverpool City Centre;
- LCR Freight and Logistics Hub;
- LCR2 Energy (Low Carbon Economy); and
- Access to the Port of Liverpool.

The Panel, in discussion, raised the following issues:-

- Officer capacity within the constituent authorities to deliver the outcomes in the Plan;
- Security of the 2015/16 finance offer and uncertainty on funding beyond that date, which would not be known until after the General Election;
- Whether money allocated for one purpose could be transferred to other projects;
- Details of Year 1 projects;
- The Low Carbon Strategy ; and

- The level of engagement with Members in providing the Plan.

Mike Palin responded to Members' questions.

RESOLVED; That the presentation be received and a further report be brought to the Panel in twelve months' time, outlining progress against the Plan's objectives.

11 A TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH

The Panel received a presentation from Mick Noone, Operational Director, Policy, Planning and Transportation, Halton Borough Council, on the Transport Plan for Growth.

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority's Transition Plan and Transport Protocol set out a requirement to produce a joint strategic framework and delivery plan. The Transport Plan for Growth had been developed to create a single strategic framework and delivery plan for the LCR, and was integral to, and supportive of, the City Region work being undertaken. It set the direction for greater collaboration and for future joint working across the City Region.

In discussion, the Panel noted the following:-

- The linkages between improved health and better air quality;
- The positive role which Liverpool John Lennon Airport had in the region; and
- The Merseytravel bus strategy.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received and a further report be brought to the Panel in twelve months' time, outlining progress against the Plan's objectives.

12 SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered a report of the Lead Officer, Scrutiny, which sought Members' views on the Panel's future Work Programme.

The Panel was reminded that, at its meeting on 29 October 2014, it had identified four areas that warranted scrutiny activity. The first, on European Funding had now been concluded (minute 9 referred). The three remaining areas were:-

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

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Topic Groups be formed to examine each of the three areas;
- 2) Panel Members be invited to indicate which of the Topic Groups they would wish to be part of (bearing in mind that the Constitution requires representation from four of the constituent authorities on any Group); and
- 3) the Lead Officer – Scrutiny, be asked to look at the resource requirements to support such a programme and to develop an overall Work Programme for the Panel for 2015/16.

Lead Officer -
Scrutiny

Meeting ended at 12.26 p.m.

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 8 July 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
COMBINED AUTHORITY'S AUDIT COMMITTEE****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek nominations from the Panel for two members to sit on the Combined Authority's Audit Committee and to appoint one substitute member.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that: The Panel

- (1) Nominates two members to sit on the Audit Committee.
- (2) Nominates a substitute member.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Combined Authority's Constitution allows for the appointment of two members of the Scrutiny Panel to sit on its Audit Committee.
- 3.2 It has also asked that the Panel appoints a substitute member in the event that one of the Panel members cannot attend. This is to ensure that meetings of the Audit Committee are quorate.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**4.1 Financial**

None.

4.2 Human Resources

None.

4.3 Physical Assets

None.

4.4 Information Technology

None.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 None.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Guidance from CIPFA suggests that Audit Committee arrangements are more effective if representatives are drawn from both the Executive and Scrutiny functions of the Authority.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 None.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The report seeks two nominations to the Audit Committee, plus a substitute.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

David Parr, Chief Executive, Halton –

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

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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 8 July 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY**
ONE YEAR ON**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of the Panel that the Chair of the Combined Authority (CA) will be attending the meeting to give members of the Panel a presentation on the activities pursued by the CA during its first year of existence.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That:
- (i) the Panel receives the presentation.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (CA) has been in existence now for just over 12 months. The Chair of the CA, Cllr Phil Davies, will be attending the Panel meeting to cover some of the following issues:
- Reflect on the first year.
 - Identify its successes.
 - Identify future challenges.
 - Provide some thoughts about the CA's future.
- 3.2 The Panel will have the opportunity to ask Cllr Davies further questions if it so wishes.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no resource implications associated with this report.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no physical assets implications associated with this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no information technology implications associated with this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 It is important that there is regular dialogue between the CA and its Scrutiny members.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Panel is invited to receive the presentation from the Chair of the Authority.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 8 July 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**ROLE OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION
COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Given that there are new members on the Panel it was considered helpful to inform and remind members of the role of the Panel.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That:

- (i) the Panel notes its role and responsibilities as outlined in the Combined Authority's Constitution; and
- (ii) makes reference to and bears in mind the Constitution when carrying out its functions.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Part 5, Section B of the Combined Authority's Constitution outlines the arrangements made for Scrutiny of the Combined Authority's activities. For ease of reference an extract from the Constitution that covers the Scrutiny function is appended to this report. Members of the Panel are encouraged to familiarise themselves with Part 5, Section B of the Constitution.

3.2 Part 5 covers the following issues:

- Function of Scrutiny at a 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.
- Support and Advice to Scrutiny Arrangements.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

All constituent authorities have agreed that the administration of the Combined Authority will be met from existing resources. However, it will be important that the Scrutiny Panel has the support to carry out its role effectively. It will be the responsibility of the constituent authorities to identify appropriate resources to support the Scrutiny Panel's work programme. The constituent authorities will have to respond to the requirements of Scrutiny but all parties will have to operate in the knowledge of the overall pressures on local authority budgets and personnel.

A good example of this was the work done by the Panel on "European Funding". This was done with the support of officers across the City Region and worked well.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct issues associated with the recommendations in this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues associated with the recommendations in this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no direct issues associated with the recommendations in this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

- 5.1 There is a risk that the effectiveness of Scrutiny may be compromised if resources are not made available to it to carry out its role. The mitigation to ensure this does not happen is that the combined resource of the constituent authorities can be accessed to support the work of Scrutiny and that innovative use of existing work and resources can be utilised.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Scrutiny function will need to consider equality and diversity issues within any review work it undertakes.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

- 7.1 It is important that Members of the Scrutiny Panel are aware of their role and responsibilities. Work is going on to identify dates for another Development Day for Panel members.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The report draws Members' attention to the part of the Combined Authority's Constitution that outlines the Scrutiny arrangements.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

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Appendices:

Part 5 Section B - Constitution.

Background Documents:

CA's Constitution.

Section B – Scrutiny Arrangements for the Authority,

Merseytravel Committee and Merseytravel

1. Introduction

1.1 The Authority is to be supported by a scrutiny model in order to scrutinise decisions made at the sub-regional level.

2. Function of Scrutiny at a City Region Level

2.1 Scrutiny exists to achieve greater public accountability over decisions made and services delivered to the whole Liverpool City Region in respect of those functions under the remit of the Combined Authority.

2.2 The principal ways in which the Combined Authority will be 'held to account' via Scrutiny are:-

- (i) 'Critical Friend' role
- (ii) Pre-decision scrutiny
- (iii) Monitoring the delivery of the Combined Authority Strategic Plan

2.3 Pre-decision scrutiny would need to be used selectively otherwise the scrutiny system would, by spreading its energies too thinly, be likely to have little impact.

2.4 The role of Scrutiny in these three key function areas will be:-

a. To provide a 'critical friend' to policy and strategy development

The main priority for scrutiny should be to help the Authority to:-

- Develop policies to deal with new issues
- Reviewing existing policies which are felt to be in need of review
- Contributing to the formulation of the annual budget
- Reviewing policies or actions of agencies external to the local authorities which may be impacting adversely on the quality of life of local people

b. To undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region.

The Authority's Scrutiny Panel should aim to investigate matters of strategic significance for the Liverpool City Region area and review should focus on sub-regional issues that are directly linked to the work of the Combined Authority and its sub-structure. The Panel would take a similar approach to a Parliamentary Select

Committee. Panel members will collect evidence through a variety of sources, including –

- Questioning expert ‘witnesses’
- Receiving reports and other literature
- Undertaking consultation
- Communication with stakeholders

The Panel will work with this information to make suggestions for improvement, acknowledge good practice and make recommendations. It will not deal with individual issues or queries that are more suitably dealt with by a local authority or specific organisation. The findings of each review will be submitted to the Authority for consideration.

There are two potential sources for identifying in-depth studies to be carried out by scrutiny; the Scrutiny Panel itself and the Authority. The Authority may require scrutiny of a particular policy before agreeing a policy or taking a decision.

c. To monitor the delivery of the Authority’s Strategic Plan The Scrutiny Panel will review the outcomes of the Authority’s Strategic Plans.

Any involvement of scrutiny in this activity would need to demonstrate that it could add value and not just replicate what the Authority, its Boards or Committees were doing. Scrutiny would again need to be highly selective acting only when it was concerned about evidence of poor performance and it was not satisfied by the Authority’s response to it.

3. Operation of Scrutiny Arrangements

3.1 The Scrutiny Panel will comprise of Members from each of the Constituent Councils. Membership will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations to the Scrutiny Panel must not be members of the Authority (including substitute members) or the Merseytravel Committee.

3.2 Nominations to the Scrutiny Panel by the Constituent Councils will be made in accordance with the principles of political balance set out in Section 15(5) of the LGHA 1989.

3.3 Any elected member appointed to the Scrutiny Panel by the Authority under these scrutiny arrangements who is also appointed to any Committee of the Authority, cannot participate in the operation of the scrutiny arrangements on any issues which were taken at any meeting of the Authority or any Committee of the Authority at which they were present.

3.4 The term of office for members of the Scrutiny Panel will be one year from the date of the annual council meeting of the Constituent Council that nominates them to the Scrutiny Panel, unless:-

- (a) they cease to be an elected member of the Constituent Council that appointed them;

- (b) they wish to no longer participate in these arrangements; or
- (c) the Head of the Secretariat is advised by any of the Constituent Councils that it wishes to change one or more of its nominees to the Scrutiny Panel.

3.5 Non-voting members may be co-opted to participate in these arrangements from other organisations as the Scrutiny Panel members may decide.

4. Meetings of Scrutiny Panel

4.1 The members appointed by the Authority to the Scrutiny Panel will hold at least one annual meeting and may convene additional meetings in accordance with these arrangements.

4.2 The Scrutiny Panel members will:

- (a) elect a Chair and Vice Chair;
- (b) determine the areas of review and scrutiny that they wish to pursue during the ensuing 12 months;
- (c) agree to establish Scrutiny Working Groups from amongst their number in order to carry out agreed areas of review and scrutiny.

4.3 The quorum for the annual meeting and any other meetings is 6, and must include representatives of at least 4 of the Constituent Councils.

4.4 The principle of decision-making at any such meeting shall be that, wherever possible, decisions will be made by agreement, without the need for a vote. If a vote is necessary it will be a simple majority of those present and the Chair will not have a casting vote.

4.5 The venue for each annual meeting and the usual venue for any other meetings will be the offices of Merseytravel, save that the Scrutiny Panel may choose to hold meetings other than the annual meeting in other venues if this is deemed to assist the scrutiny process.

4.6 Notice of the annual meeting and any other meetings will be sent to each Scrutiny Panel member in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.6 The Chair will approve the agenda for each annual meeting and any other meetings; however, any member of the Scrutiny Panel will be entitled to require an item to be placed on the agenda for the meeting.

4.8 Subject to paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7, meetings will proceed in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

5. Key Principles for the Operation of the Scrutiny Arrangements

5.1 The Constituent Councils will work together to maximise the exchange of information and views, to minimise bureaucracy and make best use of the time of members and officers of other bodies or agencies.

- 5.2 Members of the Scrutiny Panel will, when considering reviews, determine whether the issue is more appropriately dealt with by one of the Constituent Councils or elsewhere and will not duplicate the work of existing bodies or agencies.
- 5.3 Subject to prior consultation, the Constituent Councils will respond positively to requests for information, or for the attendance of a member or officer at any meetings set up under these arrangements.
- 5.4 While it is ultimately for each Constituent Council to decide who it considers the most appropriate person(s) to speak on its behalf at any meetings set up under these arrangements, consideration will be given to meeting specific requests.
- 5.5 Dates and times for officer and member attendance at any meetings set up under these arrangements should be by agreement.
- 5.6 Members appointed under these arrangements may request the attendance of officers employed by the Constituent Councils to answer questions and give evidence at any meetings set up under these arrangements. All such requests must be made via the Chief Executive of the relevant Constituent Council. If any request is declined by the Chief Executive, he/she must state the reasons for so doing.
- 5.7 The Scrutiny Panel may
- (a) invite members to attend before it to answer questions;
 - (b) invite other persons to attend meetings of the Panel;
 - (c) review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any functions of the Authority;
 - (d) make reports or recommendations to the Authority with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Authority.
- 5.8 The power to review or scrutinise a decision made, but not implemented under subparagraph 5.7(c), includes the power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered, but is subject to the following provisions:
- (a) this shall not apply where, in the view of the decision-making body stated when the decision is made, any delay in implementing the decision would prejudice the interests of the Authority or the interests of the public;
 - (b) (i) in relation to decisions which may be subject to reconsideration, each decision shall be available where possible by electronic means within two working days of being made. Members of the Scrutiny Panel will be provided with a copy of the decision which will bear the date published and indicate it will come into effect on the expiry of three working days after publication;
 - (ii) if two-thirds of the membership of the Scrutiny Panel notify the Head of the Secretariat that they wish the Scrutiny Panel to consider the decision, then the Head of the Secretariat will arrange for a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to be convened at the first available opportunity and in any event within seven working days of the request being notified to him. No action will be taken in the meantime to implement the decision which is subject to the request;

(iii) the Scrutiny Panel will consider the matter and if it chooses to, may resolve to request that the decision-maker reconsiders the decision. The Scrutiny Panel must set out the basis upon which reconsideration is requested;

(iv) the decision-making body will reconsider the decision and that reconsideration shall take place within seven working days of the Scrutiny Panel's request;

(v) no further requests for reconsideration may be made in cases where decisions have been reconsidered and the decision has been affirmed;

(c) decisions which have been subject to pre-decision scrutiny cannot be recommended for reconsideration unless the decision taken is, in the view of the Head of the Secretariat, significantly different from the proposal under contemplation at the pre-decision scrutiny stage;

5.9 Where the Scrutiny Panel makes a report or recommendation under 5.7(d), it may:

(a) publish the report or recommendations;

(b) by notice in writing, require the Authority to

(i) consider the report or recommendation;

(ii) provide a response to the Scrutiny Panel indicating what action (if any) it proposes to take;

(iii) where the Scrutiny Panel has published the report or recommendations, publish the response;

5.10 A notice under 5.9(b) will require the Authority to comply with it within two months, beginning with the date on which the Authority receives the report or recommendations or (if later) the notice.

5.11 The Authority will comply with a notice given under 5.9(b).

5.12 The requirements or power to publish contained in 5.9(a) and 5.11, shall not apply where the reports contain exempt or confidential information.

6. Scrutiny Working Groups

6.1 The annual meeting of members of the Scrutiny Panel may establish Scrutiny Working Groups to undertake agreed scrutiny reviews.

6.2 Scrutiny Working Groups shall include representatives from at least 4 of the Constituent Councils.

6.3 Scrutiny Working Groups established under this Protocol must be appointed to carry out specific scrutiny tasks and be time limited. Their continuation will be subject to confirmation at each annual meeting of the Scrutiny Panel members.

6.4 The Authority may also, if they choose, request that a Scrutiny Working Group be appointed to examine a specific issue in more detail and report back its findings to the Authority as appropriate.

6.5 Scrutiny Working Groups will have no delegated powers and will refer the outcome of their investigations to the Scrutiny Panel for consideration and decision.

7. Reviews and Recommendations

7.1 The process of scrutiny will be an open and transparent process designed to engage the Constituent Councils, their residents and other stakeholders.

7.2 Meetings will be held in public unless the meeting decides to convene in private in order to discuss confidential or exempt information, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the LGA 1972 or LGA 2000.

7.3 The terms of reference, timescale and outline of any review will be agreed by Scrutiny Panel members appointed at their annual meeting.

7.4 Different approaches to scrutiny reviews may be taken in each case, but members will seek to act in an inclusive manner and will take evidence from a wide range of opinion.

7.5 The primary objective of any Scrutiny Working Group established under these arrangements will be to reach consensus on its recommendations, but where a minimum number of 2 members express an alternative to the majority view, they will be permitted to produce a minority report.

8. Budget and Administration

8.1 The scrutiny leads from each Constituent Council will provide guidance to the Scrutiny Panel on its work programme, advice on the scoping of reviews (at different levels) and ensuring the appropriate information and advice is made available during the reviews, where appropriate, through the use of expert witnesses.

8.2 The decisions and recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel will be communicated to the Authority and/or Merseytravel as appropriate, as soon as practicable.

9. Support and Advice to Scrutiny Arrangements

9.1 The Scrutiny Panel may ask individuals or groups to assist it on a review by review basis and may ask independent professionals for advice during the course of reviews. Such individuals or groups will not be able to vote.

9.2 The Scrutiny Officer of each Constituent Council will ensure that the work programmes and minutes relating to the work carried out by the Scrutiny Panel in scrutinising the Authority and the Merseytravel Committee, are circulated appropriately within their own Constituent Council's scrutiny arrangements.

9.3 Each Constituent Council will nominate one of the 2 members of that Constituent Council who have been appointed to the Scrutiny Panel to act as that Constituent Council's "Authority Scrutiny Link". The Authority Scrutiny Link will be responsible for reporting back to their own Constituent Council on the scrutiny work carried out by the Scrutiny Panel and will also be responsible for reporting to the Scrutiny Panel any issues identified locally by their own Constituent Council which may warrant scrutiny at a sub-regional level. The nomination of an Authority Scrutiny Link and the way in which this role will be performed will be determined by each Constituent Council.

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL

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

Meeting: 8 July 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: N/A

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY

COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to draw Members attention to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Forward Plan. Members may wish to use the Forward Plan to help guide their scrutiny work.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That:

- i) The Forward Plan be noted; and
- ii) Members comment, seek clarification and further information on items on the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

Like all Local Authorities, the Combined Authority (CA) is required to produce a Forward Plan. The CA at its meeting on 19 June 2015 approved a Forward Plan which focuses the work of the CA over the next 12 months. A copy of the Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

The Plan covers the period from now until April 2015. The Plan will be updated on a regular basis and the most up-to-date version will be brought to each meeting of the Scrutiny Panel. This will help the Scrutiny Panel in determining its work programme and how it develops its working arrangements with the CA.

The Panel is invited to comment or seek further information in relation to the issues on the Forward Plan.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no issues directly related to this item.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no issues directly related to this item.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no issues directly related to this item.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no issues directly related to this item.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

It is important that Scrutiny Members are aware of the issues the CA will be dealing with in the future. This will provide them with the opportunity to comment and have influence on decisions before they are taken.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no issues directly related to this item.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It will be important for the Scrutiny Panel to convey its views to the CA prior to decisions being made and to indicate when they would welcome greater involvement or consultation.

8. CONCLUSION

The report draws Panel members' attention to the CA's Forward 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

Appendices:

LCRCA Forward Plan 2015-16

Background Documents:

Appendix 1

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Forward Plan: 2015-16

Date	Economic Development	Transport	Housing and Planning	Employment and Skills	European issues	Scrutiny	Governance
17 July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Festival for Business 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport for the North 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Capital Investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European programme governance Blue/green investment framework 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devolution of additional powers and funds to the City Region
21 August 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liverpool City Region Capital Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of business cases: Maghull Station and Halton Curve Smartcard and ticketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Spatial Planning Priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Capital Investment 			
25 September 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of business case: Silver Jubilee Bridge Transport for the North High Speed Rail 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Capital Investment Skills for Growth 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Accounts 2015/16 Quarterly financial monitoring
16 October 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling stock project Long term bus strategy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Priorities 2015/16 			

Date	Economic Development	Transport	Housing and Planning	Employment and Skills	European issues	Scrutiny	Governance
20 November 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of business case: Windle Island • Transport for the North • High Speed 2: next steps 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Capital Investment 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly financial monitoring
18 December 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of business cases: A570, M58 J1 and A565 • Integrated Transport Block and Highways Maintenance Allocations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and Spatial planning update 				
22 January 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for the North 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly financial monitoring
5 February 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016/17 Budget • 2016/17 Mersey Tunnel Tolls 					
18 March 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term freight strategy 					
15 April 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concessionary travel • Transport for the North submission 					

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 8 July 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To confirm a work programme for 2015/16 and agree to holding a further Development Day with members of the Panel to further develop that programme in the light of the first year's experience.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That:

- (i) the Panel confirms the list of topics;
- (ii) suggests a priority order for those topics to be addressed; and
- (iii) a further Development Day be held, supported by North West Employers organisation to further develop that programme.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Panel had previously identified a number of areas it wished to review as part of a work programme. As can be seen elsewhere on this agenda the first piece of review work has been completed. That leaves the following areas still to be undertaken:

- Skills and Learning
- Housing
- Affordable Transport

3.2 Consideration has taken place about how this programme of work can be supported and it is felt that the best way forward would be to simply identify the next topic for review and to approach its review in exactly the same manner as the European Funding Review, that is:

- inviting all members of the Panel to participate, as this ensures ‘ownership’ by all members;
- have an initial scoping meeting to focus the direction of the review;
- hold a series of evidence gathering sessions;
- a final meeting being held to draw conclusions and recommendations.

3.3 The Panel is asked:

- if it is satisfied to proceed in that way;
- to confirm if it is still happy with the list of topics;
- to identify the order it wishes to deal with those topics.

Once the next priority has been agreed by the Panel then officers will convene the first scoping meeting as outlined above.

3.4 It was previously agreed that the Panel would have a further Development Day, facilitated by the North West Employers Organisation. It is suggested that such a day should focus on two issues:

- further development of a work programme; and
- lessons from scrutiny activity in other Combined Authority areas.

If members are happy with those suggestions, officers will proceed with making the appropriate arrangements.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

The delivery of the work programme will require staff time to support the work and requirements of the Panel. That resource will have to come from the constituent authorities’ existing resources. For that reason it is felt that one review topic should be undertaken at a time.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no physical assets implications associated with this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no information technology implications associated with this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 There are no communications issues associated with this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Panel is asked to provide guidance on their future work programme requirements.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

David Parr, Chief Executive, Halton –

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

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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 8 July 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 report to the Panel the response from the Combined authority on the recommendations made by this Panel following its review of European Funding.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That:

- (i) the response of the Combined Authority be accepted; and
- (ii) the Combined Authority be requested to report progress to the Scrutiny Panel on the recommendations and responses in 12 months' time.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As part of its work programme, the Scrutiny Panel identified "European Funding" as a topic it wished to review. The review was undertaken via a series of evidence sessions conducted by the Panel and culminated with a report and a series of recommendations being approved by the Panel at its meeting on 8 April 2015. The report made a series of recommendations to the Combined Authority.
- 3.2 The Combined Authority considered those recommendations at its meeting on 19 June 2015. The Chair and members of the Authority welcomed the report and thanked members of the Panel for their comments and recommendations. Attached as Appendix 1 to the report is the formal response of the Authority which addresses and responds to each of the recommendations in the report.
- 3.3 Members of the panel are asked to consider those responses and either accept them or seek further information. If the Panel is happy to accept those responses

then the Panel may wish to ask for an update in, say, 12 months' time, on progress against those responses.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications associated with this in this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no physical assets issues associated with this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no information technology issues associated with this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 There are no communication issues associated with this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Panel is requested to commend on the responses received from the Combined Authority

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

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Proposed actions in response to Scrutiny Panel report on European Funding

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation	Actual Date of Implementation
	Governance Arrangements			
1	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	Lead CEX (Europe) (Mike Palin) with LEP Exec Director with responsibility (Alan Welby)	Since the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel CLG have released Calls for projects but also indicated a stronger role for the Managing Authority as regards the overall Governance of the EU Programme. A paper was taken to the CA on April 17 outlining the implications. The paper recommended that once the details of this are fully known there is a Governance Review of the LCR approach to European Funding to ensure effective and efficient alignment of the Managing Authority role with LCR structures including the LEP and CA. Recommendation d) of the report to the CA stated: <i>“Note the EU governance structures will be reviewed to ensure that robust decision making and accountability is in place to ensure local priorities are considered in the selection of projects by the Managing Authority”</i>	August 2015
2	That a more formal role should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeking assurance that projects being approved meet the CA's own plans and strategies. 	Lead CEX (Europe) (Mike Palin) with LEP Exec Director with responsibility (Alan Welby)	To ensure that projects fit against the plans and strategies of the LEP and CA a series of reports by theme area have been taken to the CA in the last year which identify priorities. These include an Enterprise Framework (which includes Business Support) and Innovation. It is intended that a report on ‘Place’ and ‘Low Carbon’ will go an upcoming CA identifying priorities in these theme areas. These jointly owned LEP/CA strategies represent	August 2015

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation	Actual Date of Implementation
			<p>the plans and strategies against which the Managing Authority will be expected to test the strategic fit of projects utilising the advice of the local ESIF Committee.</p> <p>To ensure this is appreciated by the Managing Authority the CA will write to the Managing Authority ensuring that they are aware of these strategies and plans.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assurance that the programme is delivering to its required outcomes. 	<p>Programme Team (CLG/DWP) and local TA Team reporting via CEX Europe and LEP Exec Director.</p>	<p>The programme monitoring role of the LCR ESIF Committee may change as the Managing Authority determine the final form of their function and role. Irrespective it is suggested that regular reports on programme performance be provided to both the LEP and the CA to ensure the programme is delivering the desired outcomes.</p>	<p>Last quarter 2015 (subject to managing authority clarification of role/process)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A role for the CA in having strategic oversight of the programme. 	<p>Lead CEX (Europe)</p>	<p>CLG have not yet determined the final role/responsibilities they will have as the Managing Authority and that of the local ESIF Committee. As this becomes clear we will seek to ensure that the LEP/CA has an appropriate strategic oversight role.</p>	<p>August 2015 as part of governance review.</p>
3	<p>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</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>This point is recognised.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation	Actual Date of Implementation
4	<p>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.</p>	<p>Lead CEX (Europe) working with CEX Group</p>	<p>It was agreed at the CA meeting on 17 April 2015 that there would be a wider Governance review surrounding the programme once clarity was provided from the Managing Authority on role/function of the local ESIF Committee. This will inform any required changes to the European Protocol.</p> <p>Given we are awaiting the Managing Authority to finalise the role/responsibilities of local ESIF Committees it proposed that such a review sit outside the current review of the CA's first 12 months of operation.</p>	<p>August 2015 as part of governance review.</p>
5	<p>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.</p>	<p>Lead CEX (Europe)</p>	<p>Government has given key responsibilities to LEPs independent of the existence of CA's, in part because there are 39 LEP's in England providing 100% coverage of the country whilst CA's only exist in 5 City Region areas. The protocols establishing the CA in the Liverpool City Region recognise the requirement for an inter-relationship between the LEP and the CA and the provision of a voting right to a LEP representative ensures close working. These arrangements are stronger in the City Region than in other areas and although complex could be better emphasised and will form part of any communication plan going forward.</p>	<p>Implemented already but will be better communicated.</p>

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation	Actual Date of Implementation
	Commissioning/Bidding Framework			
6	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.	Lead CEX (Europe) with Exec Director (LEP)	The governance review needs to be undertaken once the Managing Authority is clear on local role/responsibility. Once this is clear, the review will seek to ensure that the LCR is in position to get maximum benefit from the programme.	Timing dependant on Managing Authority. Update to be provided by August.
7	Given that the EU funding available to the LCR is considerably less than that for previous programs 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 favorably, 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.	Lead CEX (Economic Development) for economic development bids. Lead CEX (Skills) for Skills Board	This is agreed and the CA/LEP and Constituent Authorities will work with DCLG to ensure that collaborative and coordinated bids are, as far as possible, put forward. This is a key feature of the strategies/plans that have been signed off by the LEP and CA over the last year.	Outline applications have been submitted in a way enabling consortium bids. Those will be further worked on.

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation	Actual Date of Implementation
8	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	Lead CEX (Europe)	CA is a relatively new body and the priorities determined within the ESIF strategy were put together before the CA was formed. Although Government places this responsibility with the LEP, it would be expected that there would be close liaison with the CA in any future development of priorities as has been the case over the last year in the development of an Enterprise Framework and of the City Region Innovation Plan.	Will include in letter to Managing Authority (July 2015)
	Wider Issues/Comments			
9	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.	Exec Director (LEP) and TA Team	The CA/LEP will work with DCLG to ensure that there is an effective communications strategy. The report provided to the CA on April 17 included as recommendation b) that the CA: <i>Request the LEP Executive, in consultation with Local Authorities, develop and implement a communications plan to assist partners</i> In addition, the LEP, with partners, undertook an information day with stakeholders on April 2 nd .	Ongoing.
10	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.	Lead CEX (Europe) with Exec Director (LEP)	This will be undertaken as part of the Governance review of the European Programme once the requirements of the Managing Authority are fully known.	August 2015

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Agreed Action and Date of Implementation	Actual Date of Implementation
11	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	Lead CEX (Europe) with Exec Director (LEP)	Consideration is being given to the development of a CA web site recognising that this would be a cost that would need to be met.	October 2015