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## LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

**Contact:** Angela Scott

**Tel:** 0151 511 8670

**Date:** 20 October 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, 28 October 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](mailto: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**

**28 October 2015**

**Agenda**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declaration of Interests**
3. **Minutes of last meeting** 1 - 5
4. **Potential Devolution of Powers and Resources to the Liverpool City Region** 6 - 8
5. **Work Programme 2015/16** 9 - 11
6. **Calendar of Meetings** 12

**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 July 2015 held in the Authority Chamber - Mann Island*

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman) Baines, Brown, Burns, Connor, McGuire, O'Brien, Stuart, Sullivan, and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Jones, Killen and Leech

Absence declared on Council business: None

Also Present: David Parr, Angela Scott and Councillor Phil Davies, Chair of the Combined Authority

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

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2015/16

*Action*

The Lead Officer – Scrutiny – opened the meeting and invited nominations for Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel for 2015/16. It was moved by Councillor Woolfall and seconded by Councillor Burns and:-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Kevan Wainwright be appointed Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel for 2015/16.

**(COUNCILLOR KEVAN WAINWRIGHT IN THE CHAIR)**

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2015/16

The Chair then invited nominations for Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel for 2015/16. It was moved by Councillor Woolfall and seconded by Councillor Brown and:-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Burns be appointed Vice Chair of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel for 2015/16.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2015, having been circulated, were taken as read and subject to Councillor Stuart's apologies being recorded, were signed

as a correct record.

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

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

The Lead Officer – Scrutiny – advised that two nominations had been received prior to the meeting for the position of Members of the Audit Committee, these being Councillor Nina Killen and Councillor Mike Sullivan. A further nomination for the position of Substitute Member was received from Councillor Michael O'Brien.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Nina Killen and Councillor Mike Sullivan be appointed as Members and that Councillor Michael O'Brien be appointed as the Substitute Member, on the Combined Authority's Audit Committee for 2015/16.

#### 5. COMBINED AUTHORITY – ONE YEAR ON

The Scrutiny Panel welcomed Councillor Phil Davies, Chair of the Combined Authority, to the meeting.

Councillor Davies provided an update on the activities and achievements of the Combined Authority in its first year and its programme for the next twelve months.

His presentation covered the following:-

- Transport and its critical role in supporting the City Region's wider policy objectives;
- The Liverpool City Region Growth Deal worth £262m;
- Commencement of delivery on the Youth Employment Gateway Programme, with 907 young people receiving support and 132 having been supported into employment;
- The work of the Housing and Spatial Planning Group;
- Support for an enhanced HS2/HS3 rail offer for the City Region;
- Discussions with Ministers on the Devolution agenda; and
- The Associate membership of West Lancashire and Warrington Councils to the Combined Authority.

Councillor Davies then dealt with Members' questions and was thanked for his attendance.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

## 6. ROLE OF THE 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.

Members noted that the constituent authorities had agreed to provide appropriate resources and support to the Scrutiny Panel's work programme, with the first scrutiny review on European Funding conducted with support from across the City Region.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

## 7. 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 for the next twelve months, and that the rolling plan was regularly updated. The Plan would help to determine the development of the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme for 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That the Combined Authority Forward Plan be noted.

8. SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

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 (CA) 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.

In addition to the three areas for scrutiny that had been previously agreed and which were set out in the report, Members discussed other possible areas for consideration. These included Transport –including the tolls, debt and fees associated with both Mersey Tunnels – and the relationship with Mersey Gateway (MG). (However, it was noted that MG was outside of the remit of the CA); and Devolution, as it related to the functions of the CA.

The Panel was reminded that there would be wider consultation across the City Region to discuss the Devolution ‘ask’ and ‘offer’ package as well as the matter of governance, to which the Panel could contribute.

Following discussions, it was agreed that a Work Programme would be formulated to deal with topics in the following order:-

- Affordable Transport;
- Skills and Learning; and
- Housing (Strategic).

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a Work Programme be developed as set out above; and
- 2) dates be canvassed for a Development Day, supported by the North West Employers organisation.

Lead Officer -  
Scrutiny

9. REVIEW OF EUROPEAN FUNDING - RESPONSE FROM THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Panel considered a report of the Lead Officer – Scrutiny – on the formal response of the Combined Authority (CA) to the recommendations made by the Panel following its review on European Funding.

The review was undertaken via a series of evidence gathering sessions which culminated with a report and series of recommendations to the CA. At its meeting on 19 June 2015, the Chair and Members of the CA welcomed the report and thanked Panel Members for their comments and recommendations. The formal response of the CA was attached at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the response of the Combined Authority be noted; and
- 2) the Combined Authority be asked to report progress to the Scrutiny Panel on the recommendations and responses in 6 months' time.

Lead Officer -  
Scrutiny

*Meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.*

**LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY**

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

Meeting: 28 October 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

**REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY****POTENTIAL DEVOLUTION OF POWERS AND RESOURCES  
TO THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to draw Scrutiny Panel Members' attention to the current position in relation to the negotiations which are taking place between Government and Liverpool City Region around the potential devolution of powers to the Region.
- 1.2 This will provide the opportunity for Panel Members to question and comment on the up to date position on those negotiations.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that: The Panel
  - (1) notes the current position on the negotiations;
  - (2) comments as appropriate; and
  - (3) requests regular updates from the Combined Authority as the process develops over the coming months.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 As Members will be aware the Combined Authority has been involved, over the last few months, in negotiating a Devolution Deal with Government. It was required to submit its initial set of 'asks' of Government by 4 September 2015. One of the key principles behind the negotiations has been that devolution for the City Region means powers being passed down from Government to the City Region and not powers being taken away from individual local authorities.
- 3.2 The original submission from the LCR contained 50 'asks', covering some 14 themes. Following early feedback from Government these have now been prioritised down to four key areas:



- Economic Development
- Transport
- Employment and Skills
- Planning for Growth

3.3 However, the other 'asks' will still be developed further. The prioritisation has been driven by the timetable set by Government, which has been to have a worked up deal in place in time to influence the outcome of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

3.4 The negotiation process has, therefore been a fast-paced process with developments taking place on a daily basis. As a result of this and to ensure Panel Members have the latest position on those negotiations, a presentation will be given at the meeting by Ged Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council, giving Panel Members the opportunity to both question and comment on what is being negotiated.

## **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial**

A successfully negotiated deal will provide the City Region with greater control over resources which are currently controlled and allocated to the Region by Central Government. It would provide the City Region with opportunity to direct those resources to its priorities.

### **4.2 Human Resources**

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

### **4.3 Physical Assets**

There are no physical asset implications directly 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 It is important that Scrutiny Panel Members have the opportunity to comment on the devolution proposals as they engage with Government.

**8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The report and presentation provide the opportunity for Scrutiny Panel Members to feed into the devolution negotiation process with Government.

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: 28 October 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 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the position in relation to the Panel's Work Programme and to seek Members' views on progressing further topics.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Panel give guidance to Officers as to further topics for review.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Panel identified topics for review when it was originally formed last year. It has completed one piece of work on European Funding and has recently commenced its next piece of work on "Affordable Transport". From its original list there are two remaining topics as follows:

- Skills and Learning
- Housing

- 3.2 When considering any work programme it is always important to consider the capacity available for both Members and Officers to undertake that work in a timely manner. Members have many demands on their time and setting dates for review work is challenging with the competing commitments for Members and Officers.

- 3.3 In developing the programme the panel has a number of choices:

- i) to simply complete each piece of work and only then start the next. In effect only doing one piece of work at a time;

- ii) carry out reviews in parallel, therefore increasing the output of the Panel and also recommendations it may wish to make to the Combined Authority;
- iii) look again at the programme in the light of experience and carry out review work differently and in a way that perhaps is not as time consuming.

3.4 Points i) and ii) above could relate to the existing topics identified in 3.1. However, point iii) could be looked at in relation to the broad list of issues the Combined Authority has already considered as part of its work programme, which Members may wish to use to identify other topics for review.

3.5 The views of the Panel are requested.

## **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial**

The delivery of the work programme will require staff time to support that work and the requirements of the Panel. That resource will have to come from the constituent authorities existing resources. Once the Panel has identified its requirements Officers would have to go away and match existing resources to those requirements.

### **4.2 Human Resources**

There are no direct human resource issues associated with this report.

### **4.3 Physical Assets**

There are no physical asset resources 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 issues associated with this report.

## **7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

7.1 There are no communications issues associated with this report.

**8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The report asks that Members of the Panel give any further guidance they wish on the work programme.

DAVID PARR  
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

**Contact Officer(s):**

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Meeting: 28 October 2015

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

**REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY****CALENDAR OF MEETINGS****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the Panel's approval to a Calendar of future meetings of the Panel.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the pattern of meetings outlined in the report be approved.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Panel has previously agreed a pattern of meetings which finishes at today's meeting. The Panel is therefore required to set a pattern of meetings until the end of the current Municipal Year. It is suggested that meetings take place as follows:

13 January 2016  
20 April 2016

Both meetings to start at 11.15am in the Authority Chamber, Mann Island.

- 3.2 From there on in, meetings of the Panel will be set at the start of each Municipal Year.
- 3.3 The views of Members are sought.

DAVID PARR  
Lead Officer – Scrutiny

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