

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 29 October 2014

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline to Members of the Scrutiny Panel the role and responsibilities of the Combined Authority. This will assist the Panel in identifying issues that it may wish to develop as part of its work programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that:

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Panel identify any further information requirements it has in order to carry out its role effectively.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The appropriate statutory instrument to form the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was made in February of this year. The Combined Authority is a Corporate body and is made up of the six Councils of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral. (known as the Constituent Councils).
- 3.2 The remit of the Combined Authority covers the functions of economic development, regeneration, transport, strategic housing and employment and skills. The governance review that preceded the formation of the Combined Authority concluded that those functions can be better delivered collaboratively across the City Region.
- 3.3 The Combined Authority discharges those thematic functions through the following arrangements:

Function	Arrangements
Strategic Economic Development	Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board
Strategic Transport	Merseytravel Committee
Strategic Housing and Land Based Assets	Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Planning Board
Strategic Employment and Skills	Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board

- 3.4 As a statutory organisation, the Combined Authority is required to have a Constitution. The Constitution can be accessed from the link below:

<http://councillors.knowsley.gov.uk/documents/s28005/Establishment%20of%20the%20CA%20-%20Appendix%20One.pdf?StyleType=standard&StyleSize=none>

In summary, the Constitution contains sections which deal with the following issues:

Part 1 deals with:

- a) Membership of the CA.
- b) Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.
- c) Appointment of Officers.
- d) The execution of contracts and legal documents.

Part 2 deals with the powers and functions of the CA.

Part 3 deals with the responsibility for functions as follows:

- a) Functions reserved to the CA.
- b) Functions referred or delegated to Merseytravel and Halton Council.
- c) Functions delegated to Merseytravel.
- d) Schemes of delegation to Officers.

Part 4 deals with the remit of other Committees:

- a) Standards Committee.
- b) Audit Committee.

Part 5 deals with CA rules of procedure:

- a) Meeting procedure rules.
- b) Scrutiny arrangements for the Authority.

Part 6 deals with CA financial regulations and procurement rules.

Part 7 deals with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Part 8 deals with Members' allowance for travel and subsistence.

3.5 At its first meeting held on 1 April 2014, the Combined Authority appointed the following Officers to undertake the following specific functions on behalf of the CA under delegated authority:

Head of Paid Service	David Brown (Merseytravel)
Head of Secretariat	Sheena Ramsey (Knowsley Council)
Monitoring Officer	Angela Sanderson (St Helens Council)
Treasurer	John Fogarty (Merseytravel)
Lead Officer – Scrutiny	David Parr (Halton Council)
Lead Officer – Economic Devel	Ged Fitzgerald (Liverpool Council)
Lead Officer – Housing & Planning	Carole Hudson (St Helens Council)
Lead Officer – Transport	David Brown (Merseytravel)
Lead Officer – Employment & Skills	Sheena Ramsey (Knowsley Council)

In addition to the Constitution, there is an Operating Agreement which underpins the new governance arrangements and a series of Operational Protocols, which set out how the Combined Authority works with each of the Constituent Authorities in relation to its strategic functions. All of these documents can be accessed from the Agenda of the first meeting of the Combined Authority on 1 April 2014.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

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

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 Scrutiny Panel Members are aware of the roles and responsibilities of the Combined Authority, in order to carry out their role effectively.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 This report summarises and highlights the key roles and responsibilities of the Combined Authority and draws Members' attention to the various documents that govern its operation.

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Appendices:

Part 5 Section B - Constitution.

Background Documents:

CA's Constitution.