

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning and Skills and  
Community Policy Performance Board

**DATE:** 7<sup>TH</sup> January 2015

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Scrutiny Topic Group Items

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the establishment of two topic groups
- 1.2 Topic Group 1 - to evaluate Halton's Inward Investment Service within the context of an emerging Liverpool City Region Inward Investment model.
- 1.3 Topic Group 2 – to consider potential income generation and efficiency savings relating to budgets set aside for Employment Learning and Skills

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) Members agree to the establishment of topic groups to focus on Halton's Inward Investment service and Employment Learning and Skills budgets;
- ii) Members nominate representatives of the PPB to sit on the Topic Groups;
- iii) Interim reports are presented to the ELS and Community PPB, no later than June 2015.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is developing a collaborative city region approach to inward investment.
- 3.2 The Economic Development protocol part of the Combined Authority operating agreement sets out a proposal to work with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to coordinate Inward Investment activity across the Liverpool City Region and proposes the development of a protocol with respective Local Authorities in sharing information and handling inward investment enquiries.

3.3 An analysis will need to be undertaken to determine how city region collaboration would lead to a more effective service to investors and what this would mean in practice.

3.4 However, in order to contribute to this analysis, it is important to understand the current arrangements for managing Inward Investment enquiries locally, including the source of these enquiries and the resources allocated to delivering the service. This will then determine whether there is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.

As part of the remit of Scrutiny Topic Group review, Members will evaluate the effectiveness of the current Inward Investment service and will assess where Halton's Inward Investment priorities should lie, together with an assessment of future resource requirements. The work will also be considered within the context of an emerging Liverpool City Region Business Growth hub (and its delivery locally), as well as the Halton Business Survey, previously reported to this Board.

The first Topic Group will also consider the scope and principles that are being developed to formulate an Inward Investment Service for the Liverpool City Region and will assess whether the approach will be beneficial to Halton.

The second topic group identified above will provide an overview of the services provided using ELS budgets and Members will obtain an insight into how resources are deployed and outcomes achieved.

Members will be advised on how external funding and income generation is used to deliver a broader employment learning and skills service.

Members will be invited to focus on a key theme arising from the development of the Directorate Business Plan for 2015-2018, for example:

1. Private Sector Interface
2. Youth Unemployment - Youth Employment Gateway
3. Mersey Gateway Employment Schemes
4. Sector Skills

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. It commits individual Local Authorities and the LEP to work more effectively and efficiently together in order to grow the economy of the Liverpool City Region. In return for this collaborative

working, further devolvement of powers and resources to the Liverpool City Region is anticipated.

4.2 The proposition is that by working together, partners in the Liverpool City Region can deliver a 'best in class' investment service.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are a number of implications for this priority, although the Topic Groups will consider the implications in more detail.

However, by promoting a more efficient and proactive client-led approach to Inward Investment, this should lead to greater levels of investment and jobs in Halton.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

##### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified. However, in preparing for this Scrutiny Topic, the following key steps have been applied

1. Have we chosen the right topic?
2. What are we looking at?
3. Why are we looking at this topic?
4. What do we hope to achieve?
5. Is the topic geared towards Halton's top priorities?

#### 8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.