

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%20Strategic%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.

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