

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.

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