

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 20 April 2016

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Panel members in relation to the Panel's own work programme and to suggest that some arrangements be put in place to develop a new programme for 2016/17.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (1) Panel Members consider the progress that has been made on its original work programme and take a view on its effectiveness; and
- (2) the Panel indicates its wishes for the development of its future work programme in the light of the information in this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Panel set an original programme of work which identified four topic areas for review. They were as follows.

- European Funding
- Affordable Fares – Short-Hop Bus Fares
- Housing
- Employment, Learning and Skills

3.2 The reviews on European Funding and Affordable Transport have been completed, with the Combined Authority responding to the recommendations of the European Funding Review and progress on those recommendations being considered by the Panel at its meeting on 13 January 2016.

- 3.3 In relation to the review work undertaken by the Panel on Affordable Transport – Short-hop Bus Fares, the Panel's report was initially considered by the Combined Authority (CA) at its meeting on 18 March 2016. The CA has asked that the Merseytravel Committee "consider the issues and recommendations raised in the report and prepare a formal report to the Scrutiny Panel". When that response has been received it will be brought to the next available meeting of the Panel
- 3.4 In relation to the Housing review topic, an initial scoping meeting was held on 10 February 2016, the outcome of which was that Panel members:
 - would like to be kept up to date on the development of the Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy at key stages of its development at a formal meeting of the Panel; and
 - the Lead Chief Executive to consult with the Chair of the Housing and Planning Board to establish if there were any discreet pieces of work the Scrutiny Topic Group could usefully undertake that would assist that Board in developing that strategy.
- 3.5 A response to the second bullet point is awaited, in order to make a judgement about when to commence the final piece of work on the original programme outlined in para 3.1 above.

4. REFERRAL FROM COMBINED AUTHORITY

- 4.1 There is potential for a further piece of work to be added to the Panel's Work Programme. The Combined Authority, at its meeting on 15 April 2016, will be considering a request from its Audit Committee to refer a topic to the Scrutiny Panel in order for a piece of scrutiny work to be undertaken. The referral relates to the recently published "Ethical Standards for Providers of Public Services" Guidance document. The Guidance provides a series of suggested measures which could be expected of, implemented and embedded by providers of public services.
- 4.2 The decision of the CA will be reported to members at the meeting.

5. DEVELOPMENT DAY

- 5.1 Those members of the Panel who have been members since its inception will be aware that at the beginning of each Municipal Year the Panel has agreed to hold a "Development Day" to introduce new members to the Panel and to undertake some work planning for the ensuing year. It is suggested that this is done again and that North West Employers be asked again to facilitate the event. It is suggested that the event be held in June after each of the Constituent Authorities have appointed their members for the year.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

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

6.2 Human Resources

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

6.3 Physical Assets

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

6.4 Information Technology

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

7. RISKS AND MITIGATION

- 7.1 There are no risks associated with this report or its recommendations.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

9. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

- 9.1 There are no specific communications issues contained in this report.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Members are asked to give guidance in relation to their future work programme requirements.

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