

REPORT TITLE	UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS
REPORT OF	ROSE BOYLAN, POLICY & STRATEGY MANAGER

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out a brief overview of latest developments at the Liverpool City Region (LCR), including activity underway to implement the City Region devolution deal and the Combined Authority.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Committee is requested to note and comment on latest developments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Committee have requested regular updates and consideration of LCR developments.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/a

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 A wide range of activity continues, of which the following is just a small extract. Further detail on all of the most recent developments can be found here <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>
- 3.2 The Combined Authority regularly considers progress so far, and future priorities to be delivered as part of the ambitious programme to create inclusive economic growth. These priorities build upon commitments made in the devolution agreement with government and to ensure that the City Region gets maximum benefit from the resources and powers that have been devolved to it.

The Combined Authority recently discussed several developments including the following:

3.3 Developing a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

- 3.3.1 The Combined Authority is currently developing a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). It is a key strategic priority that will set out the City Region's economic strengths, challenges, and how we can address them. It will demonstrate the positive contribution Liverpool City Region is making to the national economy and outline what we will do to raise productivity. The document will be central to informing local priorities, guide our future local investment decisions, and support national decision making.
- 3.3.2 The Combined Authority has been gathering a wide ranging evidence review to shape the priorities of the Local Industrial Strategy, drawing on intelligence from businesses, academia, the voluntary and community sector, and residents. This stage is ongoing and will include further extensive public engagement through the summer and autumn.
- 3.3.3 Emerging analysis suggests there are four key priorities that flow from the evidence which align with the themes set by Government in the national Industrial Strategy. These priorities are:
- Good work, health and wellbeing for all;
 - Vibrant and connected communities;
 - More businesses innovating and growing; and
 - Clean growth.

- 3.3.4 These priorities will be developed as further consultation and analysis takes place in the coming months to produce the LIS with clear policy and proposed interventions to be published 2020.

3.4 Liverpool City Region Listens

- 3.4.1 The Combined Authority recently launched the first phase of 'LCR Listens', a three-month exercise that will engage with people across all six boroughs that make up the Liverpool City Region, gauging people's opinions on a wide range of topics, including transport, jobs and skills, the environment and housing and culture, to inform the future direction of the city region.
- 3.4.2 Featuring a host of ways to get involved, from public events, to on-street research, through to an on-line portal, the aims to listen to as many city region residents, from as wide a variety of backgrounds, as possible.
- 3.4.3 LCR Listens is an opportunity for everyone in the city region to have their say on the issues that are important to them. The feedback the Combined Authority receives will specifically influence its Local Industrial Strategy, which will set out the long-term economic vision for the Liverpool City Region, providing a framework for its investment decisions, and for conversations with government about how we work together, through devolution, to maximise prosperity for all people and communities.

3.5 Households into Work

- 3.5.1 Households into Work is the innovative scheme to help people who have been long-term unemployed into training and work. It began in March 2018, is co-ordinated and delivered by the Combined Authority and uses a team of 25 advocates working with households across all 6 Local Authority areas.
- 3.5.2 The Programme was a key part of the devolution deal and is a pilot scheme funded with £3.5m from the Department for Work and Pensions, and £1m from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. Advocates work with clients with a wide range of barriers to employment, including mental health issues, caring responsibilities, experience of domestic abuse, chronic health issues, isolation and homelessness, and put a bespoke intensive support package in place for each individual to help them get into the workplace.
- 3.5.3 The recent review of the Programme's first year indicates that Households into Work is performing well and has:
- Worked with 834 households against a target of 800
 - Had 376 households make significant improvements/move closer to work, against a target of 200
 - Seen 460 households complete at least one activity, against a target of 400
 - Successfully moved 11% of clients into employment, against a target of 15% (this figure had increased to 14% by May 2019)
- 3.5.4 In Wirral, there are now 301 participants being supported on the programme against a target profile of 344 which represents total of 88% of the profile. The programme is over achieving in supporting participants into employment with 27 job outcomes to date against a target profile of 23.

3.6 Funding for Tower Road

- 3.6.1 The Combined Authority recently approved funding of up to £3m in Strategic Investment Fund monies to support the development of a new office building on Wirral Waters. This links to the Tower Road Streetscape project which is due to start on site January 2020 immediately outside No 1 Tower Road which will introduce major public realm and highway improvements to the A554 Tower Road. This includes provision of wider pavements to provide high quality facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and reduced carriageway widths - the objective of the scheme is to lower traffic speeds through the area and to create an improved environment for all.

3.7 LCR Town Centre Fund

- 3.7.1 The CA has agreed to award £6m Town Centre Fund to support the viability and vitality of identified town centres. The Fund will provide each constituent local authority with up to £1m for their identified town centre priorities.
- 3.7.2 Wirral has 2 applications – Liscard and New Ferry - and detailed project planning is currently underway;
- 3.7.3 Linked to this is the further positive news that Government recently announced that Wirral is successfully through to next stage to secure Future High Streets funding from Government to help redevelop Birkenhead and New Ferry.

3.8 Funding for Eureka! National Children's Museum

- 3.8.1 Funding of up to £6.642m from the CA Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) has been agreed to support the development of the Eureka! Mersey museum at Seacombe Ferry Terminal. The museum will focus on promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths ("STEAM") activities for children across the LCR. This builds on the successful experience of Eureka! National Children's Museum in Halifax. The Museum will target a broad range of visitors and the core audience will be children aged 6-14.
- 3.8.2 Eureka! Is using an inclusive engagement approach to plan the museum, developing the offer to ensure that it appeals to the target audience. The co-creation process includes pairing groups from The Hive Youth Zone and pupils from local primary and secondary schools with experts from industry/academia to explore ideas, content and delivery methods for the museum.
- 3.8.3 The SIF money will be used to help fund the renovation of the Seacombe building and the building of the exhibitions. The remaining project costs are being met by a combination of grant support, including £3m won competitively from the national Inspiring Science Fund, and partner/philanthropic sponsorship. The museum is scheduled to open 2022.

3.9 LCR Cultural Awards

- 3.9.1 Nominations for the first LCR Culture and Creativity Awards are now open, to stimulate, recognise and celebrate excellence and innovation in art, culture and creativity.
- 3.9.2 The awards are part of the Metro Mayor's 1% for Culture Initiative and aim to honour the value and contribution that the cultural and creative sector brings to the Liverpool City Region.
- 3.9.3 The 1% for Culture Initiative means that Liverpool City Region currently uses the equivalent of 1% of its £30 million annual devolution funding on utilising many of the region's existing assets and talent to stimulate cultural and creative opportunities. As we know, Wirral is 2019 Borough of Culture, and an exciting and diverse schedule of events and activity is currently underway.
- 3.9.4 Nominations for these awards can include an individual, organisation, group or partnership that is involved in the creation, promotion and use of art and creativity that has significantly benefitted the residents or visitors to the LCR.
- 3.9.5 Nominations can be completed online and the closing date for entrants and nominations is Friday 20th September at 4pm. After this date the judging panel will shortlist the finalists for the People's Choice Award – Outstanding Contribution to Culture, and the Liverpool City Region community will be able to vote for their chosen winner.
- 3.9.6 The awards ceremony will take place on 28th November 2019 at the Lady Lever Art Gallery hosted by the Wirral as the current Borough of Culture for 2019.

3.10 Conclusion

Further updates on the above will be brought back to this Committee as further detail emerges in the coming months. As previously stated, the above is just a short snapshot of LCR activity, and further detail on all of the most recent developments can be found here <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Devolution arrangements set out the devolution of financial resources to LCR.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 N/a

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 N/a

7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Wirral, along with City Region partners, continues to brief members and officers; circulate information and raise awareness of LCR developments through a wide range of approaches and communications.

8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct equality implications associated with this report as it deals with the issue of devolution at a strategic level. Equality analysis will be carried out as part of the detailed implementation as appropriate.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	13 September 2016
Cabinet	14 November 2016
Council	8 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 January 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 March 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 September 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23 January 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27 th March 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 th July 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	November 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	January 2019
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	March 2019
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	July 2019