

Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 23 January 2020

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 work of 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

Scrutiny Committee have requested regular updates and consideration of LCR developments.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/a

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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/>

3.1 Skills Capital Funding

- 3.1.1 The Combined Authority recently agreed investment of more than £16 million in skills education at colleges, local authorities and learning providers across the Liverpool City Region.
- 3.1.2 The funding builds on £30 million already invested in buildings, facilities and equipment for skills training in the city region, aiming to ensure that local colleges and training providers can provide first class skills education to people right across the Liverpool City Region, including Wirral Met College and local training providers.
- 3.1.3 The focus is on supporting young people to enter the world of work having had the best possible technical and vocational training and matched with employers' needs.
- 3.1.4 This Skills Capital Funding comes from the Local Growth Fund as part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Strategic Investment Fund (SIF). Skills Capital Funding is available to provide new sites and premises, learning and skills equipment, improvements to existing facilities, maintenance and investments in low carbon technologies.

3.2 Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) Investment

- 3.2.1 As previously reported to Committee, ongoing investment continues through the SIF fund. Over the last year the Combined Authority has been able to bring forward many millions of pounds of SIF investment which will help local businesses across the city region as well as supporting more people into high quality employment.
- 3.2.2 SIF is about inclusive growth – the Combined Authority £75m SME growth programme is not only helping businesses to grow, it is also helping residents find good work in these growing businesses.
- 3.2.3 SIF funding is helping to deliver a wide range of Wirral's priorities and projects – for example
 - Unilever Port Sunlight Materials Innovation Factory
 - Tower Road

- Maritime Knowledge Hub
- Riverview Business Park Phase
- Riverbank Road, Bromborough
- Wirral Waters Housing
- Transport infrastructure and improvements
- LCR cycling and walking networks in Wirral
- Wirral is benefitting from the £7.7million Housing First fund to tackle homelessness
- Wirral Borough of Culture 2019
- Tunnel Tolls - £1 fast tag for LCR residents

3.2.4 Eureka Project - LCR £6.4m funding

The national children's museum 'Eureka!' is now under development at Seacombe Ferry Terminal. Expected to attract around 200,000 visitors a year and contribute to the local economy, it has been made possible because of a £6.4m contribution from the Combined Authority as part of the overall project funding package.

3.3 Tackling Child and Family Poverty

3.3.1 The Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham, recently launched the new Standing Action Group on Poverty and Life Chances to address the challenge of child poverty in the Liverpool City Region.

3.3.2 Figures published in May 2019 by 'End Child Poverty' show that 31% of children living in Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral are growing up in poverty. Living in poverty is defined as households (adjusted to account for household size) earning less than 60% of the median income (currently £29,400).

3.3.3 The new standing action group replaces the Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission, which has worked for the last decade highlighting the hardship facing communities across the city region and taking action to improve the life chances of children. It includes key players from across the LCR, and as part of the Combined Authority working closely with The Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board (FASJAB).

3.3.4 A detailed action plan and focused priorities will shortly be produced, with clear aims to continue to improve the life chances of children and young people and work towards eradicating child poverty from the Liverpool City Region.

3.4. LCR HOUSING FIRST

3.4.1 Wirral continues to play a key part of the LCR approach to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

3.4.2 Liverpool City Region is one of just three places in England piloting '**Housing First**', which aims to tackle homelessness in a new way, based on international evidence. The approach involves providing an ordinary, settled home as the first response for people with multiple and complex needs beyond housing, offering individualised support with issues such as addictions, mental and physical health issues and the effects of trauma and abuse.

- 3.4.3 The approach was recently the focus of international attention, when housing and homelessness sector professionals from across Europe, Australia and Russia visited the Liverpool City Region, as they completed a three-day “train the trainer” course in the pioneering approach to tackling homelessness.
- 3.4.4 This first phase of the LCR pilot builds on and enhance local approaches and involves staff working to provide homes and individualised support to 60 homeless people across the Liverpool City Region.
- 3.4.5 More information about Housing First at a national level is available at the Housing First England website: <https://hfe.homeless.org.uk/>

3.5 Towns Fund

- 3.5.1 As previously reported, Birkenhead is one of 100 towns that have recently been selected nationally to work towards a Town Deal as part of Government’s £3.6bn Towns Fund to further improve the ability of towns to realise their growth ambitions.
- 3.5.2 Detailed discussions are now underway between the Combined Authority, LCR Local Authorities and Government to develop plans for using the funding, with further detail shortly expected on the scope of interventions, business case development and how Deals will be agreed.

3.6 Conclusion

Further updates on all of 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

<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The devolution of financial resources to LCR means that there are opportunities for Wirral to access additional funding.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are none arising

7.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

No direct implications. The Combined Authority is prioritising an increased focus on urgently addressing the climate emergency and accelerating what we can do locally to address this global issue.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are none arising

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Combined Authority has a duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 10.2 Equality and Diversity Implications are comprehensively considered both strategically and at individual project level. Individual decisions, projects and strategies are assessed through project implementation. The overarching strategic goal of the LCR Combined Authority and related strategies and programmes are all centred on tackling inequalities and achieving an inclusive economy for Liverpool City Region.
- 10.3 To ensure this happens effectively, the Combined Authority established the Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board, to ensure that every policy, every service and every economic initiative is measured against the commitment to deliver a fairer and more equal city region. Established in 2017, the board is the first of its kind in the country and brings together people from a cross section of local communities, reflecting the diversity of the city region. It acts as an independent sounding board, ensuring that issues of fairness and social justice are considered as part of Combined Authority decision making.

REPORT AUTHOR: Rose Boylan
Policy and Strategy Manager
0151 691 8037
rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2019
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	November 2019