

Wirral Council

Cabinet - 4th February 2009

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Services

MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE (MDA)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report requests the authority of Cabinet to agree the changes proposed to the Mersey Dee Alliance management agreement.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Mersey Dee Alliance is a partnership between Cheshire West and Chester Council, Wirral Council, Flintshire County Council, Wrexham Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council. Merseytravel and the Welsh Assembly Government are also partners.
- 2.2 In 2007, the Alliance was expanded to include the North East Wales Authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government. This partnership alliance has now matured into a strategic alliance focusing on common issues across the wide geography of the MDA and has progressed issues relating to economic development and transport, particularly on lobbying relating to Borderlands, the electrification of the Wrexham to Bidston rail link and other strategic priorities.
- 2.3 The involvement of the partners from North East Wales has enhanced the work of the partnership, reflecting cross border issues of the travel to work area.
- 2.4 Additionally, the MDA is currently working on a number of projects to strategically support competitiveness across the area. A further report will be brought to Cabinet in March detailing the recent progress.

3. Partnership Agreement

- 3.1 During 2009, the North West Development Agency (NWDA), despite having ongoing involvement in the MDA partnership applied to become a fully subscribing member of the MDA.
- 3.2 The change to the partnership agreement will determine that the NWDA will as a party as if it has been an original party to the Agreement. This will

enable the MDA Board to have the Welsh Assembly Government and the North West Development Agency as subscribing members. It is viewed as essential to have the two main organisations that fund major economic development projects within the respective spatial areas as fully subscribed members of the MDA.

- 3.3 Cheshire West and Chester provide the secretariat for the MDA. The changes to the agreement will be made in the form of a letter of variation which Wirral will be required to sign and return to Cheshire West and Chester.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Wirral's contribution to the MDA is £6,000 per annum. This will not be affected by the changes to the partnership agreement. The MDA budget will benefit from the increased contribution from the North West Development Agency.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct implications arising directly from this report.

6. Equal Opportunities/ Equality Impact Assessments

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising directly from this report.

7. Community Safety Implications

- 7.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

8. Local Agenda 21 Implications

- 8.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

9. Planning Implications

- 9.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

10. Anti Poverty Implications

- 10.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

11. Social Inclusion Implications

- 11.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

12. Local Member Support Implications

12.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

13. Background Papers

13.1 Further information on any of the support services mentioned in this report can be obtained from Alan Evans on 691 8426.

Recommendations

1. That Members authorise the Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Services to sign the letter of variation to the Mersey Dee Alliance which enables the North West Development Agency to become a subscribing member of the MDA partnership.

J. Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Services