

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Combined Authority Scrutiny Arrangements</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Scrutiny arrangements for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) have been developed; this report explains the relationship between those arrangements and the existing scrutiny model in Wirral.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 At the Annual Meeting of the LCRCA held on 13/6/14, scrutiny arrangements which will be put in place to scrutinise the activities of the LCRCA were agreed. The report to the LCRCA is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 A key part of the arrangement is the appointment of a 14 Elected Member scrutiny panel comprising of:

- 2 Elected Members from each of the six constituent local authorities
- 1 Elected Member from the largest opposition group from across the six constituent authorities (Conservatives)
- 1 Elected Member from the second largest opposition group from across the six constituent authorities (Liberal Democrats)

2.3 It is proposed that the Scrutiny Panel will meet a minimum of four times per annum and will develop an annual scrutiny plan.

2.4 The Combined Authority is responsible for strategic economic development, strategic transport, strategic housing and land based assets and strategic employment and skills in the City Region. It is anticipated that the scrutiny work plan will be delivered across these key themes through working groups undertaking agreed scrutiny reviews.

### **3.0 AUTHORITY SCRUTINY LINK**

- 3.1 Each constituent Council will nominate one of the 2 members of that constituent Council who have been appointed to the Scrutiny Panel to act as that constituent Council's "Authority Scrutiny Link". Wirral's Scrutiny Link Member will be responsible for reporting back on the scrutiny work carried out by the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel. The link member will also be responsible for reporting to the Scrutiny Panel any issues identified locally which may warrant scrutiny at Combined Authority level.
- 3.2 At Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Wirral will appoint two Elected Members to the LCR Scrutiny Panel, one of whom will also be appointed as Wirral's Scrutiny Link Member.
- 3.3 The remit of the Scrutiny Link Member is yet to be fully defined in Wirral, but it is anticipated that the role will provide a link to Elected Members of the Regeneration & Environment Policy and Performance Committee.
- 3.4 It is expected that the Scrutiny Officer of each constituent Council will ensure that the work programmes and minutes relating to the work carried out by the Scrutiny Panel in scrutinising the Combined Authority and the Merseytravel Committee, are circulated appropriately within their own constituent Council's scrutiny arrangements. In Wirral it is proposed that the committee responsible for receiving this information will be the Regeneration & Environment Policy and Performance Committee.
- 3.5 It is therefore proposed that the receipt of such relevant information from the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel becomes a standing item on the agenda for the Regeneration & Environment Policy and Performance Committee.

### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 4.1 None

### **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 No other options have been considered.

### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 N/A

### **7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

- 7.1 N/A

### **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 8.1 None arising as a result of this report

### **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 9.1 Any workload will be undertaken within existing resources.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None arising as a result of this report.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None arising directly as a result of this report.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 None arising directly as a result of this report.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None arising directly as a result of this report.

## **14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 The Committee is requested to:

- Approve the proposed reporting arrangements as described in this report.
- Approve LCRCA Scrutiny as a standing item for the Committee agenda.

## **15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

15.1 The Regeneration & Environment Policy and Performance Committee is responsible for the oversight of strategic economic development, strategic transport, strategic housing and strategic employment and skills in Wirral.

**REPORT  
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## **APPENDICES**

**1 – LCRCA Scrutiny Arrangements (13/6/14)**