

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

3rd DECEMBER 2014

SUBJECT:	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny – Progress Report
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Combined Authority Scrutiny Link Member - Cllr Mike Sullivan

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Scrutiny arrangements for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) have been developed. This report provides members with an update.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 A report to this Committee on 22nd July 2014 described the scrutiny arrangements which were being developed by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) and also explained the relationship between those arrangements and the existing scrutiny model in Wirral. The report explained the role of the Authority Scrutiny Link and proposed that regular updates regarding the activities of the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel be provided for members of Wirral Council's Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE LCRCA SCRUTINY PANEL

3.1 At the meeting held on 19th September 2014, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority formerly established the Scrutiny Panel, with the following members nominated:

Halton	Kevan Wainwright (LAB); Bill Woolfall (LAB)
Knowsley	Andy Moorhead (LAB); Marie Stuart (LAB)
Liverpool	Lawrence Brown (GREEN); Patrick Hurley (LAB)
St Helens	Anthony Burns (LAB); Keith Roberts (LAB)
Sefton	Mark Dowd (LAB); Paulette Lapping (LAB)
Wirral	Anita Leech (LAB); Mike Sullivan (LAB)
Conservative	John Hale (Wirral)
Liberal Democrats	Haydn Preece (Sefton)

3.2 Since that time, Cllr John Hale has decided that he will not continue as the Conservative Group nominee on the Scrutiny Panel. It is understood that Cllr Allan Jones (St Helens) will be nominated to take up this role in due course.

4.0 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT DAY

4.1 A Development Day for Scrutiny Panel members was held on 26th September 2014. The key focus for the day was to ensure that all Members of the Scrutiny Panel were provided with an understanding of their new roles and how scrutiny at the Combined Authority level can add value, given the multiple challenges facing Local Government and the wider public sector. A Write-up from the session is attached as Appendix 1.

5.0 LCRCA SCRUTINY PANEL – 29TH OCTOBER 2014

5.1 The first formal meeting of the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel was held on 29th October 2014. Outcomes from the meeting were:

5.2 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Kevan Wainwright (Halton) was elected unopposed as Chair

Cllr Andy Moorhead (Knowsley) was elected unopposed as Vice Chair

5.3 Appointment of Members to the Combined Authority's Audit Committee

There were two nominations for the two places:

Cllr Paulette Lapping (Sefton)

Cllr Patrick Hurley (Liverpool)

5.4 Combined Authority Forward Plan

It is expected that the Forward Plan will form a regular agenda item at meetings of the Scrutiny Panel, as the planned workload of the Combined Authority develops. There was some discussion on HS3, a report on which will come to the Combined Authority in due course. There was also a brief discussion of One North and Northern Futures.

5.5 Work Programme

The Development Day, held in September, had provided an initial opportunity for members to discuss potential items for the Panel's work programme. Four main areas arose from the Development Day:

- European Funding
- Skills and Learning / Apprenticeships
- Housing
- Affordable Transport Links

The meeting of the Scrutiny Panel agreed that these four items should form the Panel's work programme. Officers agreed to set up a programme of meetings in consultation with the Chair. Further scoping of the topics will be required. Initially, it was suggested that all the Panel members would be invited to the

topic meetings, rather than form working groups. It may well be that working groups develop at a later stage.

It was also noted that the progress of other Combined Authorities would be reviewed in order to obtain any lessons learnt to date. However, it is appreciated that all are still at an early stage.

5.6 Calendar of Meetings

It is proposed that there will be four formal meetings of the Scrutiny Panel during a year (probably July, Oct, Jan and April). Dates have yet to be finalised.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

6.1 The Committee is requested to note the progress to date regarding the establishment of the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel.

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APPENDICES

1 – Notes from the Scrutiny Panel Development Day, 26th September 2014