

Liverpool City Region Scrutiny Board

Development Day

Friday 26th September 2014

WRITE UP OF THE DAY

1.0 OVERALL AIM

1.1 The key focus for the away 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, the wider public sector and communities.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

2.1 The following were in attendance:

Members of the Scrutiny Panel - Councillors

Lawrence Brown
Anthony Burns
Mark Dowd
John Hale
Patrick Hurley
Paulette Lapping
Anita Leech
Andy Moorhead
Keith Roberts
Marie Stuart
Mike Sullivan
Bill Woolfall

Apologies received from:

Councillors Preece and Wainwright

2.2 Facilitators provide by North West Employees:

- Councillor Sir Stephen Hough
- Councillor John Lamb
- Dr. Stephanie Snape

2.3 Presenters:

- Councillor Phil Davies – Chair of the Combined Authority
- Sheena Ramsey, Head of the Secretariat for the Combined Authority

2.4 CA Scrutiny Support Officers:

- Ian Leivesley, Halton Borough Council
- David Moran, Knowsley Borough Council
- Stephanie Donaldson, Merseytravel
- Joanne Heron, St. Helens Borough Council

3.0 **ACTIVITY**

3.1 What follows is a brief write up of the day's activities. Where presentations were used, these are highlighted in this document. Where members used flipcharts to capture their thinking, these are appended to this document so they are retained as part of the record. The headings that follow match the headings used in the programme for the day. The core presentation used by the facilitators during the day can be accessed from the link below:



26 sept presentation
for liverpool combined

3.2 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

The Panel received a presentation from the Chair of the Combined Authority, Councillor Phil Davies and Sheena Ramsey, the Head of the Secretariat for the Authority which outlined the role and responsibilities of the Authority and highlighted some of the important work it has already done since its inception in April 2014. By clicking the link below you will be taken to the PowerPoint presentation used by Phil and Sheena.



140926 Cllr Davies
scrutiny intro.pptx

3.3 Scrutiny in a Combined Authority

The first session with Members outlined the arrangements made by the Combined Authority for Scrutiny. A discussion session followed which posed the following three questions:

1. How is Combined Authority Scrutiny different from Local Government Overview & Scrutiny?
2. How should Combined Authority Scrutiny and Local Scrutiny relate to each other?
3. What principles of working could underpin Combined Authority Scrutiny?

Attached as Appendix A are the flipchart pages showing the views of Members in relation to the questions above.

3.4 Relationship Building

Members were reminded that successful Scrutiny is often built around establishing effective relationships with Executive Members and other stakeholders. The following questions were posed to members –

Who do you need to build effective relationships with, how and what would be your first step?

Members' thoughts on this can be found at Appendix B attached.

3.5 Vision for the Future of Local Authority Scrutiny

Members were asked to answer the following questions. The flipchart results can be found at Appendix C.

1. How do you picture Scrutiny in 3 years time?
2. What will it be achieving?
3. What positive comments will people make about it?

3.6 Work Programmes

Members were asked, bearing in mind, the responsibilities of the Combined Authority (these were outlined in the initial presentation by Phil and Sheena) to give some initial thoughts about the development of a work programme.

The first exercise was set as follows:

Bearing in mind the need to remain strategic, draw up a list of potential topics for inclusion in your work programme (a long list). Attached at Appendix D is the flipchart result following member consideration.

The second exercise was then set as follows:

From the "long list" select no more than four items to go forward (the short list).

Members selected the following four issues to be placed on a short list of potential topics:

1. European Funding
2. Skills and Learning/Apprenticeships
3. Housing
4. Affordable Transport Links

Members recognised that more work would be required to fine tune this list into an actual programme. A number of other key considerations needed to be played in, such as:

- Consulting other interested parties;
- Consulting the constituent authorities to establish if similar work was already being undertaken;
- The need to avoid duplication with other pieces of work being undertaken;
- The officer resources available to support such scrutiny work.

It was further suggested that it might be sensible to commence with a “pilot” project to test a methodology and way of working that was relatively straightforward and would form part of the team building process required to develop a “Scrutiny Team”.

This would require further consideration at the first formal meeting of the panel.

3.7 Case Studies of Sub-Regional Scrutiny

The next session shared with members the information known about how other Combined Authorities were organising their Scrutiny arrangements. Details are included in the presentation referred to earlier. With the exception of Greater Manchester, the opportunity to learn from others was extremely limited as most were in the same developmental stage as the Liverpool City Region.

3.8 Supporting the Scrutiny Panel

Members were asked to identify any further support they might require from North West Employers to help them in their role. The general feedback was it was difficult to identify at this stage but that they would welcome a session similar to this one in six months time when development requirements would be easier to identify. Members felt that this session had been excellent in raising awareness and highlighting the issues that will have to be addressed in order to put in place effective scrutiny arrangements.

4.0 **IDEAS/ACTIONS**

4.1 Finally, throughout the day a series of issues/actions emerged which would require further consideration as the Scrutiny Panel developed its activities – these are captured at Appendix E attached.

Scrutiny in a Combined Authority

1. How is Combined Authority Scrutiny different from Local Government Overview & Scrutiny?

1.
 - More focus
 - Appointed by Exec:
 - Relationships
 - Challenge
 - Protocol
 - Timescale
 - Timetable/Forward Plans
 - Workstreams
 - Engage Private Sector

2. How should Combined Authority Scrutiny and Local Scrutiny relate to each other?

2.
 - Sharing information/work programmes
 - Communications
 - How to interlink
 - Avoid duplication
 - Draw on wider skills/knowledge base

3. What principles of working could underpin Combined Authority Scrutiny?

3.
 - Recognition of region
 - No localised
 - Respect each other's areas
 - Transparency
 - Learning

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Who do you need to build effective relationships with, how and what would be your first step?

- Each other (within panel)
- Each other's Councils
- Chamber of Commerce
- LEP Chair (Robert Hough)
- LA Members/Officers
- Merseytravel
- Education Sector
- Own leads in Overview Scrutiny

HOW?

1. Organise Chair & Vice Chair
2. Members to Audit Committee

VISION

1. How do you picture Scrutiny in 3 years time?

1.
 - Improve the region
 - Greater/better skilled jobs
 - LCR takes Scrutiny seriously
 - Overview & Scrutiny members understand how LCR works so they make us effective
 - Understand role

2. What will it be achieving?

2.
 - Better understanding of LCR and policy and delivery
 - Taken seriously by city region
 - Bearing in mind the executive role
 - Highlighting good practice
 - Challenging areas where room for improvement and delivery

3. What positive comments will people make about it?

3.
 - Respectful
 - Know what they are doing
 - Add value
 - Make sense
 - Arbiter of ideas
 - Critical best friend

WORK PROGRAMME – LONG LIST

1. LEP
2. Skill gaps/real apprenticeships
3. Unemployment/work readiness
4. Housing
5. Transport links – affordable
6. LCR growth plan
7. How European money is spent – single investment pot?
How is it managed?
8. Off the shelf projects ready
9. Energy
10. Coastal erosion
11. Global warming/climate change
12. HS2
13. Youth Unemployment
14. Freight and Logistics
15. How support from Councils delivers their projects

IDEAS/ACTIONS

- Clarifying/testing Officer support, who, how much?
 - Members/Officers session to agree support. Review.
 - Mechanics/Process/Protocols to be determined.
 - Production of “principles of working” document – to include CfPS and principles.
 - Appoint Chair/Vice Chair at first formal meeting.
 - Meet Robert Hough and agree who else is key.
 - Attend next CA meeting – 17/10/14 at 9am, Merseytravel HQ.
 - LEP meeting – meet target
 - Pilot a small/quick win piece of scrutiny as a panel.
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- Meeting 6 months down line
 - Provide background information/signposting
 - Knowledge based seminar