

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

14 July 2015

SUBJECT:	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny – Progress Report
REPORT OF:	Combined Authority Scrutiny Link Member - Cllr Mike Sullivan

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides members with an update on the work carried out by the Liverpool City Region Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 A report to this Committee on the 3rd December 2014 provided details on the establishment of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Scrutiny Panel and a summary of the first formal meeting of the Panel.

3.0 LCRCA SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

3.1 The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel agreed the development of the work Programme at the meeting held on the 29th October 2015. The Scrutiny Panel agreed that the following items would be included on the work programme:

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

3.2 European Funding was identified as the priority item for the Scrutiny Panel Members. The review commenced in January 2015 with an overview provided by Alan Welby, Director for Key Growth Sectors at the LEP and Martin Eyres, Head of European Affairs at Liverpool City Council. The overview detailed the existing position in relation to the current EU Programme as well the new programme of 2014-2020. This helped inform the scope of the review with Members wanting to subsequently focus on two key areas:

- (a) the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme are effective, robust and accountable; and
- (b) the commissioning/bidding framework being developed to underpin the local delivery of the European programme

- 3.3 The review was conducted over two evidence sessions during February and March and a final report was submitted to the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 8th April. The scoping document and final report are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

4.0 LCRCA SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING – 8th APRIL 2015

4.1 Review of European Funding

The Scrutiny Panel considered the final report and approved all recommendations made. It was also resolved that the Combined Authority be requested to consider the recommendations and report its response to the Scrutiny Panel.

4.2 Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan

A presentation was made on Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan by the Chief Executive of St. Helens Borough Council.

The key points arising were:

- Government wanting Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to have a Growth Plan which identifies priorities and a strategic approach to specific projects and activity; and
- The requirement for LEPS to have a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) providing the project-level detail.

4.3 A Transport Plan for Growth

A presentation was made Mick Noone, Operational Director, Policy, Planning and Transportation at Halton Borough Council. The Scrutiny Panel was informed that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has a Transition Plan and Transport Protocol. This requires a joint strategic framework and delivery plan to be produced and this has been achieved through the development of a single strategic framework and delivery plan for the LCR. It was explained that the plan should see greater collaboration and future joint working across the City Region. Additional points were made around the linkages between improved health and better air quality, the positive role of which John Lennon Airport had in the region and also the Merseytravel Bus Strategy.

4.4 Scrutiny Work Programme

For the three main topic areas remaining from the Scrutiny Panel Work Programme, Members considered that Topic Groups should be formed around each of them to obtain a better understanding of the area. It is intended that Members would indicate a preference for which Topic Group they wish to be part of. To support the delivery of the overall 2015/16 Work Programme, the resource requirements to achieve this would be reviewed by the Lead Officer for Scrutiny.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the progress to date regarding the work carried out by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

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APPENDICES

- 1 – Scrutiny Report – European Funding**
- 2 – Scoping Document**