

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2016

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 This report provides Members with an update on the work programme for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 LCRCA SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

2.1 Affordable Transport Scrutiny Review

The Affordable Transport scrutiny review has now been completed and was presented to the Scrutiny Panel meeting on 13th January. The review examined the issue of the cost of 'short hop' bus fares with a particular focus on understanding why the cost of 'short hop' bus fares within the LCR appeared higher than other comparable areas.

- 2.2 The review consisted of three evidence sessions. The first session focussed on reviewing trends in the bus market, rates of fare increase, the current position on 'short hop' journeys within the LCR area and provided comparisons to similar urban areas across the country. The second and third sessions focussed on interviewing representatives from bus operators and Transport Focus, the government appointed passenger champion.

- 2.3 The report was approved by the Scrutiny Panel for referral to the Combined Authority. However, Members requested that additional comments should be captured within the report before being finalised. It was the intention that the final report was to be included as an appendix to this report and made available to Members of the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee. The report will now be distributed to Members for information upon the amendments being agreed by the Members of the Scrutiny panel.

2.4 Future Work Programme Items

A Scrutiny Review on "Housing" was agreed as the next piece of work to be carried out by the Scrutiny Panel. A scoping meeting has now been set for 27th January 2016. This was considered as a potentially big piece of work and

Members agreed that the final review on 'Skills and Learning' would not run concurrently with the review on 'Housing' but at a later date.

3.0 DEVOLUTION

- 3.1 At the Scrutiny Panel meeting on the 13th January 2016, the Lead Officer for Scrutiny, David Parr, gave Panel Members an update on the Devolution Deal which was signed off by the Combined Authority (CA) at its meeting on 20th November 2015. The main focus for Members was the governance arrangements in relation to the introduction of a directly elected City Region Mayor.
- 3.2 Proposals for how the Combined Authority in light of the devolution deal will be scrutinised will be considered and developed due to the wider remit and the available resources and capacity. It has been suggested that the Scrutiny Panel will have an opportunity to consider a number of proposals on a way forward.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to note the progress to date regarding the work of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

**REPORT
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