

# LIVERPOOL CITY REGION & DEVOLUTION UPDATE

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Policy and Performance  
Regeneration and Environment Committee  
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# DEVOLUTION DEAL – KEY AIMS

Continue to move forward rapidly to implement Phase 1 of the devolution deal that was agreed with Government

Brings some significant opportunities for helping us to deliver the Wirral Plan and our 20 pledges, and our role in the wider City Region in terms of increased powers and resources for:

- Economic development and energy;
- Transport infrastructure;
- Housing development and planning for growth; and
- Employment and skills

At the same time work is underway to agree the detail of Phase 2, including a specific focus on Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Ongoing activity to deliver key projects and programmes eg Growth Deal; transport; EU Programme

# ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS

Discussions are also underway with Government to scope out those areas in the Agreement which were less detailed eg:

- Vocational Education;
- Business rates reform and redistribution;
- Multi-year settlement and the “Single Pot”;
- Total Household Approach for employment programmes

# POTENTIAL SCOPE OF FURTHER DEVOLUTION

Further discussions now underway:

- Health and social care;
- Children's services;
- Licensing and Regulation;
- Housing (powers and flexibilities);
- Fiscal devolution

eg tax raising powers which may benefit from further development such as potential benefits of a hotel occupancy tax

There may be other areas where Government is looking to devolve further

Eg Criminal justice – focussing on individuals with complex needs

Possibility to pilot new approaches in LCR with the most potential being in youth justice

# NEXT STEPS

Phase 2 Devolution – negotiations with Government on the areas outlined

Report back to the March Combined Authority Meeting on progress with both Phase 1 Implementation and Phase 2 negotiations

Head of Paid Service in conjunction with Lead Officers to report to March Combined Authority on more developed portfolio responsibilities, including:

- Proposed workplans;
- Governance arrangements;
- Executive capacity

# LATEST LCR DEVELOPMENTS

In recent years the City Region has emerged from a period of decline to achieve some significant new economic, political and cultural successes

Need to build on this, to be ambitious and aim even higher to achieve our goals and potential

This highlighted very clearly with the recent launch of the '**State of the City Region**' report by the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University

Independent and comprehensive report assesses where we are now, where we should go next, how to get there and how devolution might help

# STATE OF THE CITY REGION REPORT

Report emphasises the importance of the City Region in terms of:

- Economic diversity - different LA districts offer complementary specialism and strengths eg public sector in Liverpool, maritime and shipbuilding in Wirral;
- Port remains a vital part of the UK economy, central to the logistics industry and the Atlantic Gateway Project;
- Connectivity has been greatly enhanced by recent extension of the airport handling nearly six times the number of passengers than it did 17 years ago;
- Regional rail network has led to an increase of 52% of passenger number since 1998;
- Wealth of architectural, cultural and heritage assets including the UNESCO World Heritage Centre – strength of the city region’s cultural attraction is reflected in the fact that it attracts an estimated 56 million visitors a year and Liverpool’s current status as the fifth most-visited city in the UK

# KEY MESSAGES

So, report recognises that LCR has achieved some good successes recently  
BUT – needs to do more in future

- Strengthen partnerships
- Generate more leadership – not just local authorities
- Create greater trust & honesty
- Collaboration – public & more coherent private sector
- More confidence & ambition
- Contribute more to Northern & national growth agendas
- Commit more to LCR so it passes the pub test
- Look further forward and outward
- Improve communication – win more friends home & abroad

Delivery, delivery, delivery - this is key



# CONCLUSIONS

Wirral continues ongoing involvement in developing the devolution asks as well as wider City Region activity eg Growth Deal

Detailed consideration of the linkages between the Wirral Plan & Pledges and devolution agenda eg

- to deliver our growth aspirations
- footprint for future delivery

Ongoing updates to this Committee

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