



BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 29th March 2017

REPORT TITLE:	LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE
REPORT OF:	THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report is to give Members an update of the work of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members are requested to note the contents of the report which provides an update on the developments of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee are updated on the developments of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Liverpool City Region consists of the six local authority areas covering Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton, Liverpool and Wirral. The Combined Authority is made up of the Mayor of Liverpool and Leaders of Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral local authorities, along with the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership. The LCRA is a strategic authority with powers over transport, economic development and regeneration. Transport policy of the Combined Authority is delivered by the Merseytravel functional body.

3.2 To support the Combined Authority, a Scrutiny Panel has been established to:

- Provide 'critical friend' challenge to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Authority's strategic plan.

4.0 SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS

4.1 The Scrutiny Panel last met on Wednesday 25th January 2017 and the following key items were discussed:

4.2 Review into Apprenticeships in the Liverpool City Region

The Scrutiny Panel considered the final report from the Lead Officer – Scrutiny in relation to the Apprenticeships in the Liverpool City Region Scrutiny Review. The final report (**Appendix 1**) was endorsed by the Scrutiny Panel and was subsequently referred to the Combined Authority for consideration of the recommendations made and for a report to be presented at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

4.3 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Order

A report was presented by the Lead Officer – Scrutiny on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Order to establish the office of Mayor and to make arrangements for the election of a Liverpool City Region Mayor in May 2017. The Scrutiny Panel was informed of a further generic Overview and Scrutiny order which would apply to all Mayoral Combined Authorities.

The principles by which the Combined Authority would operate the scrutiny function were consistent with the draft Order and incorporated into the Combined Authority Constitution. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Panel would be given an opportunity to examine a copy of the revised Constitution through a special meeting of the Scrutiny Panel. This meeting has yet to be convened.

4.4 Scrutiny Work Programme

Three pieces of work have now been completed by the Scrutiny Panel since it originally formed in 2014. These are:

- European Funding;
- Short-hop Bus Fares in the City Region; and
- Apprenticeships in the City Region

A review on 'Housing and Planning' is on hold as the work being carried out by the Combined Authority is still in its early stages.

The Scrutiny Panel added a further review to be carried out during the municipal year and prior to the new governance arrangements coming into force in May 2017. This review is focussed on how the Combined Authority can promote its role and responsibilities to the public and stakeholders with the City Region and encourage engagement with those groups.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES.

1. Apprenticeships in the City Region Scrutiny Review

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date