



**BUSINESS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>ROSE BOYLAN, POLICY &amp; STRATEGY MANAGER</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report sets out a brief overview of latest developments at the Liverpool City Region (LCR), including activity underway to implement the City Region devolution deal.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Committee is requested to note and comment on latest developments.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Committee have requested regular updates and consideration of City Region developments.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 N/a

### 3.0 LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- A wide range of ongoing activity continues to be delivered. Wirral continues to be pro-actively involved in developing and implementing a wide range of important City Region initiatives, including significant Economic Growth; Skills; and Transport initiatives.
- As discussed at our previous Committee meeting in September, Wirral is making a significant contribution in Cultural and Visitor Economy developments, and a detailed Cultural programme of events for 2018 is planned.
- Further detail on all of the most recent developments can be found here <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

### 3.1 LCR METRO MAYOR POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram, presented a detailed overview of progress in his first 6 months in office, and announced some key announcements for going forward. The Mayor's announcement was underscored by ten major new policy pledges, and he consistently reinforced the key message that the LCR Devolution ambition is based on working collaboratively with the 6 Local Authorities to deliver transformational change.

Key policy commitments include:

#### **(i) River Mersey Tidal Commission**

Setting out the vision for a step change in ambition and economic performance, the Mayor announced the appointment of Mr Brent Cheshire, until recently UK Chair of Dong Energy, to lead plans to harness the power of the River Mersey. His initial task over the next 12 months will be to establish the core business case for the multi-billion world class renewable energy project.

Tidal energy would enhance an existing portfolio of energy infrastructure investments including offshore wind, biomass and energy from waste. New investors including DONG Energy, Lego Group, RWE, Iberdrola, Viridor Laing and Stobart Energy have invested over £4bn in the last five years. These company's investments have proved successful with the LCR earning a reputation for proactively supporting this sector.

#### **(ii) Connectivity: LCR Digital Vision**

Describing the need to grasp the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Metro Mayor highlighted the LCR's unique set of assets, including the UK's

most powerful super-computer at Daresbury; cutting-edge research facilities ie Unilever; and a cluster of digital businesses growing faster than Inner London.

To fulfil and accelerate this, the Mayor launched a 6-month study to make the LCR the UK's most digitally connected region in the UK, by connecting directly to the GTT Trans-Atlantic cable that lands in the UK at Southport. Faster speed, greater capacity and green energy will enable the City Region to grow digital and technology sectors, and attract significant investment for global companies wanting the best connections and a carbon neutral energy solution.

### **(iii) Single Investment approach**

A key aim is to create a unified and properly resourced agency to capitalise on Liverpool's positive global brand, marketing the City Region internationally and providing one front door for all those seeking to invest and do business in the LCR.

### **(iv) Ambitious Skills goals**

Campaign for the underspend from the National Apprenticeship Levy to be spent locally to roll-out degree-level apprenticeships and create a single UCAS-style city region-wide portal for apprentices.

### **(v) Housing**

- A major initiative to tackle the City Region housing shortage by building 25,000 new homes before 2022 in the right places and with a variety of types and tenures to ensure everyone has access to a decent and affordable home;
- **Homelessness**  
Aim to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping by implementing a 'Housing First' approach to make sure new homes are made available to those in greatest need;
- **Brownfield Land**  
Adopt a brownfield first approach to new housing development by publishing the first ever City Region Brown Field Register, and lobbying the Chancellor to give the area a Stamp-Duty holiday with funds being recycled into remediating brownfield, making them available for new homes.

### **(vi) Transport**

- Building on the £460 million investment in new rolling stock for Merseyrail by further considering how devolution powers and bus regulation can be best used to create a fully integrated public transport system for the LCR;
- **Smart ticket**  
Make access to public transport more streamlined and customer-friendly by rebranding and remodelling the current Walrus card to make the City Region a UK exemplar for smart ticketing and new payment technologies;
- **Review of Fast Tag**  
Making cross-river transport and movement easier and more affordable by reviewing how he can create a more affordable Fast Tag for Mersey Tunnel users; also announcement to commission design for a new state of the art Mersey Ferry.

### **3.2 Further devolution**

There are currently ongoing discussions to develop the City Region's future devolution ambitions. These include initial consideration of Children's Services; further alignment of Health and Social Care; and proposals to begin discussions about how the LCR could potentially integrate Fire and Rescue, Waste Disposal and powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner into a future Combined Authority Structure.

Further updates on all of the above will be brought back to this Committee as the detail emerges in coming months.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Devolution arrangements propose the devolution of resources to the City Region.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**N/a**

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

At this time, no additional cost is expected to be incurred by LCR local authorities as a result of the new arrangements to deliver the devolution deal.

### **7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Wirral, along with City Region partners, continues to brief members and officers; circulate information and raise awareness of LCR developments through a wide range of approaches and communications.

### **8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct equality implications associated with this report as it deals with the issue of devolution at a strategic level. Equality analysis will be carried out as part of the detailed implementation as appropriate.

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**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>12 July 2013</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>8 August 2013</b>
<b>Cabinet and Council</b>	<b>19 September 2013</b>
<b>Cabinet and Council</b>	<b>10 March 2014</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>19 November 2015</b>
<b>P&amp;P Regeneration &amp; Environment Committee</b>	<b>18 January 2016</b>
<b>P&amp;P Regeneration &amp; Environment Committee</b>	<b>2 March 2016</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>13 September 2016</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>14 November 2016</b>
<b>Council</b>	<b>8 December 2016</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>6 December 2016</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>24 January 2017</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>29 March 2017</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>4 July 2017</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>19 September 2017</b>