

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Update on Liverpool City Region developments
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Rose Boylan, Policy & Strategy Manager

**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 activity continues, of which the following is just a small extract.

#### **3.1 Combined Authority review of progress and upcoming priorities**

The Combined Authority recently considered a review of progress so far, and future priorities to be delivered as part of the ambitious programme of LCR initiatives aiming to create inclusive economic growth. These priorities build upon commitments made in the devolution agreement with government and to ensure that the City Region gets maximum benefit from those resources and powers that have been devolved to it.

#### **3.2 Headline Achievements**

Since the Metro Mayor's election in May 2017 the Combined Authority and local council leaders have increased focus on delivering a number of these ambitions including:

- a) providing £400m in funding for economic development projects across the city region, creating 9,000 jobs and 5,500 apprentices;
- b) creating a Strategic Investment Fund that will provide an additional £500m in funding for the City Region over the next five years;
- c) introducing half price bus travel for all apprentices under the age of 25;
- d) investing £8.3m in the first phase of a 372 mile walking and cycling network;
- e) progressing the introduction of new publicly owned trains onto the Mersey Rail network by 2021;
- f) providing £6m for a Mayoral Town Centre Fund to support local high streets across the City Region;
- g) forming the Mersey Tidal Power Commission to oversee the potential creation of sustainable energy solution that harness the power of the River Mersey;
- h) establishing a City Region-wide task force to tackle poor air quality;
- i) creating a Fairness and Social Advisory Board to ensure that social justice and social value is hard wired into policy making;
- j) ensuring that the Liverpool City Region became the first Combined Authority in the country accredited as a Real Living Wage employer.

In addition, the Liverpool City Region has secured over £183m in additional funding from Government, including:

- £172m Transforming Cities Fund
- £7.7m for a housing first approach to tackling homelessness
- £2.1m Homelessness Trailblazer Funding
- £2m from the Mayoral Capacity Fund

### 3.3 Upcoming priorities

The aim is to use this funding to build on progress so far, and achieve further delivery. Key priorities for the coming months aim to:

- a) deliver a £1 Fast Tag for City Region residents and a freeze in the Mersey tunnel cash toll for all users;
- b) invest in digital infrastructure to ensure that all parts of the City Region benefit from fastest broadband speeds in the UK;
- c) make use of new Mayoral powers with respect to the bus network to ensure that bus services in the City Region work for the benefit of bus users and the wider economy;
- d) take forward the procurement of a new generation of Mersey Ferries;
- e) build a new smart ticketing system that will build upon, and eventually replace the current Walrus platform;
- f) develop a Mayoral Transport Plan that will seek to ease congestion, improve air quality and increase connectivity;
- g) increase investment in cycling and walking;
- h) introduce a City Region apprenticeship portal that will make it easier for those seeking apprenticeships to access employment opportunities; and
- i) take forward the development of the Liverpool City Region Spatial Framework.

### 3.4 LCR Culture

As previously reported, the Liverpool City Region is focusing on Culture and the visitor economy as a key priority. This is illustrated by a number of major initiatives including:

**a) One percent for culture** – to celebrate and support LCR cultural assets and the benefits they bring to the people in our communities, Liverpool City Region is the first in the country to commit to spending the equivalent of 1% of its annual £30 million devolution funding from government to support cultural activities. The last year saw significant support including £5 million to support Liverpool 2018, the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Liverpool's tenure as European Capital of Culture, and a full programme of events, including China Dream, Three Festivals Tall Ships Regatta, the finale of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race and the return of the Giants, for which 1.5 million people descended on the city region.

#### **b) LCR Borough of Culture**

As part of the 1% for Culture Programme, the Combined Authority has invested £200,000 to support an annual Borough of Culture programme, celebrating the things that make each of the 6 LCR boroughs unique. The Borough of Culture title will be awarded to all of the Combined Authority's constituent local authorities on a rotating basis.

Wirral holds the title of Borough of Culture for 2019. Further details can be found here

[www.imaginewirral.com/wirral-2019](http://www.imaginewirral.com/wirral-2019) and highlights include:

Animated Square taking place in March, an exhibition about Wirral's contribution to maritime exploration; a summer of art in parks and urban spaces, and a series of events linked to the moon and stars, along with returning favourites the Mersey River Festival and River of Light.

### **Conclusion**

Further updates on all of the above will be brought back to this Committee as further detail emerges in the coming months. As previously stated, the above is just a short snapshot of LCR activity, and further detail on all of the most recent developments can be found here <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

a) The Devolution arrangements propose the devolution of financial resources to LCR.

b) At its Budget setting meeting in February, the Combined Authority agreed to funding costs associated with the exercise of Mayoral responsibilities of £7.675m through the establishment of a Mayoral Precept in 2019/20 distributed between households on the basis set out below.

The distribution of households within the City Region is such that the overwhelming majority of households will pay £12.67 for a Band A property or £14.78 for a Band B property before any discounts are applied. Table 1 below shows the proposed charges for each property band.

**Table 1: Mayoral Precept by Council Tax Band 2019/20**

<b>Band</b>	<b>Charge £</b>
Band A	12.67
Band B	14.78
Band C	16.89
Band D	19.00
Band E	23.22
Band F	27.44
Band G	31.67
Band H	38.00

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/a

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

See section 4 for LCR Budget considerations

## **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>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>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>29 November 2017</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>23 January 2018</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> July 2018</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>September 2018</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>November 2018</b>
<b>Business Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>January 2019</b>