



Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 4 July 2019

REPORT TITLE	UPDATE ON LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVELOPMENTS
REPORT OF	ROSE BOYLAN, POLICY & STRATEGY MANAGER

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out a brief overview of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) landscape, including an overview of the Combined Authority members, roles and responsibilities, and current 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 LCR developments.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/a

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) is the Combined Authority of the Liverpool City Region, an area that covers the metropolitan county of Merseyside and the adjacent Borough of Halton in the North West of England. It was established on 1 April 2014 by statutory instrument under the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The Combined Authority drives the devolution agenda for the City Region.

Devolution means the transfer of decision-making powers and funding from national government to the Liverpool City Region. It is important because it ensures that decisions are made closer to the local people, communities and businesses they affect. Devolution provides greater freedoms and flexibility at a local level, meaning councils and other partners can work together – through the Combined Authority – to make a difference to the people who live and work in our area.

The Liverpool City Region's initial Devolution Agreement in November 2015 secured an extra £900 million of funding over 30 years and identified a number of priority areas where resources and decision making would be controlled locally, including employment and skills, housing and planning, transport, innovation, business growth and support, energy, culture and finance. Devolution is also helping to secure hundreds of millions of pounds in extra investment.

The Combined Authority is led by Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram and brings together the five local authority leaders of Halton, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral Councils, the elected Mayor of Liverpool City Council and the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership. Warrington and West Lancashire Councils are Associate Members of the CA.

The purpose of the Combined Authority is to work together to drive the devolution of powers and resources to have a real impact on the City Region's communities, in areas such as economic development, education and skills, transport, employment, culture, digital and housing.

The key priorities and deliverables are set out in more detail within the CA Corporate Plan 2018-20. The annual review of Combined Authority progress, achievements and upcoming priorities recently took place, and is summarised in section 3.8 below.

Further detail and updates can be found here <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk>

3.1 LCR Combined Authority Membership

At its annual meeting on 26th May 2019, the Combined Authority agreed the following memberships and appointments.

	Appointment	Substitute appointment
Halton Council	Councillor Rob Polhill	Councillor Mike Wharton
Knowsley MBC	Councillor Graham Morgan	Councillor Sean Donnelly
Liverpool CC	Mayor Joe Anderson OBE	Councillor Wendy Simon
Sefton MBC	Councillor Ian Maher	Councillor John Fairclough
St Helens MBC	Councillor David Baines	Councillor Sue Murphy
Wirral MBC	Councillor Pat Hackett	Councillor Anita Leech

3.2 LCR Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The Liverpool City Region LEP and Combined Authority work together to deliver the Growth Strategy for the City Region. The LEP provides strategic advice and guidance on economic development priorities. Private sector knowledge and expertise from the LEP ensures that strategic, business-led economic growth helps to drive the economy for LCR.

The LCR Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) nominates a member and substitute member to the Combined Authority. The member nominated by the LEP is a statutory non-voting Member of the LCR Combined Authority.

	Appointment	Substitute appointment
LCR Local Enterprise Partnership	Mr Asif Hamid MBE	Mr Paul Corcoran

3.3 Combined Authority Associate Members

	Appointment	Substitute appointment
Warrington BC Councillor	Russ Bowden	Councillor Cathy Mitchell
West Lancashire BC	Councillor Ian Moran	Councillor Yvonne Gagen

3.4 LCR Portfolio Holders

In order to deliver the overarching priorities of the City Region, there are several sub-themes that form the following portfolios. Each of the Local Authority Leaders have lead responsibility for a portfolio as follows.

Portfolio	Appointment
Policy, Reform and Resources	Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
Education, Employment and Skills	Mayor Joe Anderson OBE
Digital Connectivity and Inclusion	Councillor David Baines
Housing and Spatial Framework	Councillor Graham Morgan
Low Carbon and Renewable Energy	Councillor Rob Polhill
Culture, Tourism and the Visitor Economy	Councillor Ian Maher
Inclusive Economy and Third Sector	Councillor Pat Hackett
Business Support and Brexit	Mr Asif Hamid MBE
Transport and Air Quality	Councillor Liam Robinson *
Criminal Justice	Rt Hon Jane Kennedy *

***Indicates non-voting co-opted member**

3.5 Deputy Portfolio Holders

To support the Portfolio Holders in the delivery of their policy objectives the following deputies have been appointed. These do not have voting rights on the Combined Authority.

The deputies now play an active part with the Portfolio Holders through attending various meetings and offering their specific or general expertise and/or experience on their portfolio subject.

Deputy Portfolio Holders have a standing invitation to attend all meetings of the Combined Authority, where they can speak but not vote.

Deputy Portfolio	Nomination
Policy, Reform and Resources	Councillor Carla Thomas
Education, Employment and Skills	Councillor Pauline Sinnott
Digital Connectivity and Inclusion	Councillor Laura Robertson-Collins
Housing and Spatial Framework	Councillor Trisha Hardy
Low Carbon and Renewable Energy	TBC
Culture, Tourism & Visitor Economy	TBC
Inclusive Economy and Third Sector	Councillor Kate Groucutt
Business Support and Brexit	TBC
Transport and Air Quality	Councillor Nathalie Nicholas
Criminal Justice	TBC

3.6 Mayoral Advisors

Mayoral Advisors have been appointed by the Metro Mayor, and their appointment runs co-terminus with the Mayoral term of office and ends on 7th May 2020.

Mayoral Advisor	Specialism
Professor Dame Janet Beer	Higher Education
Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE	Natural Environment
Barbara Spicer	Social Housing Growth
Sara Wilde-McKeown	Visitor Economy
Kate Farrell	Homelessness
Rev Canon Dr E Loudon	Community & Voluntary Sector
Lynn Collins	Chair of Fairness & Social Justice Board (FASJAB)

3.7 LCR Combined Authority Strategic Priorities

The Combined Authority has ambitious aims to grow the City Region economy and attract more residents and businesses to live, work, study, visit and invest here. Collectively, we are helping to deliver this by ensuring that funding and resources are being targeted at the right issues for our region.

The CA aims to deliver sustainable economic growth which benefits all across the City Region, delivering added value to the individual efforts of Local Authorities through creating the conditions for increases in the number and quality of jobs and the level of local employment. Commitments include investing £400 million to create 9,000 jobs and 5,500 apprenticeships and support households back into employment.

In 2018, the CA set out the strategy for achieving this shared vision, built around eight high level priorities, objectives and key activities within its Strategic Plan for 2018-20. These are summarised below.

- A dynamic, prosperous, inclusive economy which benefits every part of the city region
- Jobs, skills and career opportunities for all
- High speed digital network that connects the whole region to the world
- A transport network that connects people, goods and business
- Good quality and affordable housing
- A greener and cleaner place to live
- A world class culture and visitor experience
- More decisions taken locally

3.8 2019 Review of CA progress and achievements

At its recent Annual Meeting, the Combined Authority considered a review of progress towards these strategic priorities. A summary of CA achievements is set out below and the full end of year Review can be found here

<https://modern.gov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=364&MId=1974&Ver=4>

LCR Combined Authority Key achievements 2018-19

Inclusive economic growth

Digital Innovation Factory - Single Investment Fund approval for £5m. The project will deliver a new build facility on the University of Liverpool's campus; a Centre of Excellence in simulation and virtual reality;

Cruise Liner Terminal - CA agreed a Single Investment Fund contribution to the project;

An additional £4.4million allocated to the "Ways to Work" Programmes at each of the Liverpool City Region's constituent authorities;

CA awarded £8,348,493 of ERDF funding for the provision of cycling and walking infrastructure across the Liverpool City Region;

ERDF award of £1,959,767 was granted which allowed the purchasing of low emission vessels which would utilise electric power in addition to diesel thus reducing fuel costs and emission levels;

Successfully applied for £25m of ERDF to establish the Liverpool City Region Urban Development Fund, to provide loans to support, research and development, construction of modern, highly energy efficient premises and workspaces across the City Region and improve the SME business base;

Town Centres Fund - £6m to support town centres in each of the 6 Local Authorities

Digital Innovation

CA is leading the collaborative deployment of a 222km, full fibre network that will provide ultrafast connectivity across the region. This will create a resilient core network, interlinking all six constituent council areas and respective primary economic development sites;

"Dig Once" approach is already being implemented, taking advantage of cycle way and key route network improvements across the region;

Extensive engagement with the business community to understand and respond to digital needs.

Green energy

Mersey Tidal - significant progress on creating a sustainable and robust business case to support the City Region's ambition to effectively harness the tidal power potential in the Mersey and Liverpool Bay;

Liverpool City Region (LCR) Energy Strategy commissioned during 2018/19. Key areas of opportunity centre around marine energy generation opportunities, (tidal and offshore wind), and developing a viable hydrogen economy;

North West Energy Hub became fully operational. The City Region was awarded funds from BEIS to establish one of five regional centres covering the UK to provide expertise and project support to deliver clean energy systems such as solar, CHP and battery storage.

Culture and Visitor Economy

CA funded £5m to a Programme of Cultural Events, crucial to economic growth and development across the City Region, through increasing visitor number and spend; and for showcasing and extending a contemporary cultural offer. Events included:

- Terracotta Army - more than 600,000 people viewed China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors at the World Museum between February – October 2018. This exhibition contributed almost £80 million to the Liverpool City Region's economy;
- Giants - the Giants brought approximately 1.3m visitors to the City Centre and Wirral, and generated a massive £60.6m for the local economies;
- Tall Ships/Mersey River Festival welcomed the Tall Ships Regatta 2018 and also hosted the finishing stage of the 2017/18 Clipper Round the World Race. It was complemented by a programme of maritime and cultural activities on the river and its banks in Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral to exploit associated business, training and cultural opportunities.

Jobs and skills

Apprentices - increasing the number of apprentices in the City Region is a priority for the Combined Authority

- CA has introduced "Be More", a UCAS style apprentice portal to make it easier for people to apply for apprenticeships
- Skills Brokers have been refocused to work with employers to create more apprenticeships and facilitate transfers of apprenticeship levy

Households into Work Programme:

- engaging with more than 800 households to address the barriers which prevent them from getting into or closer to work. Delivered in conjunction with constituent councils, this innovative programme has seen significant progression for those households involved, adding value to other local employment programmes;
- The Heseltine Institute at University of Liverpool is completing a qualitative evaluation which will be brought to the Combined Authority in Summer 2019.

Skills Capital:

- Extreme Low Energy Project – Delivered at Wirral Metropolitan College this project provided two heat and power storage facilities in two of Wirral Met College's sites as well as a combined heat and power unit and new condensing boilers to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon

Housing and Homelessness
Secured £7.7million Housing First funding from Govt, as one of three national pilots. Working with each LA and key stakeholders to tackle homelessness;
Strategic Transport and Infrastructure
<p>Transport for the North (TfN) launched its Strategic Transport Plan (STP) in January 2019, accompanied by a long-term investment plan (LTIP) that will guide the North of England along the way to the transformed transport network that will enable the Northern Powerhouse;</p> <p>STP will support significant transport investments for the LCR and wider Northern regions bringing all the cities of the north closer together; improvements to the Major Road Network; improved access to ports and airports for passengers and freight;</p> <p>Specific schemes highlighted in LCR Long Term Rail Strategy as strategically important include improvements to Liverpool Central, transport improvements to Liverpool John Lennon Airport, and faster journeys on the Wrexham-Bidston line;</p> <p>Rolling Stock - £460m project to deliver a new, locally owned fleet for the Merseyrail network. Manufacturing of the first new trains with testing and delivery to Liverpool due in the autumn of 2019.</p>

3.9 Combined Authority headline priorities 2019-20

An extensive programme of activity and delivery of strategic projects will continue in the coming months. Summary commitments for 2019/20 include:

- (a) A £1 fast tag for City Region residents;
- (b) The infrastructure to provide ultra-fast broadband speeds for the LCR;
- (c) Continue the review to make the best use of the powers that exist within Bus Service Act 2017;
- (d) The delivery of the £50million+ Adult Education Budget; launch the next £18m Skills Capital fund to enable local colleges and learning providers to improve their facilities.
- (e) Delivery of the next generation of Mersey Ferries;
- (f) A new smart ticketing system to replace the Walrus Card;
- (g) The introduction of a City Region apprenticeship portal;
- (i) Continued support for LCR Borough of Culture and high profile visitor events;
- (j) Significant investment to grow the economy through the SIF

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

The Devolution arrangements set out the devolution of financial resources to LCR.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/a

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

N/a

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.

REPORT AUTHOR: Rose Boylan, Policy and Strategy Manager
0151 691 8037
rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
P&P Regeneration & Environment Committee	18 January 2016
P&P Regeneration & Environment Committee	2 March 2016
Council	13 September 2016
Cabinet	14 November 2016
Council	8 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 December 2016
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24 January 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 March 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19 September 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2017
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23 January 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27 th March 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	4 th July 2018

Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	November 2018
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	January 2019
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	March 2019