



Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 27 November 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 latest developments at the Liverpool City Region (LCR), including activity underway to implement the City Region devolution deal and the work of the Combined Authority.

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

- 1.1 Committee have requested regular updates and consideration of LCR developments.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/a

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 A wide range of activity continues, of which the following is just a small extract. Further detail on all of the most recent developments can be found here <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

The Combined Authority recently agreed several considered several developments including the following:

3.1 Developing a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)

- 3.1.1 One of the ongoing updates provided to this Committee is the work that the LCR Combined Authority is doing to develop a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). It is a key strategic priority that will set out the City Region's economic strengths, our challenges, and how we can best address them. It will demonstrate the positive contribution the LCR is making to the national economy and outline what we will do to raise productivity. The document will be central to informing local priorities, guide our future local investment decisions, and support national decision making.
- 3.1.2 A review of relevant evidence, and extensive stakeholder consultation has been taking place in recent months to help inform the LIS. This is starting to shape a number of emerging strategic priorities for the Local Industrial Strategy, and the formulation of policy interventions.
- 3.1.3 The draft LIS is based on a strategic framework, made up of five emerging inter-dependent priorities which align with the Government's five foundations of productivity:
- (i) People with the opportunity to transform passion into prosperity: supporting people across the City Region in maximising their potential, whilst meeting the future skills needs of employers.
 - (ii) Revitalised and distinctive places: joined up place-based approaches to foster resilient neighbourhoods, quality living environments and strong sense of community across the City Region.
 - (iii) Connecting all our communities to opportunity: ensuring that the strategic infrastructure is in place to ensure a well-connected City Region that supports businesses and communities everywhere.
 - (iv) A dynamic business base that creates opportunity: providing the enabling conditions for business growth and uplift in productivity across the whole economy, which provides quality jobs and progression within the labour market.

- (v) Collaboration that transforms research into reality: supporting the coordination of the City Region's innovation assets to deliver the scale of innovation and digitisation required across the economy and society.

3.1.4 The LIS also sets out a distinctive LCR 'Grand Challenge' – 'becoming the most inclusive economy in the UK'. This reflects the progressive ambition of the City Region to ensure that all people and communities both contribute to, and benefit from, growth and productivity uplifts.

3.1.5 The other LCR 'Grand Challenges' include a carbon neutral and sustainable city region and a focus on 'Tech for Good' which considers how digital innovations in the City Region will support all areas of society and economy, including improved health outcomes.

3.1.6 Further engagement will take place in the coming weeks to shape the LIS, which will be drafted over November and December. The aim is to then consult further with Government, and to produce the final LIS for sign off at the Combined Authority in March 2020.

3.2 Towns Fund

3.2.1 Birkenhead is one of 100 towns that have recently been selected nationally to work towards a Town Deal as part of Government's £3.6bn Towns Fund to further improve the ability of towns to realise their growth ambitions.

3.2.2 The list included four towns from the Liverpool City Region – Birkenhead, Runcorn, Southport and St Helens to apply for up to £25m to support their approaches to economic regeneration, infrastructure and housing.

3.2.3 Even if all 100 listed towns draw down the maximum offer of £25m, this will leave a surplus of £1.1bn. Central Government is currently considering options on distribution of this funding, and have stated that they are open to approaches from Combined Authorities which take a strategic approach to the opportunity, and offer innovative ideas for use of the Funds. Discussions are underway between the Combined Authority, LCR Local Authorities and Government.

3.2.4 Additional guidance is due to be published in early 2020 with greater detail on scope of interventions, business case development and how Deals will be agreed.

3.3 Liverpool City Region Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

3.3.1 The Combined Authority recently agreed the LCR Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which sets out the City Region's vision, plans and priorities for a strategic cycling and walking network over the next ten years. The aim is to significantly increase the number of journeys made on foot or by bike.

3.3.2 The vast majority of journeys in the LCR are short journeys: 66% of all trips are less than 5km in length. Around 50% of these are undertaken by car, despite the fact that many of these trips will easily be within comfortable walking or cycling distance. Currently, only 2% of these journeys are cycled and around 30% walked, and these figures have remained static for a number of years. The latent demand for more

journeys to be made by bike or foot is significant provided we can provide the right conditions to allow people to make these journeys in a safer manner.

- 3.3.3 The intention is to make walking and cycling the natural choice for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey. Realising this ambition will take sustained investment in cycling and walking infrastructure, and partnership working with local bodies, the third sector and the wider public and private sector to build a local commitment. The approach supports the transformation of local areas: change that will tackle congestion, change that will extend opportunity to improve physical and mental health, and change that will support local economies.
- 3.3.4 Feedback from consultation indicates that for more people to walk and cycle, routes should be designed that look, feel and are safer and easy to use.
- 3.3.5 The Infrastructure Plan is the mechanism to help deliver this step change in growing the number of journeys made by bike and on foot. It is made up of routes comprising a City Region strategic network. These will be complemented by a web of local cycling and walking routes, including quieter residential streets and routes through green spaces, which together make many journeys suitable for travel by foot or by bike.
- 3.3.6 The LCWIP has been developed through a steering group of representatives from each of the LCRCA constituent Local Authorities, which works within the governance of the City Region Authorities. A comprehensive evidence base drawn from local and national sources has helped inform the development of the LCWIP by the steering group. From this, a network of 31 strategic routes has been identified with a selected, prioritised programme to be implemented over the next 10 years, including the following Wirral routes:

Phase 1

- Leasowe – Seacombe Ferry Terminal (3.7km new cycleway)

Phase 2

- New Brighton – Birkenhead

Phase 3

- Birkenhead to Hooton

3.4 LCR Year of the Environment

- 3.4.1 Members are aware that 2019 is LCR Year of the Environment, and a wide range of events and activity has been taking place over the year, when Wirral organisations, along with partners from across the Liverpool City Region have come together to support people and communities from all backgrounds to get involved in action to improve the natural environment.
- 3.4.2 Latest developments include the LCR's first ever Environmental Summit in November which highlighted the range and scale of community environmental projects and activities.
- 3.4.3 To ensure the legacy of this year, the Summit announced the creation of LCR Climate Partnership, to co-ordinate the city region's response to the climate emergency, as well as launching a £500,000 fund to support community environment projects to improve their local environment.

3.5 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

<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The devolution of financial resources to LCR means that there are opportunities for Wirral to access additional funding.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 N/a

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 N/a

7.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No direct implications. The Combined Authority is prioritising an increased focus on collectively doing what we can locally to address this global issue.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

8.1 N/a

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 No direct implications. The overarching strategic goal of the LCR Combined Authority and related strategies and programmes are all centred on tackling inequalities and achieving an inclusive economy for Liverpool City Region.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	July 2019
Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2019