

REPORT TO: Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 12 November 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: City Deal Implementation

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the implementation of the Liverpool City Region Deal and to outline how this relates to Halton's Employment Learning and Skills priority.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

Members give consideration to how Halton can best respond to the implementation plan so that the Borough can maximise any opportunities arising from the City Region Deal.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Liverpool City Region Deal was launched with Government on 5 July and signed off on 18 September. The City Region Deal, which sits alongside and complements the Liverpool Mayoral deal, has the following elements:

- An international Business Festival which showcases and celebrates business opportunities to Europe and the rest of the World, delivering £100m return on investment;
- A low carbon red tape pilot that will aim to reduce regulatory burdens and streamline local planning processes to accelerate over £100m worth of investment in offshore wind infrastructure in the City Region and create 3,000 jobs;
- To examine how the River Mersey can become the cleanest river in an urban setting by 2045, with the commensurate economic benefits;
- To increase employment by combining up to £80m public and private employment and skills investments and empowering businesses to create more jobs, tackle skills gaps and raise productivity; supporting 17,400 people into work and creating 6,000 apprenticeships;
- To put transport at the heart of economic development through a revised approach to governance and creation of a joint investment fund of £800m supporting the creation of 15,000 jobs;

- To harness the City Region's science and knowledge assets, attracting 'big science investment', increasing GVA and generating 2,000 high value jobs; and
- To support the development of a City Region investment framework and greater local control over resources.

The Deal and the associated Implementation Plan are the culmination of a significant amount of effort from colleagues across the City Region and Government, and signal the desire of the City Region to work together cohesively to drive the economic growth of the City Region.

The City Region will need to report quarterly to Government on the delivery of its element of the implementation plan: This will need to be done at the end of December.

There are a number of elements relating to the Employment Learning and Skills agenda, which will be of interest to this Policy, Performance Board. These are set out below: -

- (1) The creation of a Skills for Growth Bank – this seeks to unify the various and often duplicating skills investments into one job creation investments fund. The bank would offer loans to businesses as well as grants. It will allow an on lien comparison of learning providers and also information on who is charging what.
- (2) Piloting payment by results for adult skills. This ask challenges the traditional approach to placing people on courses or training which does not incentivise and reward providers that are good at getting people into work.
- (3) Customer Choice in the work programme – At the moment the allocation of customers to the work programme is via the two work programme providers. This approach will look to investigate whether greater customer choice at the point of referral might improve customer performance.
- (4) Halving long-term unemployment – This ask recognises that more interventions are required at the demand side i.e. employers businesses being supported in creating jobs, rather than the supply side.
- (5) Improving access to the New Enterprise Allowance – Work is underway with JCP and DWP to see whether individuals can be supported to access the New Enterprise Allowance without having to have reached a certain point on the JSA timeframe.

- (6) DWP Commissioning Geography developing dialogue with Government to review how resources are commissioned and whether this is relevant to a particular area.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Liverpool City Region Deal and implementation plan are being used by the City Region as a coherent framework for delivering its priorities for the future. It is argued that by bringing together public funding streams and the ability to make local decisions on these priorities, the Liverpool City Region can ensure that resources are invested in ways that will have maximum impact on the economy. This will be underpinned by the production of a City Region Investment Framework, and, therefore, it is important that Halton's interests are adequately represented.

4.1 Members are advised that the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development is a Member of the Liverpool City Region Employment Board and can, therefore contribute to the skills and employment of elements of the City Region Deal. Halton is also represented at an officer level through the City Region Deal Implementation group.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton.

N/A

6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton.

The initiatives highlighted above will make a positive contribution to the Employment Learning and Skills priority.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Halton regeneration projects such as 3MG, Mersey Gateway as well as transport infrastructure projects are identified as initiatives which need to be supported to grow the economy of the Liverpool City Region.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There is some albeit limited risk that if the Council does not participate fully in the implementation of the City Deal, that this will have a negative impact on the Borough's ability to lobby effectively for economic regeneration resources in the future.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
City Deal	Municipal Building	Wesley Rourke