

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Chair and Members of the Liverpool City Region
Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

Meeting: 19 October 2016

Authority/Authorities Affected: Combined Authority/all districts

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME AND RECENT COMBINED AUTHORITY DECISIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on progress being made on the delivery of the Panel's Work Programme and to seek member's initial views on potential further review activities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is **recommended** that –

1. the progress being on the original work programme be endorsed;
2. Panel Members provide initial indications of potential future review activity requirements be given; and
3. further discussions with Panel Members take place after one of the sessions being organised for the Employment and Skills review with a view to bring a revised programme to the January meeting of the Panel.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Panel set out, when it was originally formed, a series of areas where it wished to carry out scrutiny reviews. It has completed work on European Funding and Short-Hop Bus Fares, where responses have been received from the Combined Authority(CA). It has put on hold any work on Housing and Planning given the stage that work is up to with the CA in relation to any potential scrutiny review.
- 3.2 The Panel has now commenced work on an Employment and Skills review and has held a scoping meeting to look at the focus of that review. Given the work that the CA has already undertaken and the changing policy picture developing the Panel wished to focus that review on Apprenticeships. A detailed scoping document is being produced based on the views members gave at that scoping event. Members indicated that they would like to hear evidence from employers (including the approach being taken by the constituent Councils), training providers and

importantly young people. It is hoped that the review can be completed in time for a report to be submitted to the January meeting, although this will be dependent on the availability of witnesses and careful diary management.

- 3.3 In addition to specific review work the Panel has also kept an overview, via its formal meetings, of some key activities of the CA. These have included the development of the Devolution Deal, progress on the LCR Growth Plan and progress on the Transport for Growth Plan. However, once the work has been completed on the Employment and Skills Review it will have finished its original work plan. Given that position member's initial guidance is sought on developing its next programme of work, which, it is suggested can again be a mixture of formal review work and reports on specific issues brought to the formal meetings of the Panel. It is suggested that any initial views could be further considered at one of the review sessions being organised for the Employment and Skills work and a formal work programme drawn up and brought to the January Panel meeting.
- 3.4 To provide some assistance to members in thinking about that programme, listed below are some of the key issues considered by the Combined Authority since this Panel last met.

15th July 2016

Single Investment Fund – Assurance Framework
LCR Growth Deal 3 Submission
Novation of Chrysalis Fund
LCR Growth Deal Scheme – Littlewoods Studio
LCR Growth Deal Scheme – Alstom Transport Technology Centre
Local Growth Fund: Approval of Full Major Scheme Business Case – A570 Linking Improvements
Transport for the North Update
Skills Capital Investment
Health and Work Innovation Fund Submission
Housing and Spatial Planning Statement of Co-operation
Local Growth Fund Performance 2015/16
Devolution of Powers and Resources to the LCR – Progress on Executive Capacity

19th August 2016

Area Based Review
LCR Department for Transport Fund Bid Submission
LCR Governance Review and Scheme
Devolution of Powers and Resources to the LCR – Progress on Executive Capacity

16th September 2016

LCR Single Investment Fund Prospectus
Single Growth Strategy Action Plan
Skills Capital Investment
Developing a Key Route Network – Update and Proposed Next Steps

3.5 Full agenda items and minutes for the above issues can be found on the CA Agendas on the Knowsley Borough Council website.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

When considering any work programme issues it is important to consider the capacity of both members and officers to undertake such work. The resources to support such activity and being delivered from within the existing resources of the CA and its constituent authorities.

4.1 Financial

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

4.4 Information Technology

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There are no direct issues arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Members are being asked to note progress being made on the Panel's original work plan and to give initial consideration to developing a new one to be brought to the Panel in January.

DAVID PARR
Lead Officer - Scrutiny

Contact Officer(s):

David Parr, Chief Executive, Halton Council
Ian Leivesley, Strategic Director,
Enterprise, Community and Resources, Halton

Tel: 0151 511 6000

Tel: 0151 511 6002

Appendices: None

Background Documents:

None