

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 15 August 2013 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), Harris, R. Hignett, Jones, Nelson, Philbin, J. Stockton, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors D. Cargill

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, E. Dawson, L. Derbyshire, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan and D. Parr

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB53 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION REVIEW OF STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which explained why Halton and the Liverpool City Region had reviewed its strategic governance for economic development, regeneration and transport. It also outlined the process undertaken to conduct a governance review commissioned by the Liverpool City Region Cabinet.

The report identified how a potential Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) could operate and the functions it could discharge, along with considering a draft scheme for its establishment. It was reported that this was not the creation of a 'Super Council' and the LCRCA would have a limited remit and deal with strategic matters, the functions relating to transport, housing, economic development and skills.

The report also detailed the proposed approach to consultation and sought agreement to host specific Halton events on the review of strategic governance and the

Action

operation of a potential Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

The Board was advised of the statutory process and that there would be three further opportunities for individual Councils to confirm their approval for the proposals.

The Board noted the existing governance arrangements and the methodology of the review. It was reported that the governance review attached at Appendix A to the report, considered the four main options available to the Liverpool City Region, which had been assessed against the statutory tests identified in section 4.3 of the report as follows:-

- Option 1 – Leaving existing governance unchanged (status quo);
- Option 2 – Establishing a Supervisory Board;
- Option 3 – Establishing an Economic Prosperity Board; and
- Option 4 – Creating a Combined Authority.

The findings of the assessment was summarised in paragraph 7.3 of the report. The conclusion from the review was to propose a Liverpool City Region Combined Authority model, and to include the transport functions which were currently exercised separately by MITA and Halton Borough Council, as the preferred governance option. The proposal would give legal form to the close working relationships that already existed between the six local authorities, the MITA and the Local Enterprise Partnership. A sub-regional body would be created, with legal personality and a governance mechanism that could act across the combined area.

The Chief Executive advised specifically on a number of relevant matters including the consequences and benefits of a Combined Authority for Halton, and responded to questions.

The Board impressed on the Chief Executive that the Scheme agreed should leave Halton in no worse position than it is at present and welcomed the opportunities a Combined Authority may bring to Halton.

The Board was advised that the statutory process, as laid out in the legislation, required that a scheme was developed outlining the role of a potential Combined Authority, which could then be laid before Parliament for approval. The Outline for the Potential Role of a Liverpool City Region Combined Authority report (Appendix B) and the

Draft Scheme (Appendix C), had been completed, alongside the conduct of the governance review to set out the functions and activities that the Combined Authority could perform in order to secure jobs and growth and improvements in the economic conditions of the Liverpool City Region.

The Board noted the next steps set out in the report; that the reports would be considered individually by each of the local authority Cabinets and the Integrated Transport Authority; a stakeholder consultation would run from 5 August 2013 to 6 September 2013; workshops and seminars would be held in local areas and all feedback from the consultation would be collected centrally at Knowsley Council via a single email address.

In conclusion, it was reported that at the end of the consultation period, the responses would be analysed by the Officer led Working Group and a final version of the governance review and scheme for the establishment of a Liverpool City Region Combined Authority would be prepared and reported back to the Executive Board, the individual Cabinets of each of the Councils and the Integrated Transport Authority during September 2013. In addition, full Council approval would also be required prior to submission to the Secretary of State. A meeting of Halton Council would be held on 19 September 2013 in order for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to be operational from 1 April 2014.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was required to improve the economic conditions of the Liverpool City Region by establishing a Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Alternative models of governance had been considered as part of the Review of Strategic Governance and had been judged not to be as effective as improving the economic conditions of the Liverpool City Region as the preferred option

Implementation Date

15 August 2013.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft findings of the Liverpool City Region strategic governance review (as Attached at Appendix A be endorsed;
- (2) the draft outline of the potential role for a Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (as attached at Appendix B) be endorsed;
- (3) the draft scheme for the establishment of a Combined Authority for the Liverpool City Region (as attached at Appendix C) be endorsed;
- (4) holding Halton events as part of the consultation on the proposals as described in the documents referred to in paragraphs (1) to (3) be agreed; and
- (5) the final versions of the documents referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c) above, together with the results of the consultation exercise be submitted for consideration at future meetings of the Executive Board and Council.

MINUTES ISSUED: 16 August 2013

CALL-IN: 23 August 2013

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 23 August 2013

Meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.