

# LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 13 January 2016

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

## **REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER – SCRUTINY**

### **LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DEVOLUTION DEAL**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- (1) bring Panel Members' attention to the Devolution Deal (copy attached), which was signed off by the Combined Authority (CA) at its meeting on 20 November 2015; and
- (2) seek the views of the Panel on issues it would like to be taken into consideration in the review of the CA governance arrangements arising from signing the deal, particularly in relation to scrutiny arrangements.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 It is recommended that:-

- (1) the signing of the Devolution Deal be noted and welcomed; and
- (2) Panel Members comment on the issues they see as important in developing the CA's new governance arrangements.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Combined Authority at its meeting on 20 November 2015 approved the Liverpool City Region Devolution Deal, following an intense period of negotiation with Government. The key elements of the deal included agreement with Government around devolution of powers covering:

- Economic development
- Transport
- Housing
- Planning
- Employment and skills

3.2 The deal also requires the LCR to adopt a new governance model which will involve the introduction of a directly elected City Region Mayor. The first elections to that role will take place in May 2017. The deal recognises that these new measures will require a new set of governance arrangements for the Combined Authority. In approving the deal the Combined Authority also resolved at its meeting on 20 November 2015 as follows:

(iii) that the Governance Principles (referred to in the Deal Document) be incorporated into a formal constitution and be subject to a further report in due course.

3.3 The deal document has a section on 'Governance' – see page 6 – and states that “the LCR Mayor and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority will be scrutinised and held to account by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s).”

3.4 The Scrutiny Panel has been in existence since 2014, having first met on 29 October 2014. During this time it has:

- Carried out a review on European Funding
- Carried out a review on Affordable Transport
- Reviewed the growth Plan (with a report due back in July 2016)
- Reviewed the LCR Transport for Growth Plan (with a report due back in July 2016)
- Received a report from the Chair of the Combined Authority on the activities of the CA over its first 12 months

3.5 The Panel therefore has developed some experience of scrutinising in a CA setting. It is important that the CA uses that experience in developing its new governance arrangements that it needs to put in place to manage and deliver on its new responsibilities.

3.6 Panel Members are requested to provide feedback to the CA which will be used to develop its new governance arrangements. In particular Panel Members' views are requested on:

- what's worked well;
- what could have worked better;
- what would they like to see reflected in the new governance arrangements; and
- how they would wish to be involved in the development of those arrangements.

## **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial**

Whilst there are no direct resource implications related to this report the CA will need to bear in mind the resource requirements of any new governance arrangements. This will relate both to members and officers and will need to be considered alongside the development of any new arrangements.

## 4.2 **Human Resources**

There are no direct human resource implications associated with this report.

## 4.3 **Physical Assets**

There are no direct implications directly arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

## 4.4 **Information Technology**

There are no direct issues as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

## 5. **RISKS AND MITIGATION**

- 5.1 There is a risk that if there are inadequate resources available to the Panel that scrutiny of the Elected Mayor and LCRCA will be ineffective. Resources need to be identified across the constituent authorities to ensure this does not happen.

## 6. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no specific implications associated with this report.

## 7. **COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

- 7.1 It is important that there is seen to be effective scrutiny arrangements in place as part of the mechanisms that support the Elected Mayor and the Combined Authority.

## 8. **CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The Panel is requested to input its views into the development of the new governance arrangements.

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