

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL

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

DECISIONS OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY (CA)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to draw Panel Members attention to the significant decisions the CA has made since the Panel last met.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended the Panel:

- i) Notes the report;
- ii) Seeks clarification or further information around the decisions of the CA;and
- iii) Comments on the usefulness of this kind of report for future meetings

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The purpose of this report is to draw Panel Members attention to the significant decisions made by the Combined Authority (CA) since the Panel last met. It is intended, following discussion with the Chair that a report such as this will be brought to each subsequent meeting of the Panel. This will allow Panel Members:

- To scrutinise those decisions and hold the CA to account;
- Use that information to develop further work programme topics;
- Follow progress on the major issues being dealt with across the City Region;
- Provide feedback to the CA as the Panel sees fit.

3.2 Full details of each issue can be followed at the link to the website below, if Members wish to find out more. The first report covers the following CA meetings:

- 16th October 2015
- 20th November 2015
- 18th December 2015

<http://councillors.knowsley.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=890&StyleType=standard&StyleSize=none>

16th October 2015 – Meeting of the Combined Authority

Potential Devolution of Powers and Resources to the City Region

The Combined Authority received a presentation that provided an update on the ongoing negotiations relating to the City Region Devolution package.

Low Emission Vehicle Update and Bid Submission

The CA considered a report which provided an update on the Recharge Scheme and other work which was taking place on low emission vehicles in the region. The report also sought approval for the submission of a bid to the Department of Transport under the Low Emission Bus Scheme and Clear Bus Technology Fund.

Skills for Growth Priorities 2015/16

The CA considered a report which presented the Liverpool City Region Skills for Growth Priorities 2015/16 for approval. The report provided an overview of the City Region's current and future skills needs and set out a range of activities for the CA.

Skills Capital Fund Sites and Premises Assessment Outcome

The CA considered a report which presented the Skills Capital Investment Panel recommendations for the four full applications received under the Sites and Premises strand of the Liverpool City Region Skills Capital Investment Fund. The Liverpool City Region was awarded £41.1M (for the period 2015/16 – 2016/17) for Skills Capital Investments as part of the Growth Deal. £23.6M was allocated for Sites and Premises.

Interim Management Arrangements

It was reported that the Chief Executive of Merseytravel, David Brown, had recently been appointed as Chief Executive of Transport for the North which would result in his leaving his current position in November 2015. It was agreed that Frank Rogers be made Interim Director General/Chief Executive of Merseytravel.

20th November 2015 Meeting of the Combined Authority

Potential Devolution of Powers and Resources to the Liverpool City Region

The CA received a report which sought approval for the Liverpool City Region Devolution Agreement with Government. The Chair of the CA made a presentation to Members which:

- Summarised the approach taken to secure the deal;
- Explained the progress made since the Chancellors Budget Statement in July 2015;
- Provided a summary of the key elements of the deal;
- Summarised the key governance features of the deal;
- Set out the next steps to deliver the deal.

The CA approved the deal.

18th December 2015 Meeting of the Combined Authority

Devolution of Powers and Resources to the City Region

The report provided an update on the devolution deal and outlined the next steps that will be needed to be taken in order to deliver the deal.

Single Growth Strategy in Liverpool City Region

The CA considered the feedback from a LEP Strategy Day and agreed that the LEP and CA should develop a Single Growth Strategy for the Liverpool City Region by April 2016.

Liverpool City Region Growth Deal Schemes

The CA was appraised of progress being made on the shortlisted Liverpool City Region Transport Schemes. Merseytravel, on behalf of the Liverpool City Region, is managing a programme of major schemes to take advantage of investment through the Local Growth Fund. As well as receiving the update the CA also approved the full business cases for two schemes:

- Windle Island – St. Helens
- Silver Jubilee Bridge – Halton

Skills Capital Investment Fund: Low Carbon

The CA received a report and approved the recommendations of the Skills Capital Investment Panel in relation to funding applications received under the Low Carbon strand of the Skills Capital Investment Fund. The report also set out the proposed approach to the workings of the Low Carbon levy.

Update on the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Strategy

The CA was informed of positive feedback from Government on the City Region draft Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Strategy. The Authority was informed that officers had made some amendments to the Strategy in the light of Government feedback. The SUD was a key document required to attract European Funds to the Liverpool City Region.

Combined Authority Budget Monitoring Statement

The CA received a budget update covering the second quarter of the 2015/16

financial year. Overall a favourable £2.1M variance was shown on the revenue budget, with Capital Expenditure broadly in line with expectations.

Minutes of the Merseytravel Committee

The CA received the minutes of the Merseytravel Committee for 1st October 2015 and 5th November 2015.

4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

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

4.2 Human Resources

There are no direct human resource issues as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

4.3 Physical Assets

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

4.4 Information Technology

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

5.0 RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report or its recommendations.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

7.0 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 There are no communication issues associated with this report.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 Members of the Panel are asked to comment on the usefulness of this type of report for future reference. The idea can be developed further if Members find it helpful.

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