



**LIVERPOOL  
CITY REGION**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

## **MEETING OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

To: The Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dear Member,

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Wednesday, 1st March, 2023** at **2.00 pm** in the Authority Chamber, No. Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BN.

The meeting will be live webcast. To access the webcast please go to the Combined Authority's website at the time of the meeting and follow the instructions on the page.

If you have any queries regarding this meeting, please contact Trudy Bedford on telephone number 07803 630124.

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

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# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **AGENDA**

**1 APOLOGIES**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**3 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LCR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON:**

- 7 September 2022
- 1 December 2022 (Inquorate meeting);
- 19 January 2023 (Inquorate meeting).

(Pages 1 - 24)

**4 VERBAL UPDATE FROM METRO MAYOR STEVE ROTHERAM**

**5 APPOINTMENT TO THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

To consider a report of the Interim Monitoring Officer.

(Pages 25 - 28)

## LCR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Authority Chamber - No.1 Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BP on Wednesday, 7th September, 2022 the following Members were

P r e s e n t:

Councillor Steve Radford  
Chair of the LCR Committee  
(in the Chair)

Councillors John Abbott, David Burgess-Joyce, George Davies, Eddie Dourley, Edna Finneran, Sam Gorst, James Hansen, Trisha Long, Julie McManus, Pat Moloney, Tricia O'Brien, Brian Spencer, Mancyia Uddin and Carran Waterfield.

### **15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christine Howard and Angela Teeling.

### **16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

### **17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 July 2022 were received as a correct record.

### **18 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE - BUSINESS SUPPORT**

Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR Local Enterprise Partnership, advised that unfortunately the Chair of the LEP was unable to attend the meeting due to business demands but he confirmed that the presentation slides had been shared and discussed with him and it was hoped that he would be available to attend the next meeting.

The primary rationale for the Committee requesting attendance at the meeting today was to talk about the Business and Innovation Portfolio Board and its role in overseeing that Portfolio for the Combined Authority. He also proposed to provide an update on what had happened since the pandemic.

The Business and Innovation Portfolio Board covered a very broad range of issues all relating to business and innovation across the City Region. It covered the business evidence base and was particularly focused on what was in the business ecosystem, whether it was working effectively, what the gaps were. It was interested in inward investment and how new businesses could be attracted into the region and how existing businesses could be supported through business growth services. The portfolio also covered the Freeport, which had its own Board, and had an interest in commercial property as it related to business and innovation more broadly.

It was noted that the Business Support Portfolio Board had met three times, the last meeting having taken place on 28 June 2022 and the next meeting was scheduled for the end of September. The Board comprised of local Councillors and was chaired by Asif Hamid

MBE with Councillor Marion Atkinson as Deputy Chair and was supported by an Executive team from the Combined Authority.

In terms of the evidence base he stated that one of the main challenges for the City Region was that its business base was too small - it was the third lowest of all LEP areas in the UK. A lot of businesses started up in Liverpool but there was an issue around business survival with the result that most of the businesses that started up failed within five years. That presented a challenge in terms of the economy and meant that growth and jobs had to rely on a smaller business base than most other locations. There was also an issue in respect of business growth in that there were not that many high growth businesses in the economy. High growth businesses made up about 3% of the UK economy but they generated around 50% of its growth. There was also a lack of business growth infrastructure that went with them e.g. seed funds. Lastly, it would be necessary to drive productivity. There was a small number of high productive businesses and some medium sized companies in the region but there were also a lot of medium to low productivity businesses with not enough absorption of innovation to drive that growth. The evidence base highlighted that these were the fundamental issues which needed to be tackled as a City Region and therefore they would be the focus of the Business Portfolio going forward.

An extensive mapping of the business support ecosystem had taken place which had looked at what the gaps were compared to other successful locations and the Combined Authority together with the Board and with colleagues across the City Region would be looking at filling those gaps through various programmes and funding streams. In respect of innovation again this was a hugely important area and he referred to the launch of the Innovation Prospectus in Westminster earlier this year by Steve Rotheram and alongside that was the refreshed Science and Innovation Audit. They had identified where the strengths were and provided a platform for where future innovation investment needed to take place, some of which was already happening. Projects such as the Future Innovation Fund, High Growth Innovation Fund, UKRI Innovation Launchpad were emerging in the innovation space. There was also an Inward Investment Service which was funded until June 2023 and which it was hoped would be renewed. The service promoted the City Region's high value sector and was about attracting some of those high value, high quality jobs into the City Region and despite the fact that the last couple of years had been difficult for everyone throughout the pandemic it had managed to attract 75 inward investments over the last two and a half years and had a strong pipeline. Out of those 75 projects the most common areas of investment had been in advanced manufacturing, digital and creative and health and life sciences and they were exactly the kind of innovative, high value productive sectors that it was aimed to attract growth into in order to provide the higher value jobs and productivity that the City Region needed. It was noted that in the financial year 2021/22 those investment projects had attracted over 400 jobs into the City Region.

The Business Growth Service worked with local authorities and Chambers of Commerce to provide a joined up approach to simplify and co-ordinate that business support network. A High Growth Programme had recently been launched with Combined Authority support to try and find businesses which had some high growth ambition to help them become high growth businesses. The service was doing a lot of work around resilience to help businesses to survive but also to identify those businesses with great potential. A watching brief was being kept over the Freeport, although that had its own Board comprising the Metro Mayor, several Council Leaders, and businesses etc., but the ambition was that the Freeport would be used as a force for good to complement and add value to the City Region rather than competing with it. In order to attract investment and support businesses it was necessary to have the right commercial property offer and therefore an active interest would be required to understand what was happening in that space. Whilst a lot had been done in respect of funds to try and stimulate and develop plans to bring forward sites for development there was still a lot more to be done. He referred to the changing nature of the

landscape and the fact that what business were looking for was changing. If the aim was to attract the best businesses it would be necessary to have the right sites and premises available and businesses were increasingly looking for a campus style environment. There were a few of those campus sites in the City Region already such as Paddington and the Knowledge Quarter. What had been seen in terms of inward investment was that businesses from outside of the area were attracted to those campus environments and therefore this was something that needed to be focused on and would be a big challenge going forward.

The pandemic meant that the focus of the board had had to shift overnight. A number of issues had been identified and the priority became about business survival and supporting businesses through the pandemic. The board had worked with over 10,000 businesses during the pandemic across the City Region and provided business support to help with their survival through the LEP/Growth Platform business support network. He stated that this had been a hugely challenging and demanding period, but it had been a great piece of collaborative work. In this period over 4,400 local businesses had been directly provided with grants totalling £45m which had mainly been funded by Central Government to support their survival and backed by the Combined Authority and administered through local authorities and the Growth Platform. Surprisingly, over the same period, despite the pandemic, the City Region had attracted 75 new inward investments predominantly in advanced manufacturing, health & life sciences, digital, creative and technology projects. This was encouraging as the basic premise of the City Region and its attractiveness was something to build upon. One of the programmes had focused on providing business resilience, survival and growth support in collaboration with Combined Authority colleagues and supported by the LEP/Growth Platform network which included Mettle, Sustain, Business Resilience and Kindred. As an organisation the focus had shifted to getting the City Region business community through this so that as the pandemic ended it would come out on the other side with a really ambitious and progressive plan for growth. However, it had now been hit with a second global crisis.

As a result of all the interventions and support over the last two years the rate of business failures had reduced and the rate of net additional business had increased, expanding the City Region business population in the last 12 months by over 2,000 to 74,849 businesses. However, a lot of the businesses were not in a great financial position, particularly in the hospitality sector, and that was something it would need to be very mindful of over the next 12 months.

Mark Basnett stated there was a whole range of future business challenges ahead. The country had emerged from the pandemic to a second global crisis which meant there would be a complete change from how things had been done previously. The era of globalisation, where everything had been farmed out to lower cost locations such as China and the Far East in terms of production and the reliance on cheap energy from Russia, that age of globalisation had effectively ended with the challenges in Russia and some of the associated concerns around China. Many businesses had been weakened by the pandemic and were highly vulnerable to unprecedented spikes in energy costs. This would be completely unsustainable for many businesses and would be a significant risk. This changing environment would likely see a repatriation of supply chains into western economies which could provide a real opportunity for the City Region in that space. There were also issues around accelerated digitisation and remote working which would have an effect on changing the office workplace and practice if the model of hybrid working continued. Most businesses were reporting skill shortages and rising wage costs. Despite all the growth which had happened over the last ten years there was still a considerable difference between the wealthy and non-wealthy and high levels of deprivation were still being seen within communities. The economic models had not addressed that so there needed to be a rebalancing in that space and the Board needed to recognise that. So it would be necessary to support sustainable, inclusive, productive and competitive growth in businesses to help

respond to those challenges and these were issues that would be taken forward as a LEP and the Growth Platform but also through the Business and Innovation Board.

When the Board had last met with the Committee it had been given some great advice and interrogation which had been really valued. A lot had been learnt from each other in those interactions. It had been a cathartic process and therefore the Board was very happy to come back to this group to get that challenge and insight and to understand the issues from its perspective. Following the pandemic in early 2021 the Government had questioned the future of LEPs and by February 2022 they had decided that where there was a Combined Authority they wanted Local Enterprise Partnerships to integrate with that Combined Authority. So that process had started in April 2022 and work had been ongoing with colleagues to look at how that could be achieved in the most effective way. A plan had been submitted to Government as to how that was expected to work which essentially looked to strengthen and refresh the LEP Boards in order to be more helpful to Combined Authority policy and delivery and to retain and develop the City Region Growth Company (Growth Platform) for business support and investment. The functions would very much continue but the LEP brand and essence being a separate entity would gradually dissolve over the coming months. A LEP would still remain in existence in other parts of the country where there was not a Combined Authority. Work was being undertaken to look at how the boards could be strengthened and the conversation had been expanded to include local authorities, Combined Authorities and Chambers as to how the whole business ecosystem was going to work. For example, who would interact with businesses and how to ensure that the right support was being given to the right businesses in a balanced way across the City Region. That review was being undertaken at the moment and would be reported at the end of the calendar year.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had welcomed and approved the role and work of the LEP and had made a suite of practical recommendations to further enhance the Boards and ensure ongoing feedback with the Committee and these included:

- Sharing of LEP Annual Performance Review process and decisions – this had happened in March 2021 but when the pandemic hit that process took a back seat. There had been two Performance Reviews in 2021 and 2022 and both of those had achieved an excellent result and had been described as a good model. All of the committed objectives and targets had been delivered jointly with the Combined Authority in the period that the LEP had operated.
- Sharing of Performance Dash Board and involvement in Annual Conference – some of the dashboards had been shared but some of the governance arrangements around dashboards etc had not happened and it had been necessary to cancel the Annual Conference as it could not be attended in person due to the pandemic.
- Support Business Resilience and increase SME on Boards – a huge amount of work had been undertaken around business resilience and increased SME participation had been seen on our boards. A lot more had also been done around diversity and inclusion to ensure that ethnic diversity was achieved on our boards and the Chair of the Race Equality Working Group was also now on the main LEP Board.
- Carbon Audit and Carbon Reduction measures – there had been less progress in this area as there was very little resource available to businesses to undertake this sort of audit work. He was hoping that through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund there would be some resource that could be tapped into. However, this was an area that needed to be focused on. There were lots of commercial services out there for businesses around audit work and businesses had been encouraged to take that up but for some businesses it would be necessary to do a bit more encouragement and support.

- Support Apprenticeships – a lot of work had been undertaken on supporting apprenticeships. The board had helped in getting hundreds of new apprenticeships out there within the business community.
- Communicate Achievements/Success/Impacts – the Committee was keen that more work should be done in this area but it had not been possible as the focus had been on supporting the business community.
- Measure Social Value/Impact – this was a longer term priority/challenge. How would the social value and impact be measured in respect of the interventions that were being made in terms of making a difference to our poorer communities. This was an area which needed more work and it had not been taken forward as fully as had been intended.

It was noted that these recommendations had been partially achieved but the pandemic and the LEP Review had impacted on fuller implementation.

Councillor Steve Radford said that if Merseyside was suffering a greater level of failures than other LEPs was there anything that other LEP areas were doing to combat that problem which could be learned from.

Mark Basnett responded that some of this was down to the economic structure and the nature of businesses in the region. Many of the businesses that had started up were in the more vulnerable sectors such as hospitality, retail and personal services. There had been far fewer business starts in the higher growth or tradable services. What could be seen in some of the other areas was a focus of resources around those businesses which were likely to generate income from outside of the region or country. Some areas, such as the North East, provided very little general business support and focused on those businesses which made the biggest contribution. It was a balancing act as Merseyside had tried to provide a support of some kind universally for all businesses particularly through the pandemic but increasingly it would be necessary to focus on building and supporting those business that had the greatest economic impact potential.

Councillor Edna Finneran asked whether Brexit had had an impact on the UK trading with Europe and whether there had been any benefits of leaving the European Union?

Mark Basnett felt that he would struggle to find any business which had benefited from Brexit. It had created many of challenges and bureaucracy in trading with Europe for businesses. For the first 12 months of the EU transition period a lot of work had been undertaken with businesses to help them navigate the new arrangements of selling goods overseas and importing goods. In some areas there were tariffs which had not been helpful. If there was a significant value in it a lot of businesses would continue to trade but some businesses had stopped trading with Europe because it had become too difficult. His experience was that businesses had only ever found it a problem and there was some analysis that it had reduced our exports and had therefore had a negative impact across the UK.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce queried whether local authorities or large organisations in the Merseyside region were being encouraged to use those Merseyside businesses or start-ups that were being supported in the procurement process as a first port of call. It was not necessary to be driven by the EU procurement process as had been the case in the past and therefore our own process could be used.

Mark Basnett replied that there was a great opportunity in both using local businesses and improving the take up of local businesses but also in driving some of the key criteria around social priorities and sustainability and it was very legitimate to start using that sort of criteria now that the UK had been freed from some of the previous requirements. There had

been quite a bit of talk about that issue but he did not think it had translated into comprehensive action as yet but there was certainly interest in it. There was a recognition that that was a power those big organisations had and certainly it would apply to local authorities. The Combined Authority had done a lot of work in looking at which sort of businesses it would support and it only provided funding to those businesses who were good employers. If a business wanted to get some help from the public sector it should expect to fulfil the criteria of a good employer. Work had commenced to look at how more local businesses could be helped to bid so there was a supply and demand side which needed to be worked on.

Councillor Burgess-Joyce asked why the skills gap had not been looked at in order to support them to support us. There seemed to be a bit of a gap in the middle to help these start-ups to maintain their business.

Mark Basnett confirmed that a few examples of that sort of work had been seen where organisations were almost entering into partnerships with smaller businesses to pull them through. There were certain rules around what could be done in that space but there was a recognition that there was a need to upskill and people who were experts in procurement were the perfect people to provide the skills for those businesses to understand what it took to pass those criteria. This was something that was in the pipeline, but it had not been translated as far as it should have been as yet. He stated that it was good to have these sorts of challenges raised as they could be taken away in order to initiate further work in this area.

Councillor Tricia O'Brien was very aware that the pandemic had adversely affected things and Brexit had not helped either. She was interested to know what had happened about Education as there had been a lot of discussions about career and talent development in school and she knew how much children had suffered as a result of being taught from home during the pandemic. She asked what had happened in respect of career development for those children and sought reassurance that it would be taken up again in the future.

Mark Basnett stated that all the planned work in classrooms in schools had obviously had to stop during the pandemic for all of the right reasons. The team had worked with Heads and Career Heads to move to online resources. He admitted that it had not been the same for young people but the team had worked with local employers to put together video materials and accessible interactive materials for an online presence so at least there was a library of resources available to them. That was now in place but all of the in-school and face to face work had now recommenced. The team worked and engaged with 134 schools including all the SEND schools across the City Region. He stated that the amount of funding available from Government was nowhere near enough as the transition from education to employment was so important to get right. He stressed that the team had worked incredibly hard to make this a priority and good progress was still being made.

Councillor Julie McManus referred to the sustainable supply chains and following on from what Councillor Burgess-Joyce had said she thought the OJEU Regulations were a bit of an excuse not to procure locally. She had worked for the local Regional Development Agency some years ago who had talked about local supply chains then with quite some success, so it had always been a key issue. She was aware of a training organisation based on the Wirral that had lost their contract with the City Region to a national organisation and being a Wirral Councillor she was upset about that because of the local work they had done and the social impact that had had. She would like some answers on that and she confirmed that she would send the details through.

Mark Basnett responded that he was aware of several businesses locally that lost out in that employment support and procurement exercise. A number had been in contact



directly and discussions had taken place with the Combined Authority but it might be a different case and therefore he encouraged her to share the information because locally delivered provision was important provided that it was of sufficient quality.

Councillor Eddie Dourley noted that there was a lot of detail available about successful businesses and he asked whether there was any kind of detail on those that had failed e.g. the size and nature of the businesses sector by sector. Also in regard to The Chest he stated that he had worked with a lot of small and medium enterprises who had bid for tenders on Chest and they had not been successful because bigger businesses were able to employ professional tender writers and the smaller companies could not compete with that.

Mark Basnett felt that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund could possibly be used to help businesses to employ professional tender writers and that would be a great use of resource as it was not just about winning business locally but would also help to bring businesses in from outside the region. There had already been some support in that space and discussions had taken place in regard to supply chains in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and he thought that there was an opportunity to help resource SMEs in that space. In terms of the first point he confirmed that he would ask the team to produce an analysis as he thought it would be helpful for everyone to see that. Most of the fall off tended to be in very small micro businesses due to the fact that often people who started did not have the necessary networks, experience or money and it was known as 'necessity entrepreneurship' due to the fact that people did not have an alternative.

Councillor Steve Radford noted that the Ministry of Defence was looking at relocating 140+ business service support staff from Liverpool to Blackpool and he queried whether the local authority had been consulted about that relocation and was there any way of counter bidding.

Mark Basnett confirmed that he would take that away and report back on that.

Councillor Trisha Long felt that the sustainable supply chain and local procurement was an important issue and she asked for reassurance that this was something that would be looked at as a matter of urgency.

Mark Basnett gave a commitment that the Portfolio Board would look at it. However, in order to look at this properly additional resources would be required to provide the professional support that had been suggested. It also needed absorption within the larger organisations to have a willingness to do that. He confirmed that a discussion would take place with colleagues within the Combined Authority to try and accelerate that. The message had come across loud and clear from a number of Members of the Committee and he would take that away and report back.

RESOLVED - That the update be noted.

## **19 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IMPROVING DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Councillor John Abbott presented a report which set out the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on Improving Disability Employment Opportunities across the Liverpool City Region. He said that this was an area he had been involved in for over 20 years and it was very important to him. He thanked all the LCR staff for organising and facilitating the meetings and he also thanked the Members of the Committee as it had been quite challenging doing hybrid meetings. He stated that he had learnt a lot especially from the people who had brought their lived experiences to the meeting and shared them with the

experts. Some of the issues had stopped people from being able to fully access employment. He felt that from a City Region and its constituent local authorities perspective civic leadership could be shown together with an indication as to what was felt to be right and proper.

The key three recommendations focused on the following areas:

- ethical procurement by encouraging companies to share our values around inclusion and disabilities;
- looking at LCR best practice across the board in all of our boroughs; and
- engaging with employers to move this forward.

There was still prejudice and stereotyping of people with disabilities and assumptions were often made which had come through in people's life experiences. But rather than just focusing on the nuance of language and the current working practices the Task Group had looked at practical steps to make a difference to people's real lives.

He felt that the report did reflect the wide ranging discussions that had taken place in the Task Group and a fourth recommendation was being put forward. It was proposed that LCR should encourage the constituent local authorities to publicise and promote Access to Work in their localities. The Access to Work scheme was a scheme through which people could access transport and equipment free of charge which would enable them to physically get to the workplace or office. However, it was hundreds of millions of pounds under claimed across the country and millions of pounds in this City Region. There were people in the region who could do the job if they could just get to the workplace. He felt that this work could be led by the local councils, through its newsletters and promotions, to publicise this fantastic scheme which he was sure would make a difference.

Councillor Trisha Long fully agreed with the comments made by Councillor Abbott and she shared his passion in reducing and eliminating inequalities in this area. It was good to see such a strong set of recommendations which were just the start of making a real difference to people with disabilities. She was mindful of the fact that there was a wide diversity under the generic term of disability, and she felt that an effort should be made in terms of developing the recommendations to ensure that the term 'disability' did not lose or hide all the different variations of disabilities in that term e.g. people who were neuro diverse, visually impaired or British Sign Language users.

Councillor Long asked if it would be possible for an Officer to look at working that point into the recommendations if agreed by Members. Councillor Abbott felt that it was important. In Halton 22% of people had a disability and he could see no harm in having a definition of disability and what was meant by that in the introduction to the report.

Trudy Bedford advised that in terms of Councillor Abbott's request around expanding the Access to Work Scheme in the second recommendation it talked about the Combined Authority being a champion and promoting the DWP Disability Confident Scheme and Access to Work scheme and she asked if Members would be happy to broaden that out to include the Combined Authority and constituent local authorities. In terms of Councillor Long's point in respect of disability Officers would go through the report to look at the language that had been used and to encompass some sort of definition in there. In terms of next steps if approved by this Committee the report would go to the Combined Authority and if agreed the recommendations would be implemented and come back to this Committee with an action plan which would include a timeframe for the implementation of those recommendations so that Members could track the recommendations to ensure that they were implemented.

RESOLVED - That the recommendations set out in the report be approved and that recommendation two would be expanded to accommodate the further recommendation proposed by Councillor Abbott that LCR should encourage the constituent local authorities to publicise and promote Access to Work in their localities.

## **20 RACE EQUALITY PROGRAMME**

Lorna Rogers, Assistant Director – Mayoral Programme Delivery, provided an overview of recent progress in relation to the Combined Authority Race Equality Programme which had been established in 2020, and an update on progress against targets which had been set in the Race Equality Declaration of Intent.

Following the murder of George Floyd the Combined Authority response to this had been to establish a programme to support Black Asian and Minority Ethnic employees and residents and to tackle systemic injustice and drive some positive change. It had been agreed to focus on the economic disparities and employment and exclusion from employment and how important that was to people's life chances. It was felt that this was an area where the most impact would be. In March 2021, a Declaration of Intent had been agreed which set out a series of targets and was a public facing commitment of what it was wanted to achieve in this space. Funding had also been secured from the Combined Authority to deliver a number of projects to help achieve those targets. There was a lot of evidence, research and data that showed the kinds of lower life satisfaction and outcomes for a number of different groups within the Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. But there was also a lot of evidence and research around to demonstrate that economic benefit could be brought to the region if that employment gap could be closed and the fact that diverse teams were more profitable.

The slides noted the achievements set out in the Declaration of Intent which it was hoped would be achieved by 2025 in terms of the Combined Authority as an employer, a commissioner and as a civic leader/facilitator. Procurement featured in this work as well and also the wider SMEs as it was known that the local supply chain did need to pause in accessing contracts so some of this work would complement the wider work that was needed and which had been alluded to in the earlier presentation. There were some real tangible targets that had been set that the authority wanted to be held accountable to achieve and there was a timetable to do that.

Lorna Rogers highlighted a range of indicators that had been looked at that demonstrated across all different stages of a person's life and was the rationale as to why this kind of work was required.

There were six projects that sat across three workstreams. The Generations for Change project which consisted of six creative research placements for young people was now closed as it had been completed. Updates on the other projects were set out below.

The Race Equality Hub was the largest project that sat within the programme and work was being undertaken to co-design what it was thought the hub should deliver to help address the economic disparities for Black Asian and Minority Ethnic businesses and individuals. It was believed that the hub would deliver a support service around employment and business support but also to work with organisations both large and small to help them diversify their workforce. The hub had a number of subject matter experts who had supported the establishment of a Development Board and they had undertaken a number of co-design workshops with individuals and businesses and over 500 people had been engaged in that process to help to develop the Business Plan. There were a number of options that were currently being looked at in terms of the best way to take that forward and that would be

shared with the Executive Team next month and then it would come through to the Combined Authority later on in the year.

The World Reimagined was a ground-breaking national arts education project aimed at using the story of the transatlantic slave trade to promote racial justice and the part our region had played in it. The project went live in line with the national programme on 13 August 2022 and would end on 31 October 2022. There were six other cities nationally that were taking part in this. There had been lots of engagement from schools. Over 41 schools and community organisations had been engaged in the production of smaller learning globes which had been dotted across the region. It was also hoped to have some celebration events across October. It was a positive way for the community to engage with a ringfenced subject and to get people to learn from it.

The Learning and Development Collaboration Project was something that had been initiated very early on and involved working closely with local authorities to develop an anti-racism training course, to be delivered to 21,000 local authority and Combined Authority employees over the next two years. This project should be impactful and different to the equality training that had happened in the past and therefore it would need to have lived experience and a local voice. The authority was working with a supplier to develop the content following which it would be piloted with 1,500 staff prior to rolling it out further. A local person was helping to provide the local voice so that it would be meaningful.

The Positive Action Project was the internal work that was being undertaken with HR colleagues as to how to drive our representation as an organisation. One of the things that had been introduced was that all of the job adverts and opportunities were being advertised externally which had seen a bit of an increase in terms of numbers – an increase to 3.4% of Combined Authority representation from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic staff. However, there was further work to be done and there was an internal project which was looking at where jobs were advertised and to encourage people to come and work here and that learning could be shared across other organisations as well. In addition, officers were in the final stages of finalising the contract with LJMU for delivery of the reverse mentoring programme, which would see 20 senior leaders from across the Combined Authority paired with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents from across the Liverpool City Region.

The Chair noted that two Members had now left the meeting and therefore it was inquorate. However, as this report was only to note it would not need to go to the next meeting for ratification.

Councillor Trisha Long thanked Lorna Rogers for the report and she was really impressed with the work that had taken place. In the report it stated that there were 41 schools that had been engaged to date across the City Region with the construction of globes and she queried whether it was open for more schools to participate or not. Lorna Rogers responded that further schools could take part and there were learning materials available free on the national website for all schools to access. It was also hoped to have some events in Black History Month in October that schools could participate and engage in.

Councillor Carran Waterfield referred to the World Reimagined project and in particular around the procurement of artists and asked what the spread was in terms of all the different boroughs involved in that. She asked if the artists had been locally drawn and in terms of the national organisation that was being worked with would some of that learning cascade into this region so that it could start to grow projects instead of importing things from elsewhere as it would be more cost effective.

Lorna Rogers replied that she would be happy to come back on that issue. The 10 large globes had been commissioned by a national organisation and they had commissioned

two local artists but there were others who were international or from other parts of the country. In terms of the learning globes a local commission had been made for that and the authority had supported them in making sure that they could access schools and community organisations. The authority was very conscious of the legacy and making sure that that stayed within the region so she would be happy to feedback on that. Legacy plans were in place for when the project finished as the aim was to continue on with the learning and all the work that had been done.

Councillor Waterfield asked how discussions with each of the boroughs and the art centres would work. Would it be grown from a local perspective or was it another example of something being led from the top down. How were these projects being grown locally within the boroughs as well as within the region.

Lorna Rogers responded that for this project a steering group had been set up and Cultural Leads from some of the local authorities had sat on that group and very much shaped how it would happen and evolve in the region but there had also been a number of cultural partnerships and organisations. The Cultural Lead from the Combined Authority had taken the lead on that in making sure that it was plugged in to all of the creative and cultural organisations and different forums.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce referred to paragraph 3.2.3 on page 17 of the report. It talked about the course being delivered to 21,000 local authority employees and he wondered what the actual cost of that would be given that 21,000 people would be taken out of the business.

Lorna Rogers stated that the actual delivery cost had been included in the £3.2m but in terms of delivery of the content work was being undertaken with the local authorities as to how they would release staff to attend. There needed to be some flexibility to make sure that frontline staff were covered and that was currently work in progress to make sure that there were no staff shortages. She confirmed that it was a half day training session and work was ongoing as to how backfills would be covered off.

Councillor Burgess-Joyce asked if the staff costs would be covered off in any way on top of the £3.2m that was being paid for the actual design and delivery. Lorna Rogers confirmed that the £3.2m was the total programme budget which included the development work as well as the training. If Councillor Burgess-Joyce wanted a further breakdown of that project Learning and Development would be able to provide that.

Councillor Mancyia Uddin referred to the Reverse Mentoring project and noted that it stated that it would involve senior leaders across the Combined Authority. She asked if that would also include staff from across the constituent local authorities in the region.

Lorna Rogers confirmed that the Combined Authority Senior Leadership Team would be involved in the project. It was something that the Combined Authority had initiated as an organisation but if local authorities wanted to take that forward she would be happy to provide the information.

Councillor James Hansen asked if the 41 schools taking part in the World Reimagined project had been evenly spread across the region or was it more concentrated in certain areas.

Lorna Rogers confirmed that there was a spread across the region so there were schools across all the boroughs and city which had benefitted from that project. She would be happy to share the specific schools. Councillor Hansen confirmed that he had attended a school where 95% of pupils were white Catholic and there had been very little experience of

projects like this. He therefore thought it was important to reach out to those sorts of schools where there might only be a handful of BAME students in one year group and a handful of BAME teachers. Lorna Rogers agreed that it was important to reach out to those schools.

RESOLVED – That the inquorate meeting:

- (i) note the contents of the report and plans for achieving the targets set in the Declaration of Intent; and
- (ii) requested that feedback on progress to date and the next steps for the Programme be provided to a future meeting.

## **21 INQUORATE MEETING**

The Chair, Councillor Steve Radford advised that the meeting was inquorate. He advised that he was supportive of continuing with the meeting as an informal discussion and asked the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Jill Coule to advise on how the meeting would proceed.

Jill Coule explained that any decisions or recommendations made by the meeting would be on an advisory basis only and would be re-considered at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new Municipal Year.

Councillor John Abbott expressed his disappointment regarding the level of attendance by members and felt that there should be some recourse to challenge non-attendance. He praised the work of Democratic Services who did everything possible to ensure that meetings would be quorate.

The Chair, Councillor Radford, concurred with Councillor Abbott's disappointment and asked Jill Coule, Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer to respond.

Jill Coule advised that this was a problem experienced by all Mayoral Combined Authorities due to the high level of quorum. Representations had been made on this issue on several occasions, including a recent conversation with Government on the issue.

The Chair, Councillor Radford expressed his gratitude for the support he had received in his role and acknowledged that Officers had made tremendous effort to ensure that meetings were quorate. He suggested that members may wish to feedback informally to their own Authority on the issue.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce thanked the Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram for taking the time to attend Committee meetings and he acknowledged the problem with the high level of quorum required. He referred to the selection process for membership of the Committee and felt that a formal request should be sent to Local Authorities to nominate members who are able to attend and participate in meetings of the Committee.

The Chair, Councillor Radford requested that Jill Coule write to the six Local Authority Chief Executives to reiterate the high level of quorum and ask that discussions take place with prospective nominees regarding the importance of attendance at Committee meetings to ensure that decision making can take place.

Councillor Pat Moloney asked if it would be beneficial to supply Local Authorities with details of member attendance for this past year for inclusion within the papers for their Annual Meetings where representatives are appointed to serve on this Committee.

The Chair, Councillor Radford advised that attendance information was available to view publicly on the Combined Authority website.

## **22 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Councillor James Hansen stated that the discussion in the briefing on the Local Transport Plan had been interesting and he felt that it would be useful to set up a Task and Finish group to look at the challenges going forward as Members had raised some concerns.

Trudy Bedford confirmed that she had already been in discussions with the Lead Officer as to how the Committee could be engaged with LTP4. It was the intention to bring the policy development of the Strategy to the Committee, but she took on board the point made and would speak to the Lead Officer about how that could be incorporated into a Task and Finish Group.

Minutes 15 to 22 received as a correct record on the 1 day of December 2022.

.....  
Chair of the Committee

The meeting closed at 3.23 pm

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## LCR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Authority Chamber - No.1 Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BP on Thursday, 1st December, 2022 the following Members were

P r e s e n t:

Councillor Steve Radford  
Chairperson of the Committee  
(in the Chair)

Councillor Pat Moloney, LCR Liberal Democrat Group  
Councillor John Abbott, Halton Council  
Councillor David Burgess-Joyce, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor George Davies, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor Edna Finneran, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor Christine Howard, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor Trisha Long, St Helens Council  
Councillor Brian Spencer, St Helens MBC  
Councillor Carran Waterfield, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

### **23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R Austin, E Dourley, S Gorst, J McManus, B O'Brien, T O'Brien, K Taylor, A Teeling and M Uddin.

### **24 INQUORATE MEETING**

The Chairperson, Councillor S Radford, advised Members that the meeting of the Committee was inquorate and he was supportive of continuing with the meeting as an informal discussion.

### **25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**The inquorate meeting noted** the minutes of the previous meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2022 as a correct record.

### **27 DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality which provided an update on the process of developing the new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the Liverpool City Region.

Councillor Liam Robinson, Portfolio Holder – Transport and Air Quality, explained to Members that the previous Local Transport Plan (LTP) was created in 2011 and pre-dated the existence of the LCR Combined Authority. He explained that creating an LTP was a statutory duty placed on local authorities and in this instance the LCR Combined Authority

was the local transport authority for the City Region. As such it was timely and appropriate to develop a new LTP which also reflected Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram's manifesto commitment to deliver a 'London style-transport system'.

Councillor Robinson emphasised that the forecast for not bringing about changes to transport and carbon emissions were stark and as such the LTP would develop a strategy and delivery plan which would have to be ambitious.

Huw Jenkins, Lead Officer for Transport Policy, provided an update on the development of the vision and goals for the LTP, which through extensive public consultation had achieved broad consensus. Members attention was drawn to the four scenarios set out at paragraph 4.12. The scenarios highlighted how travel and transport may look in the future and how they could be tested to understand the transport and carbon implications.

It was emphasised that without a strong strategy the City Region would fall short of the 2040 net zero target. As such a bold shift in the transport infrastructure was required. In conclusion, the Committee was advised that the Department of Transport (DofT) had yet to publish new guidance on LTPs to replace the outdated guidance from 2009.

Trudy Bedford, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, presented a proposal to establish a Task and Finish Group to support the development of the LTP and drew Members attention to the draft scoping document, which was set out at Appendix One.

Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Highlighted that the north of Liverpool suffered significant match day traffic congestion and suggested that the Bootle branch railway line should be introduced to alleviate the congestion and improve the transport infrastructure for the area.

Members were advised that feasibility work was being undertaken to explore the options available to the North of Liverpool. However, the Bootle Branch line was used for freight which presented challenges when also looking to use it for passengers too.

- Reflected on the introduction of cycle lanes, which in some areas had been dysfunctional and with limited consultation. It was suggested that future consultation processes should be proactive and reach all areas of the community.

Councillor Robinson informed Members that as part of the recovery from the pandemic, Government had provided funding to install pop up cycle lanes. It was reported that Liverpool City Council was currently undertaking consultation to determine whether the pop up cycle lanes should be made permanent and recognised that more could be done to undertake extensive consultation.

- Members expressed concerns regarding the transport infrastructure and how it limited people's ability to access employment and learning across the City Region.

Councillor Robinson explained that there were a number of improvements to transport infrastructure which would shortly be coming on stream which were the new trains, improvements to disabled access at train stations, the introduction of hydrogen buses on the No.10 route.

- Recognising the impact diesel HGV's had on the environment, clarity was sought on what engagement had been undertaken with the Road Haulage Association.

Members were advised that the 'State of Freight' had been commissioned which had provided the data in respect of the Liverpool City Region. This information had focused on the Port of Liverpool and would be used to build data to understand the movement of HGV's across the City Region.

- Councillor Pat Maloney recognised the complex process of developing the LTP and welcomed the progress made to improve the cycling infrastructure across the City Region.
- Councillor Burgess-Joyce welcomed the exciting work which had been undertaken to date. However, he stressed the importance of not excluding people in the drive towards cashless payment systems. He also suggested that encouragement should be given to employers to consider basing themselves in areas which have good transport access.

**The inquorate meeting noted:**

- (i) the process in shaping the development of a new Local Transport Plan for the Liverpool City Region, starting with the "Vision and Goals" document;
- (ii) the key messages emerging together with the broad support that was emerging in light of consultation and engagement on the "Vision and Goals" document;
- (iii) that an Integrated Assessment of the Plan had been commissioned looking at the plan's likely impact on the environment, habitats, equality and diversity and social value and how these could be mitigated against;
- (iv) there was a delay to the publication of new, draft guidance on Local Transport Plans by the department for Transport and that this introduced a degree of risk;
- (v) the establishment of an LTP4 Task and Finish Group;
- (vi) Councillors S Radford, P Maloney, D Burgess-Joyce, T Long, E Finneran, G Davies, C Waterfield and C Howard be nominated to the LTP4 Task and Finish Group; and
- (vii) the Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair finalise the scope for the Task and Finish Group.

**28 WORKPROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer which provided an update on the progress of the Committee's work programme.

Members were advised that the report and recommendations of the Apprenticeship Task and Finish had been presented to the meeting of the LCR Combined Authority on 14 October 2022 by Councillor Radford. The LCR Combined Authority had welcomed the report and agreed the recommendations and in doing so, had also agreed an Action Plan which set out a timeframe for the implementation of the recommendations. The Committee would receive timely updates on the implementation of the recommendations.

**The inquorate meeting noted:**

- (i) The Work Programme as set out at Appendix One;

- (ii) The Action Plan for the Apprenticeship Task and Finish Group as set out at Appendix Two; and
- (iii) Authorised the Scrutiny Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to progress activity in relation to the Committee's Work Programme.

The meeting closed at 3.32 pm

Minutes 23 to 28 be received as a correct record on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

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Chairperson of the Committee

## **LCR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At an inquorate meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Authority Chamber - No.1 Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BP on Thursday, 19th January, 2023 the following Members were

Present:

Councillor Pat Moloney  
Vice-Chair of the Committee  
(in the Chair)

Councillor John Abbott, Halton Borough Council  
Councillor Robert Austin, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor David Burgess-Joyce, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor Eddie Dourley, Halton Borough Council  
Councillor Edna Finneran, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor Christine Howard, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor Trisha Long, St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council  
Councillor Tricia O'Brien, Liverpool City Council  
Councillor Angela Teeling, Halton Borough Council  
Councillor Carran Waterfield, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

### **29 INQUORATE MEETING**

The Chairperson, Councillor P Moloney, advised Members that the meeting of the Committee was inquorate and he was supportive of continuing with the meeting as an informal discussion.

Members expressed their frustration with the quorum threshold and ongoing attendance issues relating to this Committee and sought clarity on whether there was the mechanism for hybrid meetings to take place or substitute nominations.

Louise Outram, Interim Monitoring Officer, informed the Committee that the legislation didn't allow for hybrid Committee meetings to be held and Central Government continued to be lobbied in respect of the quoracy threshold for Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee's.

### **30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Radford, George Davies, Sam Gorst, Julie McManus, Brenda O'Brien, Brian Spencer, Kai Taylor and Mancyia Uddin.

### **31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **32 TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER AND 1 DECEMBER 2022**

The inquorate meeting noted the minutes of the previous meetings of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2022 and 1 December 2022.

### 33 COMBINED AUTHORITY BUDGET 2023/24

The Committee considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Reform and Resources and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, which provided the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to consider and make recommendations on the 2023/24 budget for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority prior to its approval at the meeting of the Combined Authority on 20 January 2023.

The Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham, introduced the proposed 2023/24 Combined Authority Budget and advised the Committee that this budget reflected the prevailing economic challenges, notably the high levels of inflation which were having a significant impact on the transport industry.

The Metro Mayor advised Members that the proposal was to again freeze the Mayoral Precept at the same level as when it was first introduced, which for most households was between £12 and £14 per year. It was also reported that proposed increases to the Transport Levy, paid by each of the constituent authorities, would be capped at 2.95%.

The Metro Mayor also summarised how the budget proposals would support the following:

- investment in a London style integrated transport system;
- continue to maintain the two Mersey Tunnels;
- provide £50m investment in new cycling and walking infrastructure, including links between Runcorn Station Quarter and Daresbury Science Park;
- construction to start on a new Mersey Ferry with Cammell Laird;
- opening of another new station at Headbolt Lane in Kirkby in the Spring, with work continuing on a new Liverpool Baltic Station; and the development of schemes for Carr Mill in St Helens and Woodchurch on the Wirral;
- significant improvement of facilities at Lea Green in St Helens and eight further stations would become fully accessible when new lift installations;
- £60m Brownfield Land Fund investment to develop derelict land for affordable homes that will also boost council tax returns and Council finances;
- over £50m investment in Adult Education across the City Region, including £8m for skills Bootcamps to target areas of skills shortage;
- release of £25m to support the Liverpool City Region Freeport Programme and unlock significant investment across the City Region, but in particular at the Freeport Sites in Widnes, Newton-le-Willows and Wirral Waters; and
- matching Liverpool City Councils £2m investment to bring Eurovision to the City Centre.

The Metro Mayor concluded his statement and invited John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Resources to make his budget statement.

John Fogarty advised the Committee that the economic conditions, in particular inflation rates in the Transport and Bus sector, had made this a challenging budget setting process. However, the proposed budget would still allow the Combined Authority to continue investing across the City Region.

The Chair, Councillor Maloney invited questions/comments from the Committee.

- Welcomed the comprehensive report and recognised the unprecedented budget challenges which the Combined Authority faced, whilst also continuing to commit to developments across the City Region. However, assurance was sought on how the budget provided best value for residents.

The Metro Mayor advised the Committee, that Central Government had deemed the LCR Combined Authority as one of the best run in the country. He emphasised the importance of demonstrating to Central Government, that the LCR Combined Authority was best placed to invest every pound received from them, into the City Region.

John Fogarty informed the Committee that the Combined Authority was developing a Commercialisation Strategy with the aim of securing a greater return from the private sector. The Strategy would also include modernising the operation of some services.

- Highlighted that for Wirral residents who had to use the Mersey Tunnels, it appeared that they were paying an additional tax to use them. Furthermore, had consideration been given to ceasing support for some of the big-ticket cultural investments.

The Metro Mayor recognised the views of those who were frustrated with having to pay Tunnel Tolls and advised that efforts remained to keep the levels as realistically affordable as possible. He advised that a reduction in Tunnel Tolls could be obtained for City Region residents, if they used a Fast Tag. With regards to funding for culture, the Metro Mayor advised that as a multiplier, cultural events brought far greater investment into the City Region. The challenge was to encourage tourists to expand their visits and go to attractions across the City Region.

- Expressed frustration at the insufficient number of homes available to rent for those who couldn't afford to buy a house.
- Recognising the increase in construction costs, clarity was sought on whether there were sufficient protections with the budget to withstand this impact.

The Metro Mayor advised the Committee that projects would need to remain affordable and it maybe that if costs were to escalate, the scale of a project may need to be reviewed.

- Clarity was sought on whether there would be any other budgetary pressures as a consequence of freezing the precept.

The Metro Mayor explained that at some point before the next Mayoral Election, consideration would need to be given on whether the precept would be raised to support changes to the transport system.

- Reference was made to details in the report which explained that public transport patronage levels were still recovering from the pandemic and noted that this may have budgetary implications. Clarity was sought on how the budget would be impacted if patronage rates did not increase as anticipated.

John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Services advised the Committee that the Merseyrail network was recovering well, in comparison to the national picture. However, patronage across the bus network had not returned to pre-covid levels. Members were informed that the bus network provided a great social value to the City Region and also supported the zero carbon ambitions. There were a number of short term financial mitigations available and discussions were ongoing with Central Government.

- Assurance was sought on how future changes in the rate of inflation may impact the LCR Combined Authority budget.

The Committee was advised that the LCR Combined Authority used the RBR forecast and had taken a prudent view on inflation, along with other factors such as pay awards and the Supported Bus Network. The budget had financial contingencies and Officers were confident that anticipated price increases could be accommodated within the proposed budget.

The Chair thanked the Metro Mayor and Officers for their presentation and contributions.

The inquorate meeting RESOLVED - That:

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) the budget proposals for 2023/24 be commended to the LCR Combined Authority and the comments raised by the Committee be considered by the LCR Combined Authority as part of the formal approval of the Budget for 2023/24.

### **34 CORPORATE PLAN 2021-24; QUARTER 2 (JULY TO SEPTEMBER) 2022-23 PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report which provided an overview of the performance of Quarter 2 (July to September 2022) performance against the LCR Combined Authority Corporate Plan.

The report also included the following elements:

- performance against the 5 Corporate Plan Priorities and Developing our Organisation for Quarter 2; and
- report performance against the Corporate Performance Measures for Quarter 2.

The Committee welcomed the clear and concise presentation of the performance information and in doing so raised the following questions and comments:

- Requested that further information be presented to a future meeting, on how the Combined Authority was supporting homelessness and housing across the City Region.
- Referred to the Cleaner priority and noted the omission of work with schools, colleges and further education establishments in respect of Net Zero. Recognising the importance of Net Zero, it was noted that engagement with schools and colleges would make a significant difference in helping to achieve the Net Zero ambitions and requested that this activity be reflected within the monitoring of the Cleaner priority.

The Committee was advised that the education element for the Cleaner priority would be reviewed further.

The inquorate meeting RESOLVED that:

- (i) The report be noted;
- (ii) A report explaining the LCR Combined Authority's work in respect of homelessness and housing strategy be presented to a future meeting of this Committee; and



- (iii) The Cleaner priority be reviewed to incorporate an education element.

### **35 FAIR EMPLOYMENT CHARTER: IMPLEMENTATION AND NEXT STEPS**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director: Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and the Portfolio Holders for Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity and Policy, Reform and Resources which provided an update on the implementation of the Fair Employment Charter.

Members were advised that to date 59 employers had achieved the aspiring level of the Charter. To support the application process, significant progress had also been achieved in the development of an online process, web pages and promotional materials for the Charter. In terms of next steps, the final stages for developing and testing the accredited level would soon be open for applications.

Members welcomed the introduction of the Fair Employment Charter and raised the following questions and comments:

- Clarity was sought on how Trade Unions were informed about which organisations had achieved accreditation to the Charter.

Members were informed that the NorthWest TUC and representatives from other Trade Unions had been involved in the development of the Charter and also sat on the Assessment Panel when considering accreditation. This allowed the Trade Unions to bring their knowledge of a workplace and ensure that the organisation could meet the requirements of the Charter.

- It was noted that only 12 businesses had been contacted across Halton and confirmation was sought on how Chambers of Commerce were involved in the Charter.

Members were advised that Chambers of Commerce had been involved in the development of the Charter, as part of the Reference Panel. The Chambers had been able to use some of their contacts, however, it was recognised that there was more work was required and the opportunity to engage further with Chambers would be welcomed. It was also reported that discussions were taking place with all Local Authority Employment and Skills officers to understand how engagement plans could be best developed to suit the needs of each Local Authority.

- Whilst the Fair Employment Charter would bring benefits to organisations based in the City Region, clarity was sought on whether the Charter could be applied to those organisations outside of the City Region.

It was reported that the applications from organisation's outside of the City Region would be welcome and work was currently ongoing with neighbouring areas who already had a Charter in place to explore mutual support. However, the City Region

The inquorate meeting RESOLVED that:

- (i) The update provided on the development and implement of the Fair Employment Charter be noted; and
- (ii) Regular updates on the implementation of the Fair Employment Charter be provide to future meetings of the Committee.

**36 APPOINTMENT TO THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

As the meeting was inquorate and required a decision, this report was deferred to the next meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm

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Chairperson of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report Title</b>	Appointment to the Audit and Governance Committee
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Summary of report</b>	To seek nomination from the Committee for one member to sit on the Combined Authority's Audit and Governance Committee.
<b>Is this report exempt?</b>	No
<b>Local Authorities affected</b>	All
<b>Impact and implications of this report</b>	
<b>Financial impact</b>	No
<b>Delegation (s) sought</b>	No
<b>Supporting the Corporate Plan</b>	A Fairer City Region x A Stronger City Region x A Cleaner City Region x A Connected City Region x A Vibrant City Region x
<b>Climate Change Implications</b>	No
<b>Equality and Diversity implications</b>	No
<b>Social Value implications</b>	No
<b>Human Resources implications</b>	No
<b>Physical Assets implications</b>	No
<b>Information Technology implications</b>	No
<b>Legal implications</b>	Yes, see paragraph 4.1
<b>Risk and Mitigation</b>	Yes, see paragraph 4.2
<b>Privacy implications</b>	No
<b>Communication and consultation implications</b>	No
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Trudy Bedford, Principal Democratic Services Officer
<b>Appendices</b>	No
<b>Background Documents</b>	No



# **LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Wednesday 1 March 2023**

## **Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer**

### **APPOINTMENT TO THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

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

- 1.1 To seek one nomination from the Committee for one member to sit on the Combined Authority's Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Labour Councillor to the Audit and Governance Committee.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The following Members were appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2022.

Labour – Councillors Edna Finneran and James Hansen

Liberal Democrat – Councillor Pat Moloney

Conservative – Councillor David Burgess-Joyce

- 3.2 Notification was recently received from Sefton Council of a change in one of their nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with Councillor Brenda O'Brien has replaced Councillor James Hansen on the Committee. As such a new Labour Councillor nomination is required to the Audit and Governance Committee.

#### **4. IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS**

##### **4.1 Legal**

The Audit and Governance Committee is a key component in the Combined Authority's Corporate Governance arrangements. The Committee membership has to be constituted in accordance with the governance arrangements set out in the LCR Combined Authority Constitution and any other appropriate legislation. This is to ensure that the Audit and Governance Committee can effectively carry out its purpose and functions as set out in its Terms of Reference.

## **4.2 Risks and Mitigation**

There is a risk that should the appointments to the Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23 not be made this would be detrimental to the principle of good governance for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1. It is anticipated that the proposed appointment will support the operation of the Audit and Governance Committee.

LOUISE OUTRAM  
Interim Monitoring Officer

### **Appendices:**

- 1 None

### **Background Documents:**

- 1 None