

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor & Members of the Combined Authority

Meeting: 11 January 2019

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM No

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING AND THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER: ENERGY AND RENEWABLES

LOOKING FORWARD TO YEAR OF ENVIRONMENT 2019

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to update the Combined Authority on the key themes and activities that are being co-ordinated across the Liverpool City Region, in support of Year of Environment in 2019.
- 1.2 The report also highlights areas where the Metro Mayor and Combined Authority will play prominent roles in the process. This recognises that the Combined Authority's engagement in the year of activities aligns fully with its clear ambitions, together with its policy and funding influences, to help grow a clean, inclusive, sustainable and low carbon city region.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
 - (a) reiterates its support for, and active participation in the Liverpool City Region's Year of Environment 2019; and
 - (b) receives updates during, and at the conclusion of the Year of Environment, on the achievements, lessons and legacies arising from the Year.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall a report considered and approved by the Combined Authority in August 2018 which secured the Authority's support for, and participation in the Year of Environment 2019. It was agreed that engagement in the event aligned fully with the Mayoral Combined Authority's stated ambitions around the creation of a clean, inclusive, sustainable and low carbon city region. Input and support by the Authority

will principally be in-kind rather than in the form of direct financial contributions, utilising the Combined Authority's convening and influencing role in the main.

- 3.2 At a city regional level, Nature Connected, the Local Nature Partnership, is a strong and inclusive advocate of the campaign and secured the Metro Mayor's and the Authority's engagement in the process. Nature Connected is chaired by Gideon Ben-Tovim, who is also the Mayoral Advisor on the Natural Environment and who has been a passionate and committed figurehead for the Year of Environment . The Environment Agency is also a key partner in the promotion of the event, both locally and nationally.
- 3.3 In support of Year of Environment locally, Nature Connected and partners have recruited a part-time coordinator, Nick Drew, who has been instrumental in drawing together a strong and equal partnership of many stakeholder organisations across the public, private, community and voluntary sector. These include: the constituent local authorities, the Combined Authority, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority, Peel, United Utilities, Liverpool Mutual Housing, Eco Schools and Merseyside Environmental Trust. This is essential to foster positive action in order to participate in the themes being promoted, and to leave a lasting legacy.
- 3.4 Embarking in a year of activities across the city region provides a unique opportunity to change the conversation around the environment. It will allow people and communities, and also the six local authorities, the Combined Authority, Nature Connected, and the Environment Agency to work together, and demonstrate partnership working at its best.
- 3.5 Participating in this initiative presents an ideal opportunity to showcase the city region's natural assets and celebrate the valuable work done by so many in the city region to maintain the local environment and to engender a greater appreciation of the Liverpool City Region's natural environment. This will reflect on similar initiatives in the recent past, to ensure that work that has gone on before, and the valuable insights and lessons learned in the past, are built upon.
- 3.6 Equally, Year of Environment will help raise awareness of issues and areas that demand action and attention, including air quality, waste levels, and the need to shift towards more sustainable use of energy. Many of these areas are influenced by the Combined Authority's policy and funding responsibilities. The Year of Environment may also include benchmarking of the city region's current environmental performance, to better understand the range of future challenges, and inspire both collective and individual action.
- 3.7 It is considered that the Liverpool City Region is taking a bold approach to its response to the opportunity, and the agreed Mission Statement and priority areas underpinning the Year of Environment are set out in Appendix One to this report.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Launch events are being planned in each of the six local authority areas and also at a Combined Authority level, following on from the Combined Authority launch in

January, which is addressed in paragraph 4.4 below. A launch brochure has been developed and is available at www.yoe2019lcr.org.uk.

- 4.2 The organisers of the Year are proposing a series of 'spotlight months' for the eight themes set out in the Mission Statement, between February and September 2019. The end of the year will be marked by a Green Summit in November, which the Metro Mayor, as a public champion, has been requested to host, with the aim of leaving a lasting legacy beyond 2019.
- 4.3 Press coverage, communication activities and the use of social media will also be crucial to raise awareness of events and activities, and the Combined Authority will lend its support in this respect on an "in kind" basis. The Year of Environment team is also working closely with the Echo Environment Awards, which launch later in January, with the award ceremony in April receiving significant publicity.
- 4.4 To mark the start of Year of Environment, the Metro Mayor is hosting a formal launch event comprising leaders, officials and representatives and community groups, to follow the meeting of the Combined Authority on 11 January 2019. Emma Howard-Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency will also attend, and speak at the launch event, in recognition of the Agency's support.
- 4.5 It is hoped that this will be a positive demonstration of the Combined Authority's commitment to this agenda, recognising the clear alignment with the Authority's ambitions to grow a clean, inclusive, sustainable and low carbon city region.
- 4.6 It is proposed that members of the Combined Authority receive updates updates during, and at the conclusion of the Year of Environment, on the achievements, lessons and legacies arising from the Year.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications for the Combined Authority, other than through in-kind contributions and ongoing support. This will be through, for example, attendance at events, joint communications and the alignment of programmes, launches and activities.

5.2. Human Resources

No direct implications. The Year of Environment coordinator has been recruited and employed by a third party.

5.3 Physical Assets

No direct implications.

5.4 Information Technology

The Combined Authority will support the Year of Environment through the use of social media and links on the Combined Authority's website.

6. RISKS AND MITIGATION

- 6.1 There are no direct risks to the Combined Authority as a result of the planned participation in the year of action. Indeed participation in the activities will help raise awareness of environmental issues that pose risks to the city region in terms of risks to health, wellbeing or resilience.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct implications, though it will be important to secure engagement with a wide range of groups and stakeholders, including people with characteristics that are protected under the Equality Act 2010, as part of the delivery of the Year of Environment.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

- 8.1 Communication will be an integral part of the Combined Authority's support for the Year Environment. Support would predominantly be in-kind through attendance at events, speeches, launches and joint promotions and communications, together with suitable branding and publicity for activities that are led by the Combined Authority.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The aim of this report is to update the Combined Authority on the key themes and activities that are being co-ordinated across the Liverpool City Region, in support of Year of Environment in 2019.
- 9.2 Launch events are being planned in each of the six local authority areas and also at a Combined Authority level, the latter of which will follow the meeting of the Combined Authority on 11 January 2019.
- 9.3 Participation provides an ideal opportunity to showcase the city region's natural assets and celebrate the valuable work done by so many in the city region to maintain the local environment and to engender a greater appreciation of the Liverpool City Region's natural environment.
- 9.4 Equally, Year of the Environment will help raise awareness of issues and areas that demand action and attention, including air quality, waste levels, and the need to shift towards a more sustainable use of energy. Many of these areas are influenced by the Combined Authority's policy and funding roles.

KIRSTY PEARCE
Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning

COUNCILLOR R POLHILL
Portfolio Holder: Energy and Renewables

Contact Officer(s):

*Huw Jenkins, Lead Officer – Transport Policy, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
(0151 330 1393)*

Appendices:

Appendix One – Mission Statement and Core Aims of the Year of Environment 2019

Background Documents:

None



Mission Statement

“2019 will be a year of green action across Liverpool City Region where people from all backgrounds will have the opportunity to be involved in projects that improve the natural world. Our aim is to leave a better environment for the next generation to inherit and make our area one of the best places in the country to live, work and flourish.”

“Cleaner, Greener, Well, Together”

Aims

- Support the National Year of Action
- Help deliver the Greenest UK city region
- Highlight the economic contribution the environment provides
- Increase children and young people’s connection to nature
- Showcase outstanding blue green assets of the Liverpool City Region
- Celebrate and promote the range of environmental organisations
- Encourage a range of practical actions that inspire
- Use 2019 as a catalyst for ongoing positive environmental behaviour

Themes for activities:

- A) Air Quality
- B) Climate Change and Resilience
- C) Green Spaces, Habitats and Biodiversity
- D) Connecting and Engaging Communities with Nature
- E) Health and Wellbeing
- F) Sustainable Energy
- G) Reduce Waste
- H) Water