

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Chair and Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting: 19 June 2019

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this item is to provide the Committee with the opportunity to consider the proposals for its work programme for 2019/ 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- (i) Agree the Committee's work programme for 2019/20 as set out at Appendix One;
- (ii) Agree a maximum of three topics for Task and Finish Groups Reviews as part of the work programme for 2019/20; and
- (iii) Express a preference for the Task and Finish Groups which are to be participated in.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 March 2019, Members considered a proposed work programme for 2019-20. The work programme sought to theme meetings relating to the Portfolios of the Members of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. Overall, Members welcomed this proposal and requested that the Metro Mayor continue to be invited to future meetings to be questioned by Members of the Committee. The draft work programme is attached at Appendix One to this report for Members consideration.
- 3.2 This work programme deals primarily with the work of the Committee and therefore consideration needs to be given to identifying suitable topics which can form the basis of Task and Finish Groups.

4. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

- 4.1 Task and Finish Groups will enable the Committee to undertake time limited work on a specific subject by gathering evidence to produce recommendations for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to consider.
- 4.2 Since the Committee was first established in 2014, the following areas have been subject to a Task and Finish Group:-
- Review of European Funding (April 2015);
 - Affordable Transport – Short Hop Bus Fares Review (January 2016);
 - Ethical Standards for Providers of Public Services (October 2016);
 - Review into Apprenticeships in the Liverpool City Region (January 2017);
 - Spatial Development Strategy (March 2018);
 - Review into Air Quality in the Liverpool City Region (April 2018);
 - Review into Welfare Reform in the Liverpool City Region (April 2018).
- 4.3 Where possible, it is proposed that the Committee will receive progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations arising from each of these Task and Finish Groups outlined in section 4.2.
- 4.4 During 2018/19, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was in the early stages of developing policy in a number of areas. As this policy development was in the early stages it meant that the involvement of scrutiny would have limited or no impact upon outcomes. However, it was recognised that this presented an opportunity to inform the Committee on the development of these policy areas and the following workshops were held to provide Members with this understanding:-
- Housing Strategy (November 2018);
 - Careers Service (December 2018);
 - Tourism and Culture (December 2018);
 - EU Funding/Brexit (January 2019);
 - Energy and Renewables (April 2019).
- 4.5 In determining topics which would be suitable for a Task and Finish Group, attention should be given to the following:-
- Topics which are within the remit of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority;
 - How would the topic help to deliver the Liverpool City Region Combined Authorities Corporate Priorities, which are attached at Appendix Two;
 - Would this help build a case for further devolution?;
 - Would the Task and Finish Group add value to work already being undertaken?;
 - Is there a community interest/impact?
- 4.6 Task and Finish Groups will operate outside of Committee meetings and reflecting upon the commitment required from the Committee it is proposed that a maximum of three Task and Finish Groups take place during the course of the municipal year and will run concurrently. A Task and Finish Group timetable will broadly follow this structure:-

- First meeting – scope the review;
- Three evidence session meetings;
- Review meeting – to consider the final report of the Group and agree the recommendations.

4.7 Members can determine their own work programme. To aid Member consideration, the following topics are proposed for consideration as possible Task and Finish Groups. This is not an exhaustive list and Members are encouraged to propose additional topics, which are within the remit of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, for Task and Finish Groups.

- **Careers Service (September - November)**
The workshop on the Careers Service noted that this was now a complex landscape with a range of different providers in place, often overlapping and working with the same individuals or schools. In addition, there was a risk of inaccurate or out of date information or advice being provided to people so that their choices are potentially sub optimal.

The workshop concluded that a fuller, more rounded review of careers activity should be scheduled for the 2019/2020 municipal year, to identify options for improvement at a local and national level.

- **Liverpool City Region Liverpool Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (September – December)**
A Task and Finish Group to consider the impact and outcomes arising from the work of the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership and its Growth Company.
- **Strategic Investment Fund (December – February)**
Reference was made to this as a possible scrutiny topic at the Member induction day. Members to consider a possible scope for this Task and Finish Group in collaboration with key officers. .
- **Joint Ticketing with the Transport Committee (To be confirmed)**
- Topics identified in paragraph 4.4 above could equally form task and finish groups. Members who participated in the workshops may have some views and thoughts in this regard.

4.8 Subject to the Committee's approval, the arrangements for the Task and Finish Groups will take place over the coming months with the first Task and Finish Group taking place in September 2019.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

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

5.2 **Human Resources**

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

5.3 **Physical Assets**

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

5.4 **Information Technology**

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

6. RISKS AND MITIGATION

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

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

8.1 There are no specific communications issues contained in this report.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 This report provides Members with an opportunity to give guidance to officers as to their Work Plan requirements for 2019/20.

TRUDY BEDFORD
Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Contact Officer(s):

Trudy Bedford, Statutory Scrutiny Officer Tel: 0151 330 1330

Appendices

Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme 2019-20

Appendix B – Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Corporate Priorities