

# LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor and Members of the Combined Authority

Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING

### LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the Liverpool City Region Local Industrial Strategy Position Statement. The Statement reflects the evidence base developed to date and emerging strategic priorities.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:
- a) Note this report and the progress made thus far in the development of the Local Industrial Strategy's evidence base;
  - b) Endorse the Position Statement set out in the Appendix along with the summary of evidence;
  - c) Note that the Combined Authority plans to submit the final Local Industrial Strategy to Government in early 2020, following an extensive engagement period and drafting process.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Combined Authority is leading on the development of a Local Industrial Strategy. It is a key strategic priority that will set out the City Region's economic strengths, challenges, and how we can address them. It will demonstrate the positive contribution Liverpool City Region is making to the national economy and outline what we will do to raise productivity. The document will be central to informing local priorities, guide our future local investment decisions, and support national decision making.
- 3.2 It is likely that the allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be tied to national Industrial Strategy Priorities and any devolution of funding linked to delivery of those priorities.
- 3.3 The Combined Authority has been facilitating a wide ranging evidence review to shape the priorities of the Local Industrial Strategy, drawing on intelligence in the

City Region from businesses, academia, the voluntary and community sector, and residents. This evidence collation and analysis stage is ongoing and will include public engagement through the summer and autumn.

3.4 A Position Statement for the Local Industrial Strategy has been developed based on our evidence base to date, which sets out our socio-economic performance and key sectors and early thinking on our strategic priorities. A summary slide deck of evidence and data is also published with the Statement.

3.5 The Position Statement as presented in the Appendix, is contextualised in the following way:

*'The Liverpool City Region's prosperity is built on two things: our unique geographic assets; and the hard work, solidarity, creativity and innovation of our people. Just as these factors saw us prosper as a leading city in the world, and ensured our survival through economic adversity, they are also forming the foundations of our economic renaissance.'*

3.6 Importantly, we aim for the Local Industrial Strategy to act as a catalyst for an inclusive economy. We are committed to raising the living standards for all of our people, ensuring policies and interventions are in place that have a real focus on how more people and places can benefit from and contribute to economic development and growth.

3.7 There are four key priorities that flow from the evidence which align with the five foundations of productivity (people, place, infrastructure, ideas and business environment) and with the four Grand Challenges set by Government in the national Industrial Strategy (Ageing Population, Artificial Intelligence and Data, Clean Growth and Future of Mobility). These priorities are:

- Good work, health and wellbeing for all;
- Vibrant and connected communities;
- More businesses innovating and growing; and
- Clean growth.

These priorities will be developed as we progress our thinking in the coming months and translate our evidence and consultation into policy and proposed interventions.

#### **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct implications of costs associated with the development of the Local Industrial Strategy, as it is being developed using existing staff resources.

4.2 As noted above, the Strategy will act as a framework for allocating future City Region resources, and in communicating and negotiating funding opportunities with Government and wider stakeholders.

#### **5. RISKS AND MITIGATION**

5.1 There are no direct implications. The development of the Local Industrial Strategy will help set the strategic direction for economic growth policy across the City

Region and support the prioritisation of associated strategy and policy interventions and deliverables.

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

- 6.1 At this stage there are no direct implications. The Local Industrial Strategy will go through Equality and Diversity assessments, and it will be centred on the ambition of achieving an inclusive economy for Liverpool City Region.

## **7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

- 7.1 There are no specific communication issues. The Local Industrial Strategy will be developed in an accessible format and in a way which is public facing, together with a short summary version.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 This report seeks members endorsement of the Local Industrial Strategy Position Statement, as set out in the Appendix. This Statement is an interim document which aims to outline how the evidence is informing our priorities. Between now and the production of the final Local Industrial Strategy, the Combined Authority will work in a consultative way with partners and stakeholders to develop, shape and hone the priorities and translate the evidence into key policy interventions, initiatives and deliverables.

**KIRSTY PEARCE**

Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning

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Appendices:

Local Industrial Strategy Position Statement, and summary of evidence slide deck.