

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

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

Meeting: 22 July 2020

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee on arrangements for the work programme scheduled for 29 July 2020 which will assist Committee Members in developing a work programme for 2020/21.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (i) Endorse the arrangements for the work planning session scheduled for 29 July 2020; and
- (ii) Agree that proposals for the 2020/21 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be presented to the meeting of the Committee on 5 September 2020 for approval.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The role of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Combined Authority or of the Metro Mayor. This can be achieved in the role of 'Critical Friend' and through monitoring the delivery of the Combined Authority and Metro Mayor's Corporate or Strategic Plans and Policies.

- 3.2 The Committee will also support the Combined Authority and the Metro Mayor to:-
- Develop policies to deal with new issues;
 - Review existing policies which are considered to be in need of review;
 - Contribute to the formulation and review of the annual budget;
 - Review policies or actions of agencies external to the local authorities which may be impacting adversely on the quality of life of local people; and

- To undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the City Region.

3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider matters of strategic significance for the Liverpool City Region area with a view to focusing on sub-regional issues that are directly linked to the work of the Combined Authority and the Metro Mayor. Furthermore, the Committee should not deal with individual issues or queries that are more suitably dealt with by a Constituent Council or specific organisation.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 At the beginning of each municipal year the Committee should determine the areas of work it wishes to pursue during the ensuing 12 months. The work programme should be flexible and consider activity for formal Committee meetings and Task and Finish Groups.

4.2 To support the Committee in developing a work programme, a remote session is to be held on Wednesday 29 July 2020 and further details will be circulated to Members of the Committee.

4.3 As part of this session, the Committee should reflect on how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted upon the work of the Combined Authority and reflect this in its work programme. Recognising that the Combined Authority is focusing on the economic response to the pandemic, which is developing at pace and the arrangements to scrutinise this work may also need to reflect this.

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

5.1 Members will be aware that the Committee is required to produce an Annual Report at the end of each municipal year. This Annual Report will be presented to the Committee's meeting in September, thus allowing the LCR LEP Board and Combined Authority to consider the recommendations of the LCR LEP Task and Finish Group and for this to be reflected within the Annual Report

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – LCR COMBINED AUTHORITY – 20 MARCH 2020

6.1 At the meeting of the LCR Combined Authority held on 20 March 2020, Unlock Democracy submitted two questions for consideration by the Combined Authority. The questions and the response from the Metro Mayor are attached as Appendices to this report.

6.2 The questions submitted raised two issues, firstly that an opportunity to submit questions to this Committee should be included on its agendas and secondly expressed their concern regarding the poor attendance by some Committee Members and asked that the Committee be reminded of the importance of the Scrutiny function.

6.3 In response to the first question it should be noted that any proposed change to the governance arrangements for this Committee would need to be considered and

approved by the Combined Authority. The Metro Mayor has requested that the Committee give consideration to identifying appropriate engagement mechanisms and such proposals will be presented at a future meeting.

6.4 The Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government recognised that Overview and Scrutiny should have a profile within the wider community and consideration should be given as to how scrutiny engages residents, particularly in the work planning process.

6.5 The Combined Authority recently undertook an extensive LCR Listens engagement process with residents and the feedback from this could be used to inform the work planning process.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

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

7.2 Human Resources

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

7.3 Physical Assets

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

7.4 Information Technology

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

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Committee should adhere to the scrutiny provisions as set out in the LCR Combined Authority Constitution any other appropriate legislation, including but not limited to the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authority.

9 RISKS AND MITIGATION

9.1 Should the Committee not produce a work programme there is a risk that its effectiveness will be limited.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific implications related to this report.

11. PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific privacy implications associated with is report.

12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

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

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 This report provides Members with an opportunity to give guidance to officers as to their Work Plan requirements for 2020/21.

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Appendix A – Public Questions submitted to the LCR Combined Authority – 20 March 2020

Appendix B – Response from the Metro Mayor in relation to the public questions