

## LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

**PUBLICATION: 24 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: 1 OCTOBER 2021**

**FOLLOWING THE CALL-IN PERIOD, DECISIONS INCLUDED IN THESE MINUTES MAY THEN BE IMPLEMENTED WHERE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO A CALL-IN.**

**\* DENOTES KEY DECISION**

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority held in the Authority Chamber - No.1 Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BP on Friday, 24th September, 2021 the following Members were

P r e s e n t:

Metro Mayor S Rotheram  
Chairperson of the Combined Authority  
(in the Chair)

### Members of the LCR Combined Authority

Mayor Joanne Anderson, Portfolio Holder: Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity  
Councillor D Baines, Portfolio Holder: Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy  
Councillor G Morgan, Portfolio Holder: Housing and Spatial Planning  
Councillor M Wharton, Portfolio Holder: Culture, Tourism and the Visitor Economy  
Councillor J Williamson, Portfolio Holder: Inclusive Economy and Third Sector  
Councillor I Maher, Portfolio Holder: Digital Connectivity and Inclusion  
Asif Hamid MBE. Portfolio Holder for Business Support

### Co-opted Member

Councillor L Robinson, Portfolio Holder: Transport and Air Quality

### Participating remotely

Councillor G Wood, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy  
Councillor T Hardy, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Housing and Spatial Planning  
Councillor L Robertson-Collins, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Digital Connectivity and Inclusion  
Councillor C Thomas, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Policy, Reform and Resources  
Councillor S Powell, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Culture, Tourism and the Visitor Economy  
L Collins, Chair of Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board (FASJAB)  
Emily Spurrell, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner

## **46. MINUTES SILENCE**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Metro Mayor referred to the recent sad passing of 3 elected Members from Local Authorities within the Liverpool City Region - Councillor Ros Groves who represented Anfield Ward in Liverpool, Councillor Tim Jeeves who represented Clubmoor Ward in Liverpool and Councillor Harry Howard who represented Halton Castle ward in Halton.

The Metro Mayor indicated that as they were all dedicated servants within their communities it was only right to pause for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to remember them.

The Combined Authority observed a minutes silence.

#### **47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

##### Deputy Portfolio Holders

Councillor L Whitley, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity

#### **48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of interest was received by Councillor G Morgan in respect of the items 19 and 23 – Strategic Investment Fund – A New Stadium at Bramley Moore Dock as a season ticket holder with Everton Football Club.

#### **49. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LCR COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON 23 JULY 2021**

RESOLVED – The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **50. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION METRO MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

The Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram addressed the recent Cabinet reshuffle and that he had written to the new Cabinet ministers for the Departments for Culture, Media and Sport, Education, and Levelling Up to request meetings to fully explain how the City Region was pressing ahead with creating a thriving economy and a fairer society.

The Metro Mayor advised that the Combined Authority's Government Relations Team had collated a submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review which was an opportunity to get capital funding to be used to deliver the London-style transport system and tackle the climate emergency, a major part of his manifesto.

The Metro Mayor referred to the upcoming COP26 Conference and the fantastic programme of events as the North West delegation to show the City Region's strengths on tidal, hydrogen and housing retrofit and how it was leading the way in decarbonising energy intensive industries.

The Metro Mayor indicated that he would be attending the Labour Party conference in Brighton and take up the opportunity to promote the work of the City Region on fair work; apprenticeships; opportunity for all; and transport.

The Metro Mayor reported on the various events he had attended over the Summer, in particular:-

- Visit to the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, accompanied by Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham for the launch of a Fair Work Charter for West Yorkshire.
- Visits to the 6 Local Authority areas including:-

Wirral - A Men's mental health charity and a new housing development using modern methods of construction;

Halton - Innovyn with Government minister discussing the transformational opportunities posed by Hynet;

St Helens - Pilkingtons to see the successful hydrogen fuel switching trials;

Sefton – celebrating the achievements of apprentice graduates in Southport and visits to Crosby and Formby with Bill Esterson MP;

Knowsley – Shakespeare North site in Prescot with Councillor Graham Morgan; and

Liverpool - Community Environment funded projects in Toxteth focussing on educating the community, particularly young people about the importance of bees and biodiversity.

The Metro Mayor concluded his update and stated that he looked forward to many more visits and engagements in the coming weeks.

## **51. REVISED BUDGET 2021-22 AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO JULY 2021**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Reform and Resources and the Executive Director of Corporate Services which detailed a revised revenue budget for the financial year 2021/22, together with the revenue and capital spend for the period April through to July 2021.

John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Services reported that, following the commitment by the Metro Mayor a mid-year budget review had been undertaken to test and refine the base budget assumptions. Whilst this exercise had led to a number of adjustments across the different directorates, fundamentally the fairly pessimistic budget assumptions made at budget setting earlier in the year still applied. Financial performance demonstrated that the Combined Authority was continuing to manage within its overall budget envelope, however the underlying application of reserves to support expenditure plans would need to be addressed as it looked to develop a more financially sustainable operating model over the medium term.

John Fogarty explained that the most significant revisions related to transport services, particularly bus. A lot of work had been undertaken with Operators to increase confidence and patronage on the bus network. Funding assistance had also been secured from Government.

Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram thanked all officers involved for their hard work in preparing the revised budget. The Metro Mayor advised that the report also highlighted that during the pandemic, public transport kept the City Region moving and congratulated Combined Authority staff and those of the transport providers for their dedicated efforts.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The content of the report be noted; and
- (ii) The revised revenue budget as detailed at section 4.2 of the report be approved.

## **52. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020-21**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Reform and Resources and the Executive Director of Corporate Services which set out the findings emanating from the annual external audit of the Combined Authority's annual Statement of Accounts, conducted by its External Auditors, Mazars.

The report highlighted that whilst the audit process was substantially complete, there were a number of areas where work was ongoing, therefore a draft Audit Completion Report (ACR) was attached at Appendix One to the report for the information of Members.

John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Services advised that the annual audit of the Statement of Accounts had made good progress but at the point of writing the report it was still ongoing. It was envisaged that, subject to the issues identified in the ACR being successfully resolved, the accounts would be signed off with an unqualified opinion. Furthermore, a separate report on the value for money judgement would follow later in the year.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the draft Audit Completion Report (ACR) by the external auditors Mazars on the annual Statement of Accounts attached at Appendix One be noted; and
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Metro Mayor, to approve the Accounts on completion of the audit process.

## **53. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND - QUARTER ONE UPDATE**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director for Strategic Commissioning and Delivery which provided an update on the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) at the end of Quarter One 2021/22.

Councillor J Williamson, Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and the Third Sector introduced the report which advised on the disbursement of the SIF and made significant recommendations to extend the breadth and scope of support for small and medium-sized businesses across the City Region. These businesses had been significantly impacted over the past 18 months and it was important that the Combined Authority provided as much support as it could

Dr Aileen Jones, Interim Executive Director for Strategic Investment and Delivery explained that the report set out progress in investing the SIF up to the end of quarter one and around £17 million was disbursed in the first quarter of the year. She highlighted the recommendations in the report.

The Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram indicated that the intention was for the Combined Authority to receive presentations on some of the SIF projects at a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the disbursement performance for SIF Funds at Q1 2021/2022 be noted;
- (ii) the proposed approach to maximising disbursements from the Getting Building Fund by utilising the flexibilities of a Single Pot approach as detailed in paragraph 3.3.5 of the report be agreed;
- (iii) authority be delegated to the Interim Executive Director Strategic Commissioning and Delivery, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer, to finalise negotiations of detailed terms of the funding and associated agreements in relation to resolution (ii);
- (iv) the changes to the Business Resilience Consultancy (Covid 19) project requested by the Growth Platform as set out in paragraphs 4.1.1 – 4.1.3 of the report be agreed;
- (v) the achievements to date of the Flexible Growth Fund be noted and the allocation of a further £4,000,000 of SIF monies to the Fund be approved;
- (vi) authority be delegated to the Interim Executive Director Strategic Commissioning and Delivery, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder of Inclusive Growth and the Third Sector, to approve a further allocation of up to £2,000,000 of SIF monies to the Fund in the event of increased demand as part of the Liverpool City Region's economic recovery; and
- (vii) the changes approved under delegated powers as set out in section 5 with detail in Appendix 1 be noted.

#### **54. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND – LCR FINANCE HUB**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and the Third Sector and the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery which sought approval to award Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) funding to support the development and delivery of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Finance Hub (the Hub) which was currently managed by the Merseyside Special Investment Fund (MSIF).

The report highlighted that the project would scale up the already established Finance Hub, a free, impartial service for Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) seeking to access external funding. The Hub aimed to make small businesses more investment ready and drive more investment into such businesses, to allow them to scale and create jobs for Liverpool City Region residents.

Councillor J Williamson, Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and the Third Sector indicated that the Combined Authority was committed to making the Liverpool City Region a stronger, cleaner and fairer city region where nobody was left behind and a dynamic and growing business base that provided good quality jobs for people in every community was central to this commitment.

Councillor Williamson explained that the report sought approval for £600k of grant funding over 5 years to the Merseyside Special Investment Fund (“MSIF”), a not-for-profit funder, which managed the LCR Finance Hub. The Hub provided a free and impartial service for small businesses seeking to access external funding to grow. The Hub’s specialist advice would significantly increase SMEs’ ability to access and secure funding, enabling them to create local jobs whilst complementing other business support provided by Chambers of Commerce and other business support organisations.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the provision of grant support of up to £600,000 for the LCR Finance Hub project from SIF Gainshare Revenue be approved; and
- (ii) that authority to finalise negotiations of detailed funding terms and associated agreements for the Project specified at resolution (i) be delegated to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and Combined Authority Treasurer.

## **55. LCR FREEPORT OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director of Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and the Portfolio Holder for Business Support which provided an update on the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Freeport designation process and sought agreement for the submission of an Outline Business Case to Government.

The report highlighted that the Outline Business Case was an important next step in the LCR Freeport set-up phase. It clearly set out benefits that the Freeport could provide to the City Region, including good jobs, inward investment, dedicated Government funding, and the ability to leverage future investment streams. It also articulated the costs, how it would operate and be governed through robust mechanisms and arrangements. Through working in a consultative way with partners and stakeholders, a strong and distinctive model was being developed, shaped, and honed, that would maximise the opportunity for LCR.

Asif Hamid, Portfolio Holder for Business Support explained that the report updated on the Freeport designation process and the next stage which was an outline business case to Government.

Mr Hamid advised that the Government announced in March 2021 that the Liverpool City Region bid had been selected to progress to the next stage of Freeport designation. A Freeport would be a key driver for economic development activity, attract high value investment, support growth and employment and help regenerate communities. It would also demonstrate the City Region’s potential and contribution to a post-brexit world.

Mr Hamid indicated that it had been a considerable collaborative effort to produce this outline business case with Combined Authority and Growth Platform colleagues working closely with Local Authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership and Sector Boards, higher and further education as well as the business community. He thanked partners across the City Region for their input.

Mr Hamid outlined the next stages of the process which would see collective work to develop the more detailed final business case for submission to Government by 10 December 2021.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the progress made to date during the Freeport set-up phase be noted;
- (ii) the LCR Freeport Outline Business Case, which is the next key milestone towards Freeport designation by Government be endorsed; and
- (iii) it be noted that the final stage of the Freeport designation process will be a Full Business Case, which will be completed in December 2021.

## **56. KEY ROUTE NETWORK (KRN) - ADDITIONAL ROUTES**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director for Integrated Transport and the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality which sought approval to add three additional routes to the existing Key Route Network (KRN).

The report highlighted that connecting people and places across the City Region was crucial and investing in, managing and expanding when required our KRN remained a priority for the Combined Authority and constituent Authorities. From the commitments set out in recent Government strategies such as Gear Change and Bus Back Better, coupled to the ongoing consultation being undertaken by Department for Transport on KRN powers, the importance and significance of the KRN was only going to increase.

Councillor L Robinson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality explained that as part of the KRN review for 2021 and following discussions and agreement with the KRN group it was proposed to add three new routes within the St Helens area to the KRN - the A572, A573 and A599. The additional routes met the required criteria to become part of the KRN as summarised within the report and this proposal would add approximately 7.25km (4.51 miles) of additional routes to the existing KRN.

RESOLVED – That the inclusion of the additional routes to the Key Route Network as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report be approved.

## **57. RESPONDING TO CONSULTATION ON KEY ROUTE NETWORK HIGHWAY POWERS IN MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY AREAS**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Quality which set out a draft response to the consultation launched on 30 July 2021 by the Department for Transport (DfT) on proposals to give Metro Mayors and their Combined Authorities greater decision-making powers and accountability with regards to their Key Route Networks (KRN).

The report highlighted that this was an important consultation which could shape the management of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) KRN in the future. The Combined Authority was committed to the development of a fully integrated, London-style transport system, underpinned by a new, robust long-term Local Transport Plan to achieve this. The deadline for the submission of a response to the consultation was 24 September 2021. The principles at stake in the consultation document were challenging, as they constituted a transfer of powers upwards from a local level and were seen as being contrary to the principles of devolution. They also risked unsettling the good practice and successes to date and the strong relationships that existed across the LCR in pursuit of the delivery of this vision through imposing a fundamental change to the balance of powers.

Councillor L Robinson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Quality advised that working closely with the constituent Local Authorities, a collective response had been prepared to the 13 questions asked within the consultation.

Councillor Robinson added that the potential benefits of greater control and influence over the KRN were fully understood and appreciated, however, it was considered that extending the current powers to those applicable within the Transport for London footprint would not be necessary or appropriate for Liverpool City Region's circumstances and that was reflected in the response.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the issues raised in the report with respect of the Government's proposal to give metro mayors and their combined authorities greater decision-making powers and accountability for Key Route Networks be noted; and
- (ii) the consultation response as set out within the Appendix to this report be agreed and submitted to the Department for Transport.

## **58. LCR BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Combined Authority considered the report of The Interim Executive Director for Integrated Transport and the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality which presented a proposed draft outline for the Liverpool City Region's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Councillor L Robinson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality explained that a BSIP was required by Government in line with *Bus Back Better* – England's national bus strategy. The BSIP would be assessed by Government and used to allocate up to £3bn of funding and proposed that the following priorities for investment were addressed:

- Bus priority improvements – to scale-up and advance the delivery of the proposed Green Bus Routes:
- Network enhancements –support to sustain and enhance the network including improving frequencies and greater off-peak bus provision.

- Fare reduction initiatives – fare reductions to support better value multi-operator daily, weekly and monthly bus tickets.
- Ticketing improvements – delivery of “tap-and-go” contactless ticketing with daily and weekly fare-capping.
- Decarbonisation – to scale-up the deployment of zero emission buses, building on the existing Hybus project.
- Bus Rapid Transit – capital investment to develop proposals to introduce a Bus Rapid Transit system for the region, focused initially on Wirral Waters and Paddington Village.
- Branding and Identity – revenue support to accelerate the introduction of Metrobus branding across the bus network, in line with a clear local transport identity.
- Halton levelling-up – revenue support to enhance the bus network and infrastructure in Halton in order to fully integrate it into the city-region’s transport system.
- Reform – flexible funding to support set up costs for the region’s preferred option of Franchising or Enhanced Partnership.

Councillor Robinson added that it was important to note that if funding was made available by Government to address these priorities, they would remain subject to the agreement of an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators, or delivery of a Franchising scheme:

Councillor Robinson advised that the BSIP would be supported by a 12-month delivery plan, describing the actions, milestones, lead responsibilities and timescales for delivery over the forthcoming year. The delivery plan would be monitored regularly and reported to Government on a six-monthly basis. The plan had to be submitted to Government by the end of October 2021 and revised on an annual basis.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the Bus Service Improvement Plan including the vision, priorities, strategic objectives and key deliverables be approved;
- (ii) the further work which will be progressed to develop the costed investment plan to be submitted to the Government be noted; and
- (iii) authority to approve the finalised BSIP and accompanying investment plan ahead of the October 2021 deadline be delegated to Merseytravel, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality.

## **59. SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director Of Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and Portfolio Holder - Inclusive Economy

and Third Sector which sought approval to provide £0.480m funding to support community and voluntary sector organisations in the Liverpool City Region in line with the Combined Authority approved 'Building Back Better' Plan.

Councillor J Williamson, Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and the Third Sector introduced the report and explained that it proposed funding of almost £0.5 million to support the fantastic Voluntary, Community & Faith sector who had been at the heart of the City Region's Covid response, supporting some of our most vulnerable residents during times of unprecedented need.

Councillor Williamson explained that the voluntary and community sector had always been a vital partner in providing a wide range of care and support to vulnerable people with a strong history of working with communities to tackle inequality, deliver positive change and helping to make communities stronger. It was importance to ensure that this incredibly valuable role was supported moving forward into recovery planning.

Councillor Williamson added that sustainable funding was always a challenge for the sector and the lack of long-term investment impacted on its ability to plan beyond the immediate term. To help tackle this, the Metro Mayor had committed to the creation of a Sectoral Resilience and Capacity Fund and the funding proposal in this report was a first step towards this. It would support volunteers, digital inclusion, community wellbeing and improving mental health – activity to make a real difference to people's lives and help to build lasting change.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the provision of £0.480M to support community and voluntary sector organisations in the City Region in line with the breakdown provided in section 4.3 of the report be agreed: and
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Treasurer and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and the Third Sector to agree the delivery plan and funding arrangements.

#### **60. ACCEPTANCE OF HEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT INTEGRATION PROGRAMME FUNDING**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director of Policy, Strategy and Government Relations which sought approval from the Combined Authority to accept £465,900 from the Health Foundation to deliver the Health and Employment Integration Programme and put in place the required grant arrangements with partners.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the funding offer from the Health Foundation for £465,900 be accepted and the distribution be agreed as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (ii) The execution of delivery agreements to be put into place with University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University be approved; and
- (iii) it be noted that updates on progress of the project will be provided to Members as appropriate.

## **61. ACCEPTANCE OF EU GRANT FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION HIGH GROWTH PROGRAMME**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director Corporate Services and the Portfolio Holder - Business Support which sought agreement that:-

- (a) the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority accept and act as Accountable Body for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Liverpool City Region (LCR) High Growth Programme; and
- (b) the Combined Authority should make onward grant awards as outlined in Table 2 at section 3.1.7 of the report.

The report highlighted that formal approval from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the award of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) High Growth Programme was still awaited.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) it be agreed that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority accept and act as Accountable Body for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Liverpool City Region (LCR) High Growth Programme; and
- (ii) it be agreed that the Combined Authority make onward grant awards as outlined in Table 2 at section 3.1.7 of the report.

## **62. NORTH WEST COP26 CAMPAIGN**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and the Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy Portfolio Holder which set out an approach to delivering a programme of activities linked to the international COP26 conference taking place in Glasgow in November 2021.

The report highlighted that North West Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and partner organisations could leverage an opportunity to attend the Green Zone at COP26 in Glasgow and align a budget from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to support local events promoting the strengths of the region.

Councillor D Baines, the Portfolio Holder for Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy advised that the 26th annual 'Conference of the Parties', better known as 'COP26' would take place in Glasgow in November 2021, a major milestone for collaboration on the climate emergency..

Councillor Baines explained that this report was required in order to accept £195,000 of funding from BEIS via the Local Energy North West Hub, to support the regional 'domestic' COP26 campaign across the North West and match funding was required to leverage this.

Councillor Baines added that the Liverpool City Region (LCR) was leading the way on this agenda and would be participating in COP26 in a number of ways. Councillor Baines highlighted some of the events taking place to showcase the work

taking place across LCR and reported that he would be attending the conference in Glasgow and speaking at a number of events including hosting a dinner to discuss the Mersey Tidal Project and an event in partnership with 'Glass Futures', a project to decarbonise the glass industry.

Councillor Baines explained that the detailed itinerary was not yet complete but opportunities would be continue to be actively explored to ensure that LCR was represented at a senior level in international discussions in the most effective way.

**RESOLVED – That:**

- (i) the participation of North West organisations and political leaders in the Green Zone at COP26 in Glasgow, following a successful expression of interest to COP26 organisers be noted;
- (ii) it be noted that the LEPs will be asked to provide a combined minimum match funding of £35,000 to support Glasgow activities;
- (iii) it be noted that the LEPs participation in the Glasgow activities and regional programme is to be overseen by a steering group in consultation with a wider stakeholder panel;
- (iv) it be agreed that the Combined Authority act as the accountable body for the North West Local Energy Hub in administering the programme and grant funding to partner organisations, and that the receipt of funding from BEIS as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report be approved; and
- (v) authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Policy, Strategy and Government Relations to agree the terms of funding arrangements, in its capacity as accountable body, in consultation with the Treasurer and Chief Legal Officer.

### **63. CREATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER BOARDS**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director – Policy, Strategy & Government Relations and the Metro Mayor which outlined the creation of Portfolio Boards to help ensure early democratic input into policy development and decision making and as a mechanism for Portfolio Holders to manage their Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) portfolio.

The report highlighted that the process provided a method of improving the management of portfolios and support offered to Portfolio Holders.

**RESOLVED – That the creation of Portfolio Boards linked to the Combined Authority's portfolios led by the Members of the Combined Authority, be agreed.**

### **64. VARIOUS APPOINTMENTS AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which sought approval for nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Audit and Governance Committee and Combined Authority Companies.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) Councillor Trish Long be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (ii) Jean Gleave be appointed as an Independent Member to the Audit and Governance Committee; and
- (iii) That Dr Aileen Jones, Interim Executive Director Strategic Commissioning and Delivery be appointed to the LCR UDF and LCR Chrysalis companies.

**65. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND - A NEW STADIUM AT BRAMLEY MOORE DOCK**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and the Metro Mayor which sought approval to provide support from Strategic Investment Funding (“SIF”) to Everton StadCo HoldCo Ltd in order to develop a new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock (“the Stadium”). The report highlighted that Everton StadCo HoldCo would be a wholly owned subsidiary of Everton Football Club Company Ltd and a parent company of Everton Stadium Development Ltd (“ESDL”) being the company building the Stadium and would operate it once completed.

The report highlighted that except where the context was important, the group of companies was referenced as “Everton”.

The report also noted that it was progressing under the investment process provided in the Combined Authority’s (CA) new investment strategy and assurance framework. The assurance framework stated that the basis for CA approval shall be a “summary project submission, summary appraisal submission and the Investment Panel’s commentary” and followed that requirement.

The Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram reported that Members of the Combined Authority were being asked to approve £45m in financial support to the new Bramley-Moore Stadium and associated regeneration in North Liverpool.

The Metro Mayor explained that the Part 1 report addressed the proposed grant of £15m and the further loan element would be considered later in the agenda. This grant would support the development of public infrastructure and heritage preservation around the Stadium.

The Metro Mayor stressed that the proposal was not about football but about regeneration and jobs. The project stood as one of the most significant regeneration projects the Liverpool City Region had seen in more than a decade and would be a major catalyst for regeneration and revival in an area that had required investment for decades.

The Metro Mayor added that the Stadium project itself was projected to create over 8,000 jobs during construction, together with the wider regeneration estimated to create over 15,000 jobs. It would also deliver significant social value as Everton were making significant commitments both in terms of employment on the project and also in respect of the on-going regeneration of Goodison Park. The Metro Mayor stated that Everton would be held to these commitments and they would be enshrined in the funding agreement. The challenge for the Combined Authority was

to work with all stakeholders to make sure the opportunity for regeneration was taken.

The Metro Mayor reiterated that Councillor Graham Morgan had consistently declared an interest and taken no role in any discussions on this particular issue due to him having an Everton season ticket. Ordinarily, in his absence, Knowsley Council would be represented by their Deputy Leader, Councillor Louise Harbour, but Councillor Harbour was unable to attend so consideration of this item would have to proceed without any direct input from Knowsley.

The Metro Mayor added that given the significance of these proposals, Councillor Harbour had asked that it made clear *that she would have voted in favour of the proposals* if she had been able to attend. She was particularly keen for her views to be made clear in case Knowsley's absence was taken to mean that they didn't support the project, when in fact, Knowsley was fully in favour of the proposals set out in the report. The Metro Mayor thanked Councillor Harbour for making Knowsley's position clear.

The Metro Mayor invited Councillor Janette Williamson to comment on the report.

Councillor J Williamson, Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and the Third Sector agreed with the Metro Mayor's comments on the importance of the project for the City Region for the job and regeneration opportunities it would bring.

Councillor Williamson explained that the report set out an approach which committed Everton to delivering wider social value. During the build of the Stadium, Everton and its partners would deliver a framework of social value activities particularly in the areas of employment, training, education and skills and health and wellbeing. Everton, its construction partner and Everton in the Community had signed up to specific targets and to working with the Combined Authority to make sure that the City Region got the most out of the project.

Councillor Williamson also explained that further value would be added through the delivery of the Goodison Legacy Project; the project to regenerate Everton's current ground after they move.

Councillor Williamson pledged her support to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The provision of up to £15,000,00 of grant support from the Strategic Investment Fund to a wholly-owned subsidiary of Everton Football Club Company to be incorporated (Everton StadCo HoldCo Ltd), such funds to be used wholly for the development of the Stadium project including a range of heritage, conservation and public realm works connected to this development be approved;
- (ii) The Combined Authority note the request for loan support of up to £30,000,000 also to Everton StadCo HoldCo Ltd for the same purpose and that this proposal is subject to a detailed analysis in a separate part 2 paper; and

- (iii) delegated authority be granted to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery to finalise negotiations of detailed funding terms and associated Grant agreements in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and Combined Authority Treasurer.

*(Note: Councillor G Morgan declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)*

## **66. PROCUREMENT OF AIR QUALITY SENSORS LINKED TO TRAFFIC SIGNALS**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Integrated Transport and the Portfolio Holder Transport and Air Quality which sought approval to appoint the successful supplier to the contract for supply, installation and maintenance of an Air Quality Monitoring System following the procurement exercise that had taken place.

Councillor L Robinson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality explained that the report sought approval for the procurement of 37 near real-time Air Quality sensors across all 6 constituent Local Authorities, (10 sensors in Liverpool, 7 in Sefton, 5 in Wirral, Knowsley, Halton and St Helens). These sensors would link into the Local Authorities' existing Stratos traffic signals control systems. This meant that strategies could be set for changes to signal timings when air quality is particularly poor at that location.

Councillor Robinson advised that this was the first work package of a wider scheme to improve traffic signals across the City Region. The next work package which was currently out for tender would be to upgrade all traffic signals in the City Region to LED lamps for major energy savings.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the content of the report and attached part 2 procurement report at Appendix 1 be noted; and
- (ii) approval be granted to the Interim Executive Director of Integrated Transport to appoint the supplier for the contract value both of which are specified at Appendix 1 to the report.

## **67. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Metro Mayor S Rotheram reported that no public questions had been received.

## **68. PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS**

Metro Mayor S Rotheram reported that no petitions or statements had been received.

## **69. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1985, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on

the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

#### **70. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND - PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO BRAMLEY MOORE STADIUM**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and the Metro Mayor which sought approval to provide support from Strategic Investment Funding ("SIF") to Everton StadCo HoldCo Ltd in order to develop a new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock ("the Stadium").

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) it be noted that in the Part 1 paper regarding Everton that a grant of up to £15 million has been considered to a wholly-owned subsidiary of Everton Football Club Company to be incorporated (Everton StadCo HoldCo Ltd);
- (ii) approve the provision of up to £30,000,000 of loan support, also to Everton StadCo HoldCo Ltd on materially the terms set out herein; and
- (iii) delegated authority be granted to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery to finalise negotiations of detailed funding terms and associated agreements regarding the loan, in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and Combined Authority Treasurer; the provision of such funding being subject to the conditions set out in Appendix 2 to the report

*(Note: Councillor G Morgan declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)*

#### **71. PROCUREMENT OF AIR QUALITY SENSORS LINKED TO TRAFFIC SIGNALS**

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Integrated Transport and the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality which sought approval to appoint the successful supplier to the contract for supply, installation and maintenance of an Air Quality Monitoring System following the procurement exercise that had taken place.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the content of report and part 2 procurement report detailed at Appendix 1; and
- (ii) approval be granted to the Interim Director of Integrated Transport approval to appoint Siemens Mobility Ltd as supplier for the following contract at a value of £360,554.99:-

**Contract Title:** Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Air Quality Monitoring System

**Reference Number:** DN546999.

Minutes 46 to 71 received as a correct record on the 26 day of November 2021.

---

Chairperson of the Combined Authority

(The meeting closed at 2.15pm)