

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor and Members of the LCR Combined Authority

Meeting: 21st January 2022

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

Key Decision Yes

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POLICY, STRATEGY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND THE METRO MAYOR

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION PLAN FOR PROSPERITY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report seeks Combined Authority approval for the Liverpool City Region Plan for Prosperity, the integrated economic and place-based strategy for the City Region.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:
- (a) approve the draft Liverpool City Region Plan for Prosperity as set out in Appendix 1 of this report; and
 - (b) grant delegated authority to the Metro Mayor and the Executive Director Policy, Strategy and Government Relations to revise the Plan for Prosperity to reflect the Government's Levelling Up White Paper, where appropriate, in conjunction with the Local Authority Chief Executives.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In July 2021, the Combined Authority published its Corporate Plan, a key action of which was the preparation and publication of the Liverpool City Region Plan for Prosperity. The principal purpose of this Plan is to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan's objectives and to provide a high level, long-term economic and place-based strategy for the City Region over the next decade and beyond.
- 3.2 The Plan for Prosperity is an integrated strategy designed to replace the LCR's draft Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which was only published in draft form due to the change in government economic policy approach from industrial strategies to the

Plan for Growth, published with the Budget in March 2021. The status of the *Plan for Growth* was further emphasised in the Autumn Budget and Spending Review in November 2021.

- 3.3 The Plan for Prosperity builds on the work and engagement undertaken in the preparation of the LIS and reframes this to “repivot” its key messages and focus in a way that meets City Region long-term priorities, whilst reflecting the government’s new economic policy approach. It is designed to deliver long-term sustainable economic growth for the City Region, but in a way that speaks to Government, reflecting national economic priorities.
- 3.4 The Plan sets out the City Region’s ambitions and priorities designed to address the key challenges it faces, together with a common narrative for how it intends to position itself both nationally and globally to maximise its contribution to levelling up and wider UK economic prosperity.
- 3.5 The Plan for Prosperity brings together different themes across strategy, policy and investment, providing a high level, holistic, and long-term view of place and economy (up to 2035). It will inform policy and strategy preparation, investment decisions, and project pipeline development, and will ensure the City Region continues to invest resources intelligently and impactfully.
- 3.6 The Plan also sets out how the Region, its politicians and officers want to work more collaboratively with Government, including through the potential offered by devolution, to both maximise our transformational opportunities and distinctive assets, and to begin to make meaningful inroads into the structural challenges and inequalities faced by the City Region.
- 3.7 The Plan for Prosperity is supported and informed by an updated evidence base, including new economic projections for the City Region for the next 20 years.
- 3.8 Drafting of the Plan has been shaped by an extensive engagement exercise including with the Leaders and Mayors (Portfolio Holders), Chief Executives, Growth Directors and Policy Leads. Extensive external engagement has also taken place with business groups (including the LEP Board), third sector groups, business groups and higher education institutes.
- 3.9 The Combined Authority and partners have been waiting for the Government to publish its Levelling Up White Paper. This White Paper is likely to contain a number of proposals and announcements which may have implications for the Plan for Prosperity, particularly in how it would be delivered and how the City Region could use the Plan to engage in dialogue with Government. To date, no firm date has been announced for the White Paper’s publication and rather than delay the Plan for Prosperity, it is recommended that the Plan be published now and that the Metro Mayor and the Executive Director Policy, Strategy and Government Relations be granted Delegated Authority to revise the Plan for Prosperity in response to any relevant announcements in the Levelling Up White Paper, and that any such revisions be undertaken in conjunction with the Local Authority Chief Executives.

4. PLAN FOR PROSPERITY SUMMARY

- 4.1 Supporting the development of an inclusive economy across the whole City Region is at the centre of the Plan for Prosperity, where the barriers to health, wealth, and opportunity are proactively dismantled. This is one of the 'golden threads' throughout the Plan, and there are also specific inclusivity principles set out which will need to be front and centre of future approaches to working as a City Region.
- 4.2 The Plan's vision of a Fairer, Stronger, and Cleaner City Region is consistent with the Combined Authority Corporate Plan and sets the context for the Plan's priorities and actions. It emphasises the importance of an inclusive economy; the need, and opportunity, of the net zero carbon agenda; and the wider meaning of prosperity to include health and wellbeing and quality of life for the City Region's residents.
- 4.3 The Plan responds to the Government's *Plan for Growth* in a very local way utilising the distinctive proposition of the City Region as a 'place of pioneers' and its focus on innovative approaches to delivering the vision. The Plan sets out a number of key innovative strengths based on City Region assets and capabilities including:
- Maximising the contribution to the UK economy through LCR distinctive, global innovation excellence: building on key strengths such as smart specialisms, health innovation, industrial digitisation, and innovations that will support decarbonisation; and
 - Optimising LCR strengths as a 'Global Cultural Capital' and building on the strong reputation for social innovation to address key societal challenges.
- 4.4 Invention, creativity, and a willingness to do things differently is embraced through the City Region's global innovation excellence, in arts and culture, and across all communities. The key message of the Plan is that this is innovation with purpose – supporting economy, society, and the environment.
- 4.5 To deliver this Vision, the Plan for Prosperity has three overarching forward-looking strategic priorities:
- An inclusive City Region where levelling up means no one and no place is left behind;
 - Pioneers of the Green Industrial Revolution; and
 - A global, confident, and outward looking City Region
- 4.6 The vision and priorities of the Plan will be delivered, and supported, by strengthening the following core pillars of the City Region's economy which are critical to driving productivity and wider prosperity:
- Maximising the impact of innovation for people, places, and business;
 - Turning People's Potential into Prosperity;
 - Thriving, sustainable, and resilient places; and
 - Integrated Infrastructure for a Connected City Region

- 4.7 Delivery of the Plan will be reliant on the following principles which embrace the opportunity to do things differently:
- Exploring and utilising the full potential that devolution offers, including developing the case for future devolution to provide the City Region with the powers and resources to address the challenges set out in the Plan;
 - Collaborative delivery through constructive and effective partnerships, both within and across the City Region, and with external stakeholders;
 - Community empowerment – with the opportunities of devolution extended to all communities across the City;
 - Agility and dynamism – with the City Region being willing to take risks and pioneer new approaches;
 - Pragmatism - to maximise the return on investment for public money, small, quick wins are considered, pursued, and valued as much as large-scale transformational interventions; and
 - Accountability - openness and transparency with partners, stakeholders, and people from across the City Region, will continue to evolve across everything that is done, driven by a culture of strong governance and continuous improvement.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The publication of the Plan for Prosperity is the beginning of a process. It has been developed collaboratively across the City Region, and will be implemented collaboratively, working as one City Region to deliver a prosperous and productive economy that is effective and inclusive for all people and places.
- 5.2 The strategic aims and objectives of the Plan will be reflected in, and guide, other City Region strategic policies and investment decisions. This will ensure consistency of vision and approach across activity in the City Region, with all partners working towards shared outcomes.
- 5.3 The Combined Authority will monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the Plan for Prosperity's activities as part of a wider organisational monitoring and evaluation approach. This will provide robust and objective evaluation evidence which demonstrates the impact of activities, providing wider insights and lessons about what has worked, how and why.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.2 Human Resources

There are no direct implications for human resources arising from this report.

6.3 Physical Assets

There are no direct implications arising from this report on physical assets.

6.4 Information Technology

There are no implications for IT arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

8. RISKS AND MITIGATION

8.1 There are no direct risks arising from this report as it sets out a series of strategic propositions and actions designed to achieve specific priorities. The main risk would be changes in national policy and/lack of future funding which are currently unforeseen over the timeframe of the Plan. Mitigation against this is, therefore, not possible to do at this time but the Plan will be kept under review to minimise this risk.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken in conjunction with the drafting of the Plan for Prosperity in order to inform its priorities and actions. Given the Plan for Prosperity's priority of creating a fairer City Region for all its residents (including a fairer economy where all working age residents should have access to fulfilling work) and that "equality and diversity in all that is done" is a theme running through the Plan, the Equality Impact Assessment confirms that the Plan has a positive impact on protected characteristics groups.

10. PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no privacy implications arising from this report.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

11.1 The Plan for Prosperity will be published in an accessible format and in a way which is public facing, including a slide deck and a short summary version. The evidence base underpinning the Plan will also be published in an accessible format.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 This report seeks the Combined Authority's endorsement of the Plan for Prosperity as set out in Appendix 1. This Plan will be key to shaping the future policy and investment priorities and decisions for the City Region, and in supporting ongoing conversations with government. It is the beginning of a process, and will be implemented collaboratively, working as one City Region to deliver a prosperous and productive economy that is effective and inclusive for all people and places.

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Appendices:

Appendix One - Liverpool City Region Plan for Prosperity

Background Documents:

None.