

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

PUBLICATION: 26 NOVEMBER 2021

DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: 3 DECEMBER 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, 26th November, 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 I Maher, Portfolio Holder: Digital Connectivity and Inclusion
Councillor G Morgan, Portfolio Holder: Housing and Spatial Framework
Councillor M Wharton, Portfolio Holder: Culture, Tourism and the Visitor Economy

Co-opted Member

Councillor L Robinson, Portfolio Holder: Transport and Air Quality

Deputy Portfolio Holders

Councillor L Robertson - Collins, Digital Connectivity and Inclusion
Councillor G Wood, Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy

In remote attendance

E Spurrell, Co-opted Member, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner
Councillor S Powell, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Culture, Tourism and the Visitor Economy
Councillor L Whitley, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Asif Hamid MBE, Councillors Kate Groucutt and Trish Hardy.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

74. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LCR COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

Subject to the inclusion of Deputy Portfolio Holder Councillor Louise Whitley being shown as present, the minutes of the meeting of the LCR Combined Authority held on 24 September 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

A minute's silence was held in respect of a number of tragic incidents which had taken place in the region the previous night.

75. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION METRO MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

The Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram referred to the recent publication of the Integrated Rail Plan and noted that the Government's promise of 'NPR in full' had died. The Metro Mayor explained that at the time of the announcement there had been promised 'Grand Designs' but the Government had actually offered a '60 Minute Makeover' because.

- The plan did not deliver proper west-east connectivity.
- It did not give the Liverpool to Manchester 20-minute journey times that was originally in the plan.
- It missed out two stations in St Helens and downgraded Halton.
- It failed to deliver on the proper capacity needed – getting freight onto rail.
- And it would cause years of disruption for very little gain and that would have a massive detrimental impact on the area.

In short, the Metro Mayor explained that this announcement from Government was not good enough. However, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was prepared to work with Government to review and revise the decision as it was not good enough for the 16 million people in the north of England to be left behind.

The Metro Mayor explained that the LCR Combined Authority was working with partners in Cheshire West and Chester and had brought forward the commitment to a discharge-free River Mersey by a whole decade to 2030. Enormous strides had been made since the 1980s when Lord Heseltine had rightly described the state of the River Mersey as 'an affront to the standards a civilised society should demand of its environment.'

With that in mind, the powers enshrined in the devolution deal would work towards eliminating discharges of untreated waste into the River Mersey by the end of the decade. He thanked all the Leaders for their support on this really bold move by the Combined Authority.

On the subject of the environment, the Metro Mayor explained that it would be remiss of him not to mention that he had attended COP26 in November together with Councillors Baines, Wood and Mayor Anderson. The international global picture may have been disappointing for some but what was clear was that people recognised the progress of the Liverpool City Region which was fast becoming a leader on climate change. The Metro Mayor highlighted that people were really excited about what the City Region was doing. Furthermore, the Metro Mayor explained that following COP two big environmental announcements had taken place. The first announcement was that Fords in Halewood would be leading the way to eliminate petrol and diesel cars by making parts for the new electric vehicles, the transmission units on Fords' electric

vehicles. And the second was the announcement of HyNet – a project that could take 10 million tonnes of carbon out of the atmosphere every year, and create some of the high value, high paying jobs which were needed in the North in the next decade.

The Metro Mayor was also continuing to make his way across the City Region – to all boroughs – seeing some of the great things that were happening in each local authority area. He had recently visited the Granby Adult Learning Centre in Liverpool, which the Combined Authority had supported the refurbishment of with £1m of funding right in the heart of the community. It was a brilliant facility that would encourage all of those people to realise their full potential.

Similarly - he also visited another Combined Authority funded project on Dunningbridge Road in Sefton. This was called Mersey Reach – a logistics park which was attracting cutting edge businesses with really good jobs to the area and the second phase of development was underway. Some businesses could go on to be global brands. The Metro Mayor was really inspired to meet some of the business leaders.

The Metro Mayor once again picked up the trowel and the level in Birkenhead a few days ago when he visited ‘The Docklands’ development over the water – a really exciting housing project with good quality, affordable homes that were perfect for people seeking to buy their first property.

He would be in Halton on Sunday where the end of their year as Borough of Culture would be marked. The baton would be passed to Knowsley – who had some really exciting things planned for the following year – including a mass marriage vow renewal ceremony in St Chads Church on Valentine’s Day – the same church that he and his wife had tied the knot in back in 1989.

And lastly, he thanked Councillor David Baines for inviting him and Andy Burnham to St Helens for a really good meeting focussing on cross border transport priorities for St Helens, Wigan and Warrington. There were some really exciting things that could be done. Watch this space for announcements coming soon.

In concluding, the Metro Mayor referred to the incident at the Women’s Hospital on Remembrance Sunday and paid tribute to the quick actions of those who prevented a major incident from occurring.

76. RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought approval on the proposed appointment of the Executive Director – Place and the Executive Director - Investment and Delivery, following consideration by the Members of the Appointment and Disciplinary Committee at meetings on 29th October 2021 and the 19th November 2021.

Katherine Fairclough, Chief Executive, stated that the Committee had recommended that an appointment to the position of Executive Director – Place be made to Richard McGuckin. The Committee was also recommending from their meeting on 19 November for Dr Aileen Jones to be appointed to the position of Executive Director – Investment and Delivery.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the progress made regarding the appointments to the positions of Executive Director – Place and the Executive Director - Investment and Delivery be noted;
- (ii) the recommendation made by the Members of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee at the meeting on 29 October 2021 be received and it be agreed that the preferred candidate Richard McGuckin be appointed to the position of Executive Director – Place; and
- (iii) the recommendation made by the Members of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee at the meeting on 19 November 2021 be received and it be agreed that the preferred candidate Dr Aileen Jones be appointed to the position of Executive Director - Investment and Delivery.

77. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services which provided the Members with the final audited accounts for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the financial year 2019-20 for approval.

The Metro Mayor said that the tabling of this report represented the completion of the formal requirements for the Combined Authority to sign off the accounts and followed on from the report tabled in November 2020, when the draft accounts had been presented to the Combined Authority for consideration.

John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Services explained that this item reported back on the final External Auditor report and conclusion from 2019-20 and had been delayed due to reasons which had not been in the Combined Authority's control. The report confirmed the draft opinion which was an 'Unqualified' opinion. An Unqualified opinion was what the Auditors described as accurate which was not only a confirmation that the financial reporting was accurate but also the issues around risk, governance and value for money had been dealt with and reported properly in that year.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the content of the report be noted; and
- (ii) the 2019-20 accounts be approved.

78. QUARTER TWO FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Services, presented a report which provided an overview of the revenue and capital financial performance of the Combined Authority for the period April to September 2021. The report also provided a mid-Treasury Strategy Statement which detailed performance against the approved Treasury Management Strategy which was approved as part of the budget setting report for 2021/22.

Members were advised that the Combined Authority's revenue budget performance and forecast outturn was still forecast to be within the budget which had been established earlier in the year and which had also been revised at the September Combined Authority meeting. However, some major projects such as Tidal and

Digital had had to be rephased to accommodate the delays encountered due to Covid and that this rephasing had been reflected in the report.

It was further explained that there had also been some movement in the Capital Programme, but this could be accommodated within the existing Capital Programme. Reference was made to the development of the Headbolt Lane Train station, where higher total spend was anticipated due to escalating costs in the rail industry. The Combined Authority was advised that there was a specific recommendation relating to this scheme to allow the works to progress with haste to avoid any further delays.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the content of the report be noted;
- (ii) the increase in the capital programme as detailed at 3.8 in respect of the Headbolt Lane rail scheme be approved, noting the issues around cost escalation;
- (iii) the mid-year treasury management strategy update at 3.14-3.24 be approved; and
- (iv) the receipt of the Cycling and Walking Capability Fund allocation of £1,786,000 be approved.

79. EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

John Fogarty, Executive Director of Corporate Services, presented a report which set out proposals for appointing an external auditor to the Authority for the external audit of the Combined Authority's accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24 when the existing appointment arrangements would end.

The Combined Authority was advised that approval was required to formally enter into the national procurement framework for the appointment of external auditors with the Public Sector Audit Appointments body (PSAA). The recommendation was that the authority would enter into this national process.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) it be noted that the report and proposal had been considered and endorsed by the Audit and Governance Committee; and
- (iii) the proposal to join the national procurement framework for the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) to appoint an external auditor for five years from 2023/24 be approved.

80. SPENDING REVIEW AND AUTUMN BUDGET 2021 - HEADLINE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Kirsty McLean, Executive Director of Policy, Strategy, and Government Relations, presented a report on the Spending Review and Autumn Budget which the Chancellor presented on the 27 October 2021. The purpose of the briefing was to provide a factual update on the announcements from the Budget and the initial headline implications of the announcements for Liverpool City Region.

The Metro Mayor reported that the Government's spending review had been a mixed one for the Combined Authority with some good news, but also some disappointing outcomes which resulted in continued uncertainty for our local authorities. The report set out the overall position.

Kirsty McLean highlighted some of the key implications for the Combined Authority as follows:

This was a mixed spending review from a City Region perspective with some good news and funding allocated to the City Region but also some very disappointing news where strong bids, particularly from the Levelling Up fund were not approved and there remained some uncertainty around the details including the local authority finance.

Areas where the Combined Authority had been successful in securing funding were as follows:

- On Transport the Government announced the City Region Sustainable Transport Fund including £710m for the Liverpool City Region which amounted to £454 per head.
- On the Levelling Up fund, it had been very disappointing as there were some strong bids which had not been approved. Three Levelling Up bids had been approved so far. £37m was announced for a Liverpool City Region-wide transport bid and it was understood that the LCR Combined Authority-wide Levelling Up fund bid was the only one to be awarded. There was £19m for the Birkenhead Levelling Up bid which would regenerate and transform the waterfront area. £20m for the Liverpool City Council Levelling Up bid to improve the waterfront urban realm and cultural hub of the city.
- On Housing there had been an announcement after the Spending Review and the Combined Authority had been awarded £11.3m from the Government's Green Homes Grant Scheme which would be split across all local authorities to fund work on homes making them warmer and more energy efficient.
- On net zero the Government announced funding for carbon capture usage and storage and Hynet North West had been selected as one of the first clusters.
- Finally, the Combined Authority would also get £2.8m of Community Renewal funding which was the subject of another report on the agenda for today.

Councillor Graham Morgan stated that the report highlighted the fact that the Spending Review once again had left the City Region with no clear answers or certainty regarding long term funding for Councils. It demonstrated that there was nothing to suggest that the Government was serious about reducing inequalities through their Levelling Up agenda. Furthermore, the Levelling Up fund was the latest example of the piecemeal approach adopted by Government forcing local authorities through a prioritisation and decision-making process which no one understood. He noted that it would be simpler and more honest for the Government to provide the required funding to those areas that truly needed it the most.

Councillor Morgan referred to the report being considered today, noting that a number of Knowsley Councils local bids had been unsuccessful, one of which included the Council's long-term plans for Huyton Village.

Councillor Morgan welcomed the success of some of the constituent Local Authorities who had been successful in securing funding from this process. He confirmed that feedback had been urgently requested from Government as to why Knowsley's bid had been unsuccessful as Knowsley Council had a clear plan in place to address some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country and a clear track record of delivering against their plans.

The Metro Mayor agreed with the statement made by Councillor Morgan and he questioned why the Government had a tier system in place and then ignored areas who were in the most need. The Combined Authority would continue to have an open dialogue with the Government, and it was noted that Knowsley was still prepared to talk to Government to try to understand better what was required as the project was important not only to the City Region but also to the north-west.

RESOLVED that the briefing on the initial, headline implications of the Budget announcements be noted.

81. MERSEY TIDAL PROJECT UPDATE

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Project Director, Mersey Tidal Power Project and the Portfolio Holder for Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy which provided an update on the Mersey Tidal Power Project (MTPP) for the period from March 2020 to date and looked ahead into 2022/26.

The Metro Mayor stated that in this period post COP26, when ambitions to make the big changes in the electricity system were increasingly needed, a short update would be given on the Mersey Tidal project, in advance of a more detailed paper in early 2022.

Councillor David Baines, Portfolio Holder for Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy, welcomed the report and highlighted to Members that the Mersey Tidal project had featured heavily at COP26.

Katherine Fairclough, Chief Executive, explained that the Mersey Tidal Project was a significant development project for the City Region. Emphasising that there was a strong and compelling case for low carbon sustainable projects, such as Mersey Tidal. Members were advised that the report provided a regular update on the programme of work and it covered a wide range of technical areas both in terms of the modelling, the business case, the environmental and the significant financial business cases that needed to be developed in order to take the programme forward.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the continued strategic and economic fit of the tidal project as a central cog of LCR NetZero Plan to 2040 be noted, in that it was a public sector led project, targeting decarbonisation of regional electricity with a predictable, low carbon generation asset that had alignment to industrial, employment, and green growth agendas;
- (ii) the progress under Phase 3 Concept and the planned works until the end of this phase in March 2022 be noted; and

- (iii) the extent of Phase 4 activity required in the period 2022-26 and the intent to provide a further update in early 2022 on a recommended way forward when there was greater clarity on national policy in relation to Tidal energy be noted.

82. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND - QUARTER TWO 2021/22 UPDATE

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and Portfolio Holder: Inclusive Economy and Third Sector which provided an update as at Quarter 2 on disbursement of the Strategic Investment Fund, other funding streams and changes which required Combined Authority approval. It also set out progress in the development of pipelines of future projects.

Councillor Jeanette Williamson, Portfolio Holder: Inclusive Economy and Third Sector advised that this report updated the Combined Authority on progress with disbursing the Strategic Investment Fund. It also noted that the Combined Authority had been allocated £2.8m of funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund to support skills, communities and people into employment. This fund was the precursor for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which would replace the historic EU funding and was the subject of another paper on the agenda.

Dr Aileen Jones, Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery, stated that section 3 of the report set out progress in deploying funding from the Strategic Investment Fund, approximately £18m had been disbursed in the last quarter. It also noted the progress made in the development of the pipelines of future projects and Officer decisions under delegated powers. Further details were set out in Appendix One of the report.

Accordingly, two specific changes requiring Combined Authority approval were highlighted. The first was to extend the scope of the Inward Investment Facilitation Fund to large companies where there was strategic rationale. This would provide Officers engaging with such companies more flexibility in their approach. The second was the updated approach of the Peopl Network following Combined Authority approval in February. Support for the Kickstarter grant had been reduced from £600k to £200k and would now be funded through the Strategic Investment fund.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the disbursement performance for SIF Funds at Q2 2021/22 be noted;
- (ii) the update on pipeline development schemes as detailed in section 3.3.11 be noted;
- (iii) the new funding awarded to the Liverpool City Region as described in section 3.3.16 be noted;
- (iv) the recommendation set out in section 4.1 of the report to approve the expansion of the scope of the Inward Investment Facilitation Fund to include large companies be approved;
- (v) the recommendation set out in section 4.2 of the report to fund £200,000 of Kickstarter Grants as part of the Peopl Network project from SIF Funds be approved;

- (vi) the changes approved under delegated powers as set out in Section 5 with detail in Appendix 1 be noted.

83. BROWNFIELD LAND FUND

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Spatial Framework which set out the progress of projects funded in the first year of the Brownfield Land Fund and also sought approval for the shortlisted projects to allocate the remaining £34m of the Fund.

Councillor Graham Morgan, Portfolio Holder: Housing and Spatial Framework welcomed the progress made across the City Region through the Brownfield Land Fund. He explained that the Brownfield Land Fund was the City Region's first devolved funds to be targeted for housing with a total of £45m over five years, with some of the first homes from the initial investment last year, already being completed. Looking ahead, Councillor Morgan explained that the report sought to allocate the remaining £34m and confirmed that the Combined Authority would continue to work closely with Councils, Housing Providers and Public Sector Partners to deliver a mix of high quality developments for residents across the Liverpool City Region, including affordable housing and extra care. Furthermore, progress to date, and the future target of just over 3,600 homes, showed that the Liverpool City Region was making the most of the additional funding and powers that had been devolved to it and also provided yet more examples that the decisions which impacted local people should be made at a local level.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the update on current approved Brownfield Land Fund projects be noted;
- (ii) the shortlist of further Brownfield Land Fund projects and indicative funding amounts in Table 1 be approved as those to be taken forward to Full Business Case stage;
- (iii) delegated authority be granted on the terms set out in the report to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Spatial Framework, to approve funding for each of the shortlisted projects following review of Full Business Cases and recommendations from the SIF Internal Investment Panel; and
- (iv) delegated authority be granted to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery to finalise negotiations of detailed funding terms and associated agreements for each approved project, in consultation with the Chief Legal Officer and the Treasurer.

84. ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT OF UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND GRANT

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and Third Sector and Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery which sought agreement that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority should accept and act as the Lead Authority for the UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and to also agree that the Combined Authority should make onward grant awards to delivery partners.

The Metro Mayor stated that the Community Renewal Fund had been announced by the Chancellor and provided a bridging fund between European funds and the expected UK Shared Prosperity Fund. St. Helens Council was the only Local Authority in the City Region to be identified on the Government's priority list, but other parts of the city region were also able to bid. Liverpool City Region had been awarded just over £2.8m by the Government for projects in St. Helens, Halton and Liverpool and the report recommended the acceptance of this fund.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the UK Community Renewal Fund grant offer of £2,809,884 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) be formally accepted and it be agreed to act as the Accountable Body and Lead Authority for the Liverpool City Region;
- (ii) the onward grant award of this money to the delivery partners listed in section 3.3 be agreed; and
- (iii) delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning in consultation with the Combined Authority Treasurer and Monitoring Officer to complete the relevant Funding Agreement with DLUHC, to agree any necessary amendments to the project during the period of delivery and to ensure appropriate grant agreements were entered into with the delivery partners.

85. LCR COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT FUND PHASE II AND COP26

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and Third Sector and the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning which sought approval for a second phase of the Liverpool City Region Community Environment Fund, building on the success of the pilot which had benefited a range of local environment projects across the city region.

The Metro Mayor explained that he had visited several projects and had seen the impacts and benefits being delivered by the Fund and he hoped it was something which could continue to be built on

Councillor Janette Williamson, Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and Third Sector explained that the report presented to the Combined Authority sought approval for £600k for the second phase of the Liverpool City Region Community Environment Fund to be delivered in 2022, building on the success of the pilot which had benefited a range of local environment projects across the city region. The fund had been launched by the Combined Authority in 2020 to build on the success of the Liverpool City Region "Year of the Environment". The fund's aims were to support communities to engage in a range of environmental activities, to encourage long-term behaviour change and improve the environment in the city region.

Councillor Williamson explained that the Combined Authority would be working closely with local authority partners to ensure that the fund complemented and supplemented the good work that they were already doing. Furthermore, work had commenced to develop a business case for a long-term self-sustaining fund, leveraging in private sector and philanthropic funding.

Councillor David Baines, Portfolio Holder: Climate Emergency and Renewable Energy noted that the Community Environment Fund was just one excellent example of how the Liverpool City Region was leading the way in tackling climate change. This was demonstrated by the leading role the City Region played at the 26th International Conference of Parties in Glasgow, which he had attended along with the Metro Mayor and Mayor Joanne Anderson.

Councillor Baines explained that attendance at COP26 provided an important opportunity to showcase what the City Region was doing to tackle the climate emergency and it also provided the opportunity to develop closer links with other important North West, national and international stakeholders.

Councillor Baines also explained that as part of the official COP26 programme a North West Regional Roadshow had been held at the Heath, Runcorn attended by Councillor Gill Wood, the Deputy Portfolio Holder for which he thanked Councillor Wood for her hard work on this issue. Following a panel appearance with young climate activists, the Metro Mayor announced plans to establish a North West Youth Commission to give young people a voice to lobby government to deliver a lasting COP26 legacy.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the provision of funding of up to £600k (£500k grant, maximum £100k for delivery, monitoring and future fund planning), from the Strategic Investment Fund (“SIF”) be approved in support of the second phase of the LCR Community Environment Fund;
- (ii) delegated authority be granted to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery to award funding to projects and delegate programme delivery where required, in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and Combined Authority Treasurer, up to a maximum sum of £50k per project and in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Climate Partnership; and
- (iii) the update on COP 26 and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority activity at the Conference be noted.

86. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Executive Director Policy, Strategy and Government Relations and Portfolio Holder: Transport and Air Quality which presented a new Road Safety Strategy for the City Region which would guide the work of the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership.

Metro Mayor Rotheram explained that the Strategy was centred on the principle that all road users had the right to navigate the transport networks safely. Deaths and serious injuries on the road were preventable and were neither acceptable nor inevitable. Its objective was to reduce the number and severity of road traffic collisions, working to an overall Vision Zero target that by 2040 no-one would be killed or seriously injured on the roads in the Liverpool City Region.

Councillor Liam Robinson, Portfolio Holder: Transport and Air Quality advised that the Strategy aimed to bring forward a new Road Safety Strategy for the Liverpool City Region and adopted an ambitious aspiration of the Vision Zero approach that avoidable road deaths and injuries should be reduced to the absolute minimum and

he very much wanted to thank all the partners involved. Councillor Robinson particularly acknowledged the energy the Police and Crime Commissioner brought to adopting this ambitious approach.

In conclusion, Councillor Robinson advised that subject to Combined Authority approval, the next stage would be to develop a detailed delivery and action plan. The Plan would monitor those actions to ensure that they were taken forward and delivered. It was therefore proposed to produce an annual report so it could be monitored very closely.

Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner and Combined Authority Portfolio Holder Crime and Community Safety for Spurrell echoed the comments already made and emphasised the importance of the Strategy and therefore she had made it a priority for the Police. It was noted that this was not something that could be achieved alone it had to have a partnership approach. The strategy was ambitious, but she was of the opinion that all road deaths were preventable.

RESOLVED that the new Liverpool City Region Road Safety Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

87. LCR PRIORITY TRAINING SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills Equality and Diversity which sought approval to tender funded training provision for employers in order to support key training needs in the City Region.

Mayor Joanne Anderson, Portfolio Holder: Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity made the following comments:

- The report sought approval to launch a £2m tender for the fully funded training provision for Liverpool City Region employers to meet their priority training needs, and once complete, to progress the delivery through the successful provider.
- The LCR Skills & Apprenticeship Hub (SAH) currently managed the 'Be More' project which was funded through the European Social Fund (ESF) and Strategic Investment Fund. It supported employers and people in gaining increased skills, promoted apprenticeship careers and opportunities, and the development of an all age careers portal.
- A key strand of the project was to support LCR employers undertake training that would provide people with additional skills to support economic recovery and growth.
- Through discussions with Liverpool City Region businesses, and a survey undertaken by the Growth Platform in the Summer, a Priority Training Support Framework had been developed which captured key training needs of city region employers across four themes:
 - leadership and management,
 - soft skills (mental health awareness, teamwork, critical thinking),
 - business skills and
 - hospitality.

- Liverpool City Region employers would be able to access these courses for free. This work was a really important investment in priority training needs which would:
 - aid our economic recovery,
 - provide upskilling and training opportunities to people across the city region, and
 - support employers.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) it be noted that grant funding had been secured for this project and that training would be delivered in accordance with the funds available; and
- (ii) it be agreed that the successful training providers be appointed to the LCR Priority Training Support Framework, and delegated authority would be granted to the Interim Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery acting in conjunction with the Combined Authority Treasurer and Monitoring Officer.

88. ACCEPTANCE OF EU GRANT AND EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING PROGRAMMES

The Metro Mayor introduced a report which requested approval to accept an additional £2million of grant from the European Regional Development Fund to extend business support to our SME's until June 2023.

The three schemes detailed in the report had provided support to over 2,600 SME's in the Liverpool City Region since 2016 as well as developing a framework for inward investment to attract foreign owned SME's to the Liverpool City Region. The schemes were delivered in public/private consortia with the aim of stimulating economic growth in the Liverpool City Region through job creation and improved productivity in SME's.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the extensions to the end dates of the existing EU programmes listed in Table 1 be approved;
- (ii) the additional EU grant outlined in Table 2 for which the Combined Authority acted as the Accountable Body be formally accepted; and
- (iii) the revised grant awards to the partner agencies listed in Table 3 be agreed.

89. LCR BE MORE PORTAL REDEVELOPMENT

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Interim Executive Director – Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity which sought approval to secure a supplier to redevelop the Be More portal.

Mayor Joanne Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity made the following comments:

- This report sought approval to commission the redevelopment of the 'Be More' portal following a tender exercise. The portal currently brought together into one place:
 - all available apprenticeship opportunities in the city region,
 - promoted careers, vacancies,
 - managed both case studies and ambassador activity.
- In 2019, the Combined Authority submitted a bid to secure European Social Funding (ESF) to support the development and expansion of the Be More service.
- Following extensive stakeholder engagement and feedback on the site, a specification had been developed to improve the portal, making it more interactive, accessible and becoming a central resource for career materials.
- The redeveloped site would include detailed career information on key sectors across the Liverpool City Region, including details of roles available, not limited to apprenticeships, how individuals of all ages could access opportunities and attract a wider range of applicants from all sections of our communities. We would also work with our LA partners so that each area had the opportunity to add details of activity and opportunity specific to their area.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the progress made with the LCR Be More Portal Redevelopment in Section 3 of the report be noted; and
- (ii) delegated authority be granted to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and the Portfolio Holder for Education, Skills, Equality and Diversity to appoint the successful Tenderer at the conclusion of the procurement process.

90. CONSTITUTION MATTERS AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Jill Coule, Monitoring Officer, presented a report which sought approval firstly for the inclusion of a public question time for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, secondly to approve a number of nominations and thirdly to agree the revised staffing structure for the Combined Authority which would be included in the Constitution.

The report also provided a brief update on the work being undertaken in relation to the Freeport Business Case, Equalities Legislation, and the use of Emergency Powers by the Chief Executive.

Jill Coule also sought approval for delegations which had existed to the previous post holder of Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery be re-assigned to the newly created post of Executive Director of Investment and Delivery.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the inclusion of a Public Question Time for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 3 of the report and Appendix 2 be agreed;

- (ii) Councillor Gordon Friel be appointed as the Deputy Portfolio Holder (Transport and Air Quality) for 2021/22;
- (iii) Councillor Geoff Pearl, St Helens MBC be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (iv) Councillor Andrea Wall, Halton BC be appointed to the Transport Committee;
- (v) the updates provided on the Freeport Business Case, Equalities Legislation, and the exercise of Emergency Powers in paragraphs 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 be noted;
- (vi) the Senior Leadership Team Staffing Structure Chart for inclusion in the Constitution at Part 3 Annex C be agreed and following recent recruitment note that the definition of Chief and Deputy Chief Officer would be consistent with paragraph 5.6; and
- (vii) to agree that all delegations previously given to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery post now be transferred to the newly created post of Executive Director of Investment and Delivery.

91. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Metro Mayor noted that two questions had been submitted by Unlock Democracy, who had requested that they be read out on their behalf.

Jill Coule, Monitoring Officer, read out the two questions as follows:

Q1 – We request that all constituent Local Authorities are again reminded of the importance of this committee and suggest that the annual turnover of members be minimised as far as possible so that the training sessions, briefings and expertise can be maximised.

Q2 – We suggest that the possibility of introducing an attendance allowance for attendance at the whole meeting be considered as some recompense for undertaking this important function.

The Metro Mayor firstly thanked Unlock Democracy for the above questions and other questions they had submitted regarding the scrutiny function. He had stated on many occasions that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was of vital importance. Indeed, he demonstrated this by attending each Committee to provide an update on his most recent activities and to also answer questions the Committee members might have.

With regards to the first question, the nomination of Elected Members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was within the purview of the local authorities. He would ask officers to look across the practice of other Combined Authorities with regard to payment of allowances to Councillors attending their Overview and Scrutiny Committees and report back.

A written response would be provided to Unlock Democracy.

92. PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS

There were no petitions or statements received.

93. MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON:

The minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 March 2021 and 14 July 2021 were noted.

94. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON:

The minutes of the meetings of the Transport Committee held on 4 March 2021, 15 July 2021 and 16 September 2021 were noted.

95. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

96. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND - MARINE LAKE EVENTS CENTRE SOUTHPORT

The Combined Authority considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and Third Sector and the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery in respect of the Strategic Investment Fund – Marine Lake Events Centre, Southport.

RESOLVED – That

- (i) The provision of funding of up to £2,303,310 from the Strategic Investment Fund (“SIF”) in support of the pre-development phase of work, in respect of the redevelopment of the proposed Marine Lake Events Centre; and
- (ii) Delegated authority be granted to the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery to finalise negotiations of detailed funding terms and associated agreements in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and Combined Authority Treasurer.

97. LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT – LOAN UPDATE

The Combined Authority considered the report of the Interim Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery and the Portfolio Holder for Inclusive Economy and Third Sector which provided an update on the outstanding loan to Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) a further update be brought to the Combined Authority no later than May 2022 or earlier, should the financial position of the Liverpool Airport (Intermediate) No 3 Ltd materially change; and

- (iii) the Airports request to extend the availability of the remaining undrawn loan facility for a further 6 months to 30 September 2022 be approved.

Minutes 72 to 97 be received as a correct record on the 21st day of January 2022

Chairperson of the Combined Authority

(The meeting closed at 2.03 pm)