

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Chair and Members of the Combined Authority

Meeting: 19 September 2014

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority was established, a number of positive discussions have been taking place with neighbouring authorities including Warrington and West Lancashire, to explore opportunities for them to become associate members of the LCR Combined Authority. This report updates members on latest developments and asks for their approval for officers to progress formal arrangements for associate membership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:
- a) Notes the latest positive discussions for joint strategic working with neighbouring local authorities;
 - b) Agrees that, upon application, the Head of Paid Service, in consultation, with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Combined Authority, be given delegated powers to accept adjacent authority associate membership of the LCR Combined Authority on the terms referred to in this report; and
 - c) Requests the Monitoring Officer to prepare amendments to the Constitution to allow associate membership of the Combined Authority.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 During the consultation phase of the Liverpool City Region Strategic Governance Review in Summer 2013, a number of neighbouring authorities expressed an interest in becoming associate members of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 3.2 Since then, discussions have progressed about an associate membership model with those neighbouring authorities, with the intention of reporting progress into the Combined Authority September 2014 meeting.

- 3.3 Associate member status would offer a number of positive entitlements to the relevant partner, but clearly not all of those that come with full membership of the Combined Authority. The benefits of associate membership could include:
- Attendance at Combined Authority Board meetings by the Leader (or nominated substitute) **but without voting rights**;
 - Taking a shared strategic approach in the development of significant policy areas e.g. Rail North, Atlantic Gateway, future growth bids;
 - Joint working on issues such as employment and skills through involvement in relevant officer working groups;
 - Delivery of shared action plans e.g. Freight and Logistics; and
 - Shared communication and lobbying activities – for example on the issue of greater devolved powers
- 3.4 Discussions have taken place to develop opportunities for associate membership, where such an arrangement is considered mutually beneficial to the City Region and to the particular local authority in question.
- 3.5 These discussions reflect the value of greater co-operation on strategic issues or policy development that have cross border/wider travel to work area implications across the wider functional economic area. (See map set out in Appendix One).
- 3.6 A number of very positive discussions have also been taking place in relation to closer working across the wider region on strategic transport linkages.
- 3.7 In recognition of the strong work undertaken by the LEP, and the fact that economic interactions cross Local Authority boundaries, the LEP often engages with adjacent local authorities where there is common economic interest. For example, key sites in West Lancashire and Cheshire West and Chester that form part of the wider SUPERPORT base are included and promoted through the LEPs activities. West Lancashire Council, in recognition of the economic opportunities, became a Corporate Member of the LEP earlier this year.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

There are no additional costs to the Combined Authority arising from the recommendations in this report. Becoming an associate member of the Combined Authority would come at no cost to the applicant; although the applicant might choose to make contributions to joint work underway within the City Region or become a Corporate Member of the LEP.

4.2 Legal

The appropriate amendments to the Constitution will be prepared for consideration by the Combined Authority at a future meeting.

4.3 Human Resources

There are no direct issues arising from this report

4.4 Physical Assets

There are no direct issues arising from this report

4.5 Information Technology

There are no direct issues arising from this report

5. RISKS AND MITIGATION

5.1 No direct risks arising from this report

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no negative implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

7.1 Discussions with potential Associate Members will be continued and reported back to future meetings of the Combined Authority.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 This report outlines some of the positive reasons why associate membership would be mutually beneficial. It sets out several areas where greater strategic co-operation on policy and practical outcomes would help the Liverpool City Region to play a stronger role in the development of sub-regional and regional issues.

CLLR PHIL DAVIES
Chair of the Combined Authority

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Appendices:

Appendix One: map demonstrating the wider functional economic area

Background Documents:

None

Appendix 1: Liverpool City Combined Authority and neighbouring authorities

