

## LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

**PUBLICATION: 14 DECEMBER 2018**

**DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: 21 DECEMBER 2018**

**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, 14th December, 2018 the following Members were

P r e s e n t:

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

Mr A Hamid MBE, Councillor D Long, Councillor P Davies, Councillor I Maher, Councillor G Morgan, Councillor R Polhill, Rt Hon J Kennedy, Councillor L Robinson and Councillor T O'Neill (Associate Member).

### Deputy Portfolio Holders in attendance

Councillor G Wood: Energy & Renewables  
Councillor P Sinnott: Public Service Reform & Further Devolution  
Councillor C Thomas: Policy Resources Strategy & Delivery  
Councillor N Nicholas: Transport & Air Quality

### Mayoral Advisors in attendance

L Collins: Chair of Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board  
Reverend Canon Dr E Loudon: Community & Voluntary Sector

## **108. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Mayor J Anderson OBE, Councillor I Moran, Councillor T Hardy (Deputy Portfolio Holder: Housing and Spatial Planning), Councillor S Powell (Deputy Portfolio Holder: Culture, Tourism and Visitor Economy), Councillor L Robertson-Collins (Deputy Portfolio Holder: Education, Employment, Apprenticeships and Skills), Councillor E Spurrell (Deputy Portfolio Holder: Criminal Justice) Professor Dame J Beer (Mayoral Advisor: Higher Education), L Berger MP (Mayoral Advisor: Mental Health), K Farrell (Mayoral Advisor: Homelessness), G Ben-Tovim OBE (Mayoral Advisor: Natural Environment), B Spicer (Mayoral Advisor: Social Housing Growth) and S Wilde-McKeown (Mayoral Advisor: Visitor Economy).

## **109. MINUTE'S SILENCE**

Metro Mayor S Rotheram referred to the recent sad passing of Carole Hudson CBE, who was Chief Executive of St Helens Council from 1991 to 2015 and had been instrumental in the establishment of the Combined Authority.

The Combined Authority observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to Carole Hudson CBE.

## **110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was reported that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

## **111. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LCR COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2018**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority held on 16 November 2018 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Lynn Collins, Chair of FASJAB, in attendance for this meeting.

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

Metro Mayor S Rotheram provided the LCR Combined Authority with a summary of some of the key activities he had undertaken in recent weeks.

The Metro Mayor reported that preparations to ensure the City Region was ready for the outcome of the Brexit process were proceeding at a pace. He referred to the recent discussions with Ministers at the Department for Exiting the European Union where he had stressed to them how important the European Union was to the City Region as a major trading partner. He highlighted that over 60% of the City Region exports were with the European Union and some of the major industries, which included chemicals and automotive, had strong supply chains with France and Germany. The Metro Mayor went on to express his extreme concern that the Treasury's own analysis showed that of the current deals available, none of them would be positive for the City Region or the UK's economy.

The Metro Mayor explained that he and Asif Hamid MBE, Portfolio Holder: Business Growth and Brexit, had asked Combined Authority Officers, the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership and constituent Local Authorities to step up preparations with Central Government to ensure that the City Region was prepared for all eventualities following the outcome of Brexit. The Metro Mayor also stressed the importance of the City Region demonstrating on a global stage that it was open for business. To support this, the Combined Authority was informed that the Metro Mayor, Leaders and Mayor had committed to the City Region hosting an International Business Festival in 2020, following the success of the 2018 event. A tender exercise to identify an organisation to deliver the International Business Festival 2020 was currently being prepared and further details would be available in the New Year.

The Metro Mayor reported that the procurement process for the new Mersey Ferry had been posted this morning. He highlighted that it marked the start of the next chapter of the Mersey Ferries long and rich history and this process would provide a much needed upgrade to the current fleet and safeguard the Mersey Ferry for future generations as well as enhancing the customer experience.

The Metro Mayor explained that at a future meeting of the Combined Authority, Members would be asked to commit to the project's delivery and approve the preferred supplier following the completion of the procurement process for the Mersey Ferry. Furthermore, the Metro Mayor summarised a number of factors which would influence the procurement process, however, it was stressed that this process would be expedited as quickly as possible.

The Metro Mayor reflected on the third visit of the Giants 'Liverpool's Dream' to the City Region in which an independent report found that the event had attracted 1.3 million visitors to Liverpool and Wirral and generated £60.6 million for the local economies. With regards to the independent report, the Metro Mayor explained how it had validated the decision by the Combined Authority to invest £5million into the 2018 Cultural project and how it also underlined the great work undertaken by staff from Merseytravel, Liverpool City Council and Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council. Along with the hundreds of volunteers who had given up their time to make it such a special weekend for visitors.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram also advised the Combined Authority that he had recently visited the picket line at Cammell Lairds to support the workers, during the strike and was accompanied by Councillor P Davies, Leader of Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council. During this visit there had been an opportunity to speak with John Syvret CBE, the Chief Executive Officer of Cammell Lairds to discuss the future of the shipyard. Cammell Lairds had not served the planned H1 notices and had agreed to work with a City Region Task Group, chaired by Mayor J Anderson OBE to look at options to resolve the issues at Cammell Lairds. The Metro Mayor emphasised that collectively the City Region was doing all it could locally to find a solution and the Combined Authority would be working closely with the Task Group, however, the same commitment was also required from Central Government to help find a long-term sustainable solution to support Cammell Lairds.

In conclusion, the Metro Mayor reported that today marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since women first secured the right to vote. He highlighted a number of events which were taking place across the North West to commemorate this, which included the unveiling of statues of Emmeline Pankhurst in Manchester and Annie Kenny in Oldham. Furthermore, earlier in the year, following a campaign by the TUC Women's Committee, a blue plaque was unveiled to Jeanie Mole in Bold Street, Liverpool. Jeanie was a Trade Unionist and a women's rights campaigner.

### **113. MERSEY TIDAL PROJECT UPDATE AND OVERVIEW OF PHASE TWO (\*KEY DECISION)**

The LCR Combined Authority considered a report which provided an update on the progress of the Mersey Tidal project. The report also sought approval of a phase two budget which would resource the project and progress the development of a detailed Outline Business Case (OBC).

Councillor R Polhill, Portfolio Holder: Energy and Renewables, informed the LCR Combined Authority, that consultation had been undertaken with key stakeholders and regulators to inform the Outline Business Case. Furthermore, a procurement process to appoint external advisors to support the Mersey Tidal project was underway and a request for £850,000 was being sought to resource for the project. It was envisaged that the appointment of external advisors would take place in February 2019. The project would be following the HMT Green Book appraisal

process and further reports would be brought to future meetings of the LCR Combined Authority.

Councillor G Wood, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Energy and Renewables, sought clarity on the thinking which had gone into the Tidal project to understand and address its potential environmental impacts and benefits.

In response to Councillor G Wood's question, Councillor R Polhill informed the LCR Combined Authority that the reference case for the project focused on the potential for an offshore tidal lagoon, which would create one of the largest clean energy power plants. This volume of clean energy would have a transformational effect on the City Region's drive to reach zero net carbon by 2040. This would meet a large percentage of the City Region's energy demand for power, mobility, heat and industrial energy if linked into an energy system including offshore wind and hydrogen.

Councillor R Polhill explained how the Mersey Estuary and the Liverpool Bay were both recognised as areas of environmental significance and sensitivities. The tidal nature of both areas was delicate and interlinked and its protection was a key priority for the project.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram reflected upon the environmental considerations of the project in comparison to other energy projects such as fracking. In doing so he identified the tidal project as the only viable way to reach the carbon neutral targets of the Combined Authority by 2040.

Councillor G Wood asked whether the project had been reviewed by any local marine or energy projects and if so, what lessons could be learnt from this.

Councillor R Polhill reported that the City Region had developed a strong track record over recent years in creating systems which had allowed a large-scale infrastructure projects to be successfully delivered in the Mersey and Liverpool Bay. Over the past five years the Mersey Gateway bridge, Liverpool 2 container terminal and Burbo Bank windfarm had all demonstrated that it was possible to maintain and support the marine ecosystems during and after construction.

Councillor Polhill informed the LCR Combined Authority that the City Region was fortunate to have some of the world's leading research centres dedicated to the marine environment based in the City Region. With organisations such as the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) and the Institute of Sustainable Coasts and Oceans (ISCO) providing invaluable support to the project.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (i) the recent progress be noted and agree to receiving quarterly progress updates;
- (ii) a phase two project budget of £850,000 to fund both internal and external resources to support the project through formulation of an Outline Business Case around March 2020 be approved; and
- (iii) authority be delegated to the Director of Commercial Development and Investment to approve expenditure within the approved budget in relation to this project.

#### **114. SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT ERDF ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING (\*KEY DECISION)**

The LCR Combined Authority considered a report of the Director of Integrated Transport and the Portfolio Holder: Transport and Air Quality which sought approval to accept a total of £10,308,260, which comprised of £8,348,493 for green cycle and walk corridors and £1,959,767 for a low emission engine for the new Mersey Ferry.

Councillor L Robinson, Portfolio Holder: Transport and Air Quality, explained that the LCR Combined Authority had been awarded £10,308,260 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). In doing so he highlighted the numerous funding opportunities received from the European Union which had supported a number of City Region and transport network programmes, including the refurbishment and building of train stations across the City Region, the development of Queens Square bus station in Liverpool and a number of ferry assets.

Councillor L Robinson informed the LCR Combined Authority that the £8,348,493 would be invested in the LCR Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (SUD) to create green walking and cycling corridors across the City Region, which equated to 55.2 kilometers of improved cycle and walking paths and 49 hectare of green space. He explained that this would create a cycling super highway by 2021 enabling cyclists to ride from Speke to Southport, connecting Seacombe and Leasowe and providing improvements to St Helens. The emphasis of the programme was to embed cycling and walking opportunities across the transport network.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram acknowledged that as part of the process of programmes, such as SUD, an improved engagement with the cycling community was required.

Councillor R Polhil, welcomed the ERDF and the proposals within the SUD programme, particularly as the funding would enable the cycling network to be significantly improved across the City Region.

Councillor L Robinson highlighted that the design and delivery of the SUD programme would be shared with stakeholders at a forthcoming user group meeting. Furthermore, one of the priorities of the programme was to deliver a low carbon agenda by making cycling an attractive and sustainable mode of transport in the City Region.

Councillor D Long, welcomed the 6.3 kilometers of cycling and walking paths within St Helens, along with the additional green space it would provide. He highlighted how these improvements would also help to improve air quality across the City Region.

Rt Hon Jane Kennedy sought clarity on what provision would be made to improve road safety as a consequence of the SUD programme. She welcomed the report but stressed the importance of ensuring the appropriate safety measures were in place to reduce the number of incidents involving cyclists across the City Region.

Councillor L Robinson acknowledged that this was a challenge for the network. He explained that this programme supported a segregated cycling network and for it to be used by cyclists it had to reflect the needs of the cycling community.

Councillor G Morgan welcomed the report, in particular the connection from Prescott to Runcorn which would provide a safe opportunity to cycle through some

scenic parts of the City Region, as well as in the future, providing an accessible cycling route to the Shakespeare Theatre in Prescot.

Councillor P Davies welcomed the improved links the cycling and walking route would bring to Seacombe Ferry Terminal, particularly as the Ferry Terminal was to be the location of Eurkea!.

Councillor N Nicholas, Deputy Portfolio Holder: Transport and Air Quality, reflected upon the important health benefits the cycling and walking paths could bring to the City Region, by providing opportunities for people to be active which could reduce obesity and other health conditions.

In conclusion, Councillor L Robinson explained that the routes sought to encourage families to engage in cycling, which was supported by the cycling training programmes available in schools. He also noted that the programme supported many aspects of the 'Arrive Happy' campaign and explained how it provided the potential to integrate with the wider transport network and notably the new fleet of trains, which were arriving in 2020 to the City Region and would provide an accessible train service to cyclists.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (i) the successful award of £8,348,493 ERDF funding for the provision of cycling and walking infrastructure across the Liverpool City Region would will be made available through the ERDF claims process be noted;
- (ii) the funding be drawn on in combination with the match funding identified in paragraph 4.8 of the report to enable the provision of 55km of new and upgraded cycling and walking infrastructure and green infrastructure be approved;
- (iii) the successful award of £1,959,767 ERDF funding to allow the purchasing of low emission vessels which would utilise electric power in addition to diesel thus reducing fuel costs and emission levels be noted; and
- (iv) the funding be drawn on in combination with the match funding identified in paragraph 4.9 of the report to close the affordability funding gap between the purchase of hybrid vessels and associated infrastructure over the costs of a standard diesel be approved.

#### **115. APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

The LCR Combined Authority considered a report of the Monitoring Officer which sought approval of the appointment of Councillor Dot Johnson (Knowsley MBC) to replace Councillor Norman Keats (Knowsley MBC) on the Transport Committee.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Dot Johnson (Knowsley MBC) be appointed to the Transport Committee.

## **116. DRAFT COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2019-20**

The LCR Combined Authority considered the draft Committee timetable for 2019/20.

RESOLVED – That the draft Committee timetable for 2019/20 be approved.

## **117. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to submit questions which had been submitted in accordance with Meetings Standing Order No. 11.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram reported that one question had been received from Councillor T Crone. In this respect, Councillor T Crone, directed the following question to the LCR Combined Authority:-

"To keep global temperature increase to below two degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels, there must be an absolute global cap on the amount of CO2 that humanity can emit in the future. Has anyone calculated the limit on how much can be emitted by the Liverpool City Region to make its "fair" contribution to the Paris Agreement commitment of ensuring global temperatures increase by less than two degrees centigrade? If not will the Combined Authority commit to undertaking this analysis to ensure carbon reduction plans are made with robust science-led targets?"

The Metro Mayor thanked Councillor Crone for his question and invited Councillor R Polhill, Portfolio Holder: Energy and Renewables to provide a response.

Councillor R Polhill confirmed that tackling climate change and protecting our environment was a key priority for the Combined Authority.

He explained that the City Region was blessed with some unique natural assets, including the river and coastline, which provided the potential to be the cleanest and greenest city region in the country.

He reported that the UK government had agreed a national target to reduce carbon levels by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels as part of its commitment to tackle emissions from greenhouse gases. In addition to this, the Liverpool City Region's ambition was to be zero carbon by 2040.

He explained that there were many current work programmes being undertaken by the Combined Authority which would make a positive contribution to carbon reductions and tackling climate change. These included the Mersey Tidal Power commission, supporting wind and solar power, exploiting the potential of hydrogen engines and reducing emissions from buses and ferries.

Councillor Polhill also advised that the Combined Authority was looking at further projects which could reduce emissions as part of the Transforming Cities Fund.

In relation to the specific study mentioned, Councillor Polhill advised that he had asked Officers to examine the issue further and provide a fuller response to Councillor Crone within 10 working days.

Metro Mayor S Rotheram referred Councillor Crone to a number of documents in the City Region relating to Mersey Tidal power, Sustainable Urban

Development Fund, Rolling Stock improvements and Air Quality. Furthermore, work on solar energy, off shore wind farms, hydrogen capture and harnessing the power of the Mersey were further examples of work to reduce emissions in the City Region. In conclusion, he welcomed the excellent question from Councillor Crone and shared his environmental concerns, however, he acknowledged that they also had to be addressed on a national and global level.

In accordance with Meeting Standing Order No.11 Councillor Crone, asked the following supplementary question.

'I accept all that has been said, however it is possible to invest in the improvements in the rolling stock and the Tidal project as well as tackling other carbon issues. Which was why a carbon budget and climate breakdown were important as well as focusing on individual projects, the City Region should say what the rock bottom target is.'

#### **118. PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS**

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

#### **119. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2018**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Transport Committee held on 1 November 2018 were received and confirmed by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

#### **120. SEASONS GREETINGS**

As this was the last meeting of the LCR Combined Authority prior to the Festive Season, Metro Mayor S Rotheram took the opportunity to extend his best wishes to Members and officers for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Minutes 108 to 120 be received as a correct record on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

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Chairperson of the Combined Authority

(The meeting closed at 11.10 am)