



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

Private and Confidential: NO

Date: 5th April 2016

Combined Authority Update Report

Report Author: Councillor Stuart Hirst on behalf of Lancashire Leaders

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the LEP Board on progress of the Lancashire Combined Authority and devolution proposals.

Recommendations

The LEP Board is recommended to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report, and;
- (ii) To continue to support Lancashire Leaders in developing the Combined Authority and devolution proposals

Background

Over the last 18 months, Lancashire Leaders have been exploring a range of options for closer collaborative working across Lancashire on economic related matters. A Governance Review concluded that a Combined Authority for Lancashire offers the strongest governance model and provides the best opportunity for Lancashire to achieve its potential.

Following agreement at their respective council meetings Lancashire Leaders have been developing the Combined Authority and devolution proposals for Lancashire.

At this stage 14 of the 15 Lancashire Councils have agreed to continue developing Combined Authority proposals. Wyre have chosen to take no further part in Combined Authority discussions.

Lancashire Combined Authority

Earlier this year the LEP and Lancashire Leaders launched a public consultation exercise on the Combined Authority proposals.



Almost 2000 responses were received with 70% agreeing that a Combined Authority is right for Lancashire. The number of responses is relatively high for this type of consultation.

Throughout March and April Leaders are taking a further report to their respective decision making meetings recommending that their council become a constituent member of a Lancashire Combined Authority and move towards shadow form from July 2016. At this stage all councils who have had such meetings have agreed to these recommendations. These are – Rossendale, Pendle, Hyndburn, Lancashire County Council, South Ribble and Blackpool.

Officers are currently drafting a constitution for the Combined Authority and Leaders are working towards operating within the principles of the Scheme of Governance as a shadow Combined Authority from July 2016, subject of course to the remaining council decisions in the next few weeks. Formal proposals to form a combined authority would therefore be submitted to Government in May/June.

Devolution

In developing the Combined Authority, Lancashire Leaders have been considering devolution proposals which could enable greater control, power and influence over a range of programmes and funding delivered in Lancashire. These include devolved funding for strategic transport and development; influence and/or control over employment and skills programmes and delivery; housing; growth funding and aligning investment activity.

A Lancashire Leaders meeting is being held on 5th April to discuss the proposals further and a verbal update will therefore be given at the LEP meeting.