



**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED
AUTHORITY
(Not a Key Decision)**

Date of Decision: 26 / 2 / 16

**Executive Decision or 'Other Decision' to be
published?:** Yes

(See definition Appendix J at paragraph 4 & 5 – e-mail this record to Member Services for publication, unless it is exempt or contains confidential information or you are including it in a 'Members Update'.)

TITLE: CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP OF LIVERPOOL LEP

DECISION: That the Borough Council continue as Corporate Members of the Liverpool LEP for the 2016/17 financial year

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 In November 2013 Cabinet considered a report which informed of progress made in relation to the Liverpool City Region Superport (LCR Superport) project and on the costs and benefits of corporate membership of the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

1.2 It was agreed by Cabinet:

"That delegation be given to the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder:

(i) to enter into Corporate Membership, or another form of appropriate membership, of the Liverpool City Region LEP subject to appropriate budgetary provision being made and upon subsequent negotiations and to review this membership in subsequent years.

(ii) to enter in all other necessary documentation and agreements to facilitate the above arrangement".

1.3 The Council subsequently joined the Liverpool LEP as Corporate Member in April 2014. This has provided access to key events within the City Region, meetings with the Executive Directors of the LEP and the ability to articulate West Lancashire's key issues within the City Region. Skelmersdale sites have also been marketed as part of the Superport offer. The close relationship which we have developed with the LEP has also provided fruitful, with the Borough Council becoming an Associate member of the Combined Authority for the Liverpool City Region and has also recently joined the Housing and Spatial Planning Board. Through contact with the LEP, the Council also joined the Liverpool/Manchester stand at the MIPIM UK Conference.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

2.1 Following the first year membership was extended for the 2015/16 year and it was always envisaged that the Council would become members for a 3 year period, with funding being put aside for this. It is proposed, therefore, that the Council's membership be extended for the 2016/17 financial year. This will enable us to continue to push West Lancashire's agenda within the Liverpool City Region, in particular in relation to our employment sites and Superport; Skelmersdale Rail links and other key transport proposals; tourism initiatives; and also in relation to training and innovation initiatives and links with the education sector in the area. Our Economic Development Strategy stresses the importance of the Liverpool City Region for our economy and therefore it would be beneficial to continue to work with the Liverpool LEP and create links between the Liverpool LEP and the Lancashire LEP.

3.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED (IF ANY):

3.1 The option to not renew membership would mean that we would have to disengage from some of our important discussions with the City Region and this would not be beneficial for West Lancashire. This option has, therefore, been rejected. However, given our increasing engagement with the City Region through the Housing and Spatial Planning Board, it is possible we would not want to renew beyond the 2016/17 year and further extension of membership would need to be considered carefully.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of Corporate Membership for a year is £21,000. There is a budget in place for this (budget agreed for 3 years 2014-2017).

5.0 REASONS FOR DECISION

5.1 The reasons for the decision are as set out above.

6.0 COMMUNITY STRATEGY/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Corporate Membership should benefit the economy of West Lancashire, creating jobs and training opportunities for local people.


7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

8.0 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (For executive decisions and 'Other Decisions that require publishing)

8.1 There are no background documents (as defined in the 2012 or 2014 Regulations) in making this Decision.

**Decision taken by virtue of Minute 61 of Cabinet of 12 November 2013
by**

Name	Title	Signature	Date
Bob Livermore	Asst. Director Housing & Regeneration		23 rd February 2016

In consultation with:

Name	Title	Signature	Date
Cllr. Ian Moran	Leader / Portfolio Holder Regeneration & Estates		26/2/16.

NOTES

(Executive Decisions)

1. ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER (Only required where decisions taken in consultation with):

(Executive Decisions)

2. IF CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXISTS, DETAILS OF DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE:

('Other Decisions')

3. THE NAMES OF ANY COUNCILLOR WHO HAS DECLARED A CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO THE DECISION

3. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Exempt Information

In all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Appendices

None

