

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GOVERNANCE REVIEW

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Liverpool City Region is conducting a review of its' strategic governance. Based on the current available evidence, this review has recommended that the City Region would be better served in terms of its prospects for economic growth if it established a Combined Authority. The Combined Authority would provide strong governance, democratic accountability and an opportunity for powers and funding to be devolved from national Government.

Name	Dan Stephens – Chief Fire Officer
Organisation	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
Date	20/8/13
1. Does the evidence presented enable you to arrive at the conclusion that a Combined Authority for Liverpool City Region would improve: (a) The exercise of statutory functions relating to economic development, regeneration and transport in the area? (b) The effectiveness and efficiency of transport? (c) The economic conditions in the area? The evidence presented suggests that that would be the case.	
2. Do you think the draft Scheme proposed supports the economic rationale for Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral to come together to drive jobs and growth in the Liverpool City Region? Yes	
3. Can you support the establishment of a Combined Authority which will provide strategic leadership on economic development, transport, housing and employment and skills? Yes	

4. Based on the proposed membership of the Combined Authority, will it be able to provide strong strategic leadership to drive jobs and growth in the City Region?

Yes, when working in partnership with the LEP as proposed.

5. Do you feel the proposed links between the Combined Authority and the Local Enterprise Partnership would be strong enough? If not, how do you think this relationship should be further strengthened?

Co-opting the LEP Chair onto the Combined Authority as suggested, would be essential. But it is not clear from the documentation how much influence this would allow the LEP chair to have. Some clarity in this area would be useful.

6. Do you have any other comments on this proposal?

As a sub-regional organisation, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) sees benefits from the creation of a Combined Authority that would reach further than the strategic level. A single Combined Authority responsible for housing strategy for example, could enable a more cohesive approach to the support of vulnerable neighbourhoods, including the management of void housing, both of which present higher risks in relation to fire and antisocial behaviour.

The Combined Authority if approved, might wish to consider how it can effectively work with partner authorities like MFRA, and how MFRA can effectively contribute to supporting its agenda

Recording officer _____

Date _____

This form should be sent through to lcr.governance@knowsley.gov.uk by 12 noon on Friday 6 September 2013.