



## Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

Chair  
Vice Chairs  
Secretary  
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Alison McGovern MP  
Lord Alton of Liverpool, Lord Heseltine, Marie Rimmer MP  
Conor McGinn MP  
Steve Rotheram

### **Liverpool City Region APPG: LCR Strategic Investment Fund and the Future Programme of the APPG**

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2.30 TO 3.30PM, COMMITTEE ROOM 19**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair, Alison McGovern MP, welcomed all attendees at the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves. She also remarked that it was 'Welcome Women into Parliament Day'.

#### **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)**

Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, began his address to the meeting by saying the last SIF round had distributed £400m but no money returned from this investment – this time money will be invested in order to generate a future revenue stream that can then itself be reinvested. For details of initiatives and organisations that have benefitted from this year's allocation see <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/news/steve-rotheram-launches-transformational-%C2%A3500m-fund-for-the-liverpool-city-region>

Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram, specifically highlighted support for fast broadband and plans for a new smart ticket system which will replace Walrus - already the second most used card after oyster. He also said that he was determined to secure a fair share of money that has been allocated by the Government for the high street. He was also insistent that suppliers and businesses in LCR recognise trade unions and offer the real living wage.

He said the Metro Mayor arrangements offered the possibility to do things differently. One example of this is his efforts, in partnership with Liverpool Girl Geeks, to redress the gender imbalance which sees that 82% of data coders in the combined authority area are currently male.

He ended by saying that Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is only beginning to deliver – but it could do so much more. He highlighted that following the introduction of the apprenticeship levy there are only half the starts now compared to this time last year. Meanwhile the Government has a 'war chest' of £2billion. If LCRCA had its fair share of that it

would deliver on the ground increasing the number of apprenticeships – and the Government would also meet its target.

### **Questions and Contributions**

Louise Ellman MP: Who will manage SIF and how does it link with other city region investment?

Steve Rotheram (SR): It will be administered by the Combined Authority with an independent assessment panel. There were 140 bids – and we only progress things where working in partnership and if links to the local industrial strategy (LIS) and LCR growth priorities identified.

Dan Carden MP: how does SIF fit in with other funding providers?

SR: We have to stick within the parameters given but for example we are in dialogue with private investors such as Everton and do work in partnership. As Mayor I would also point out that I can borrow.

Marie Rimmer MP: Will the CA consider supporting schemes like roads? Public sector has sometimes to take risk to open up commercial investment opportunities.

SR: We have spent £24m on opening up Parkside. Will also look at smaller schemes – want to be spread sectorally as well as geographically. But important that we have moved from grant to regeneration. And agree: pump priming important role for public sector

Alison McGovern MP: what is the plan for and governance of the future economic plan for the city region and associated spending?

Frank Rogers (LRCCA CEX): There is an assurance framework for SIF – approved by both the Combined Authority and Government. There is also an investment plan again agreed by CA which informs decisions. The assessment panel verifies that scheme generates money and then can give approve for full consideration by CA or recommend goes back for more information. Ultimately the Combined Authority takes the decision. Regards the future LIS, its development is underway with a consultation project up and running. Currently we are pulling together all comments from stakeholders. This will then be a subject which could come back to this Group.

### **Future Programme of the APPG**

Steve Barwick of the Secretariat briefly presented paper outlining a potential future programme including meetings on the Local Industrial Strategy, Future Transport Investment; Affordable Housing, Brexit Impacts; Education, Skills and Apprenticeships; and Culture and Tourism.

Louise Ellman MP raised HS2 and her increasing concern that it would ever get to the north – costs are going up now at £80bn and there are louder voices, predominantly in the south, who

are opposing it. There would be a case for looking at this issue earlier than as proposed (March).

*Alison McGovern proposed, and it was agreed, that the APPG Secretariat work with Louise Ellman MP to arrange the first full meeting of the APPG in 2019 on future transport investment with TN and HS2 as speakers.*

George Haworth MP raised the issue of service cancellations that happen all the time. These are the fault of current service providers not Merseytravel. There have been 5 weeks when Sunday service from Liverpool to MAG has been cancelled

Steve Rotheram said that this is an issue he has raised time and again and that, as well as calling for the Transport Secretary to resign, it is time to consider operators having their franchises taken from them in the way Virgin were removed from ECML for not fulfilling their contractual obligations.

*It was agreed that the CEX of Northern Rail, TransPennine Express and Network Rail were invited to meetings with MPS and Alison McGovern MP said as a matter of urgency 1-2-1 she would seek meetings with the support of the Secretariat.*

George Haworth MP also raised the issue of the impact of Brexit on the city region economy. He had recently attended a roundtable in Knowsley and heard that the area stands to lose thousands of jobs so would like to see any Government – or other - analysis. He went onto say that he would table Parliamentary Questions on the subject.

Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor, raised the issue of skills and explained that the LCRCA will now hold the Adult Education Budget although this is a transition year and there is therefore less room for discretion. As remarked earlier the Combined Authority needs some of the apprenticeship levy money.

*It was suggested the proposed session on the Local Industrial strategy could pick up these issues and that this would be better – given its development timetable - to be held as the second meeting in 2019.*

Alison McGovern MP also raised the issue of the FE sector which is struggling and that it would be good to hear from them further at a meeting in 2019. *It was agreed meetings in 2019 would also be held on skills, education and apprenticeships as well as air quality, which was raised and affordable housing.*

### **Any other business**

The chair reported that Lord Hunt of the Wirral has offered to be an officer of the Group. This was unanimously agreed.

## **ATTENDEES**

Alison McGovern, MP and Chair  
Steve Rotehram, Metro Mayor and Associate Vice Chair  
Marie Rimmer, MP and Vice Chair  
Conor McGinn, MP and Secretary  
Dan Carden MP  
Mike Amesbury MP  
Louise Ellman MP  
George Haworth MP  
Victoria Merton, the Peel Group  
Celia Charlwood, EEF  
Charles Whitford, Manufacturing Technology Centre  
Frank Rogers, LRCCA  
Rich Durber, LRCCA  
Debbie Sherlock, LRCCA  
Steve Barwick, DevoConnect  
Gill Morris, DevoConnect