

To: City Executive Board

Date: 9th. October 2013

Report of: The Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: City Deal Bid

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To report the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the City Deal Bid.

Key decision: Yes

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Mills

Executive Lead Member: Councillor Price

Policy Framework:

Recommendation(s): For the City Executive Board to say if it agrees or disagrees with the following recommendation.

Recommendation 1

For the expected future reports (recommendation 4 in the report) to establish the principle of public scrutiny through Local Authority Scrutiny Committees and discuss how this might work.

Recommendation 2

In developing the ambitions and programmes within the “Skills “ heading for Joint Committee Members to ensure that education, training and apprenticeship programmes are accessible to all through local schools and other educational bodies with an emphasis on early advice and guidance to young people so they are “work ready” for real jobs. For the emphasis of these programmes to be in areas of highest deprivation.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee considered the outline of the City Deal Bid. They were supported in their debate by Councillor Price and David

Edwards the Committee would like to thank them for their time and advice.

2. The Committee was impressed and supportive of the ambition outlined within the bid and looked forward to seeing the details within the individual projects as they came forward. The Committee made 2 recommendations the first of which they wish to see resolved at the earliest opportunity.

Conclusions and Recommendation

3. The Scrutiny Committee noted the setting of a Joint Executive Committee to govern the City Deal and that planning powers would remain with the Local Authorities party to the deal. The scale and potential for the City Deal is significant and the Committee believe that accountability through scrutiny is essential. The Committee accepts that spending by the City Council will form part of the budget and will therefore be open to scrutiny but priorities, planning and the development of the Deal over time needs to be open to public accountability through scrutiny. The Committee would like this principle established from the beginning.

Recommendation 1

For the expected future reports (recommendation 4 in the report) to establish the principle of public scrutiny through Local Authority Scrutiny Committees and discuss how this might work.

4. The Committee discussed the outline proposals for skills and supported the importance placed on understanding the skills needed to support economic development and the commitment to education, training and apprenticeships to produce these skills. The Committee wished to see as many local people as possible able to benefit from this and emphasised the importance of developing partnerships between employers, local schools, colleges and careers services so that local young people get the right advice and encouragement to take advantage and be part of the emerging opportunities. This is essential to allow the economic development within the City Deal to deliver on some of the community development ambitions of the Council.

Recommendation 2

In developing the ambitions and programmes within the “Skills “ heading for Joint Committee Members to ensure that education, training and apprenticeship programmes are accessible to all through local schools and other educational bodies with an emphasis on early advice and guidance to young people so they are “work ready” for real jobs. For the emphasis of these programmes to be in areas of highest deprivation.

Comments from the Director and Board Member

5. These are helpful recommendations that I will happily take forward.

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List of background papers: None

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