



SUMMARY: Draft North Midlands Devolution Agreement

This is a summary of the draft North Midlands Devolution Agreement submitted to the government by all 19 Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire local authorities and the local enterprise partnership D2N2 in December 2015.

Following months of positive discussion with the government, the North Midlands Devolution Agreement sets out the final negotiating position agreed by all Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire council leaders for the proposed transfer of powers and funding from London.

The full draft document can be read at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/devolution

How Devolution Would Work

The proposed governance arrangements for the powers and funding transferred from central government to local councils are:

- **A single combined authority for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire** would be created comprising all 19 city, county, district and borough councils. A combined authority is a formal, legal body that enables councils to work more closely together in a structured way but it is not a merger or take-over of councils or a unitary council.
- **A single elected Mayor** for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire would be directly accountable to local electors for the area covered by the new combined authority. The Mayor would chair the combined authority, provide overall leadership, be responsible for any devolved powers and would eventually take on the role of the two existing Police and Crime Commissioners for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.
- **The Mayor would be required to consult the combined authority** (made up of one elected member from each of the 19 authorities) on his/her policies including budget proposals and key plans and strategies. A constitution will be developed for the combined authority which will set out the voting arrangements. The Mayor and the combined authority would be held to account by an independent Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The proposals for a Mayor and a combined authority are subject to **public consultation, final consent of each of the 19 councils, and parliamentary approval**. If the proposal goes ahead the first election for a Mayor will be held in May 2017.

The Proposed Devolved Powers

The key areas where local councils are proposing that control and funding is transferred from central government to the new Mayor and combined authority are:

- **Skills, apprenticeships and employment:** it is proposed to take local control of the 19+ adult skills budget, business support funding, apprenticeship grants and employment schemes currently administered by central government. This will create access to more apprenticeships, qualifications and training and careers advice that are relevant and responsive to the local jobs market. It is also proposed to consider how rural growth programmes could be devolved locally in the future, to develop a case for a 'free trade' or 'accelerated trade' zone linked to East Midlands airport with more efficient customs

procedures for goods manufactured within the zone, and to take joint control with the government for the export advice service locally.

- **Housing and planning:** it is proposed to maximise the use of surplus and brownfield land to build 77,000 more houses and create new employment opportunities through control of a £200m housing investment fund and by tighter coordination, streamlining and joint planning between the new combined authority and the Government. It is also proposed to set up publically owned and controlled local development corporations to ensure economic benefits are reinvested within the area.
- **Transport:** it is proposed that the Mayor of the new combined authority will have control of a single local transport budget and new powers devolved from central government. These powers would include influencing bus services to create a better coordinated transport system that provides access to employment opportunities and implementing an 'Oyster'-style smart ticketing system across the whole combined authority area. It is proposed the combined authority would work closely with the government to reduce the journey time by train to London to under 90 minutes and to maximise the benefits of the HS2 high speed rail line.

The Key Benefits of Devolved Powers

- At least £900m in an investment fund over 30 years that is locally controlled and spent
- 55,000 new private sector jobs
- 77,000 extra homes
- Control over £150m annual adult skills budgets
- £137m a year in consolidated transport funding
- £200m housing investment fund to support new housing and affordable homes
- Control of the regulation of bus services
- Single Oyster-style card ticketing
- Responsibility for support to help businesses grow and create more jobs
- Control of grants to deliver 110,000 more apprenticeships
- Control over government programmes to help people back into meaningful employment
- Midland Mainline Electrification – Nottingham and Derby in 90 minutes to London
- A major HS2 station and engineering depot and regeneration of the surrounding areas.

The 19 Councils

The North Midlands devolution bid includes all 19 local authorities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire: Amber Valley Borough Council, Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Bolsover District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Erewash Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, High Peak Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council and South Derbyshire District Council.

D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (promoting economic growth in Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) is a partner in the bid.