

COMBINED AUTHORITY AND DEVOLUTION DEAL

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update report for Members on the Combined Authority proposals and Devolution Deal.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Following public consultation, Newark and District Council, along with the other six districts in Nottinghamshire and the County and City Councils, approved the submission of a proposal to government to form a Combined Authority for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire which would support economic development, regeneration and improved transport across the area.
- 2.2 After this submission, a parallel conversation began with Government representatives to explore the potential for a devolution deal which would see significant powers and resources devolved by central government to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire area. This conversation has continued since the election of the new Government.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The Combined Authority submission is now with Government and will be the subject of a statutory consultation by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government before Parliamentary Orders are laid. It is anticipated that a new Combined Authority could be in place by April 2016.
- 3.2 A Devolution prospectus was produced to support an initial conversation with the previous Government in March 2015. Following the election, a series of conversations have taken place with civil servants and with Government Ministers to explore the potential for a major devolution deal. A deal would apply to the whole of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (the D2N2 area) to provide sufficient scale and to work in parallel with the Local enterprise partnership arrangements.
- 3.3 It is clear from discussions with Government that there will be around 6 to 8 major devolution deals which focus on most of the core cities around England. Additional deals may also apply to other areas but they may not have the same scope or range of responsibilities.
- 3.4 Our proposals include a wide range of powers grouped into themes: transport, skills & employment, enterprise, and the built environment. There is scope within the deal to include discussions about other public services, such as 'blue light' services to be within the Combined Authority. There are also some major infrastructure asks that have been identified. These include the A46 around Newark and improvements to the East Coast Mainline.

- 3.5 Nottingham's status as a core city enables the D2N2 area to be considered for a major devolution deal. However, such a deal would require new governance arrangements to be put in place. This would include a single D2N2 Combined Authority (rather than the current proposed separate Combined Authorities for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire) and a directly elected mayor who would hold the powers devolved from central government (but not existing local government powers).
- 3.6 Leaders of the nineteen Councils across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire recognise that there are many details about the devolution deal and governance arrangements which need to be developed before this comes before each of the nineteen councils for a decision later in the autumn. They agreed that we should indicate to government, the strength of our shared ambition for the area and our willingness to work with government to determine the detail to support a future decision.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 If a Devolution Deal is agreed, the equalities implications will be assessed at that point.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

- 5.1 The current proposals do not have specific financial implications for this Council. However, it is possible that, with greater control over a wider range of public services, a Combined Authority would be in a position to secure significant efficiencies and more effective use of public resources.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the progress with the Combined Authority submission and the devolution deal be noted and that further reports are brought to the Committee as the details are resolved.

Reason for Recommendation

To keep Members informed of the progress with the Combined Authority and any devolution deal.

Background Papers

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Combined Authority Governance Review
<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=55732&p=0>
Devolution for the D2N2 area – Executive Summary

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