

# Heart of the South West Joint Committee

Friday 31 January 2020

12.00 pm Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QQ



To: The Members of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk -23 January 2020

For further information about the meeting, please contact Scott Wooldridge, Democratic Services, Somerset County Council or 01823 357628

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)



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# AGENDA

Item Heart of the South West Joint Committee - 12.00 pm Friday 31 January 2020

## Guidance Notes

1 **Apologies for absence**

To be reported and recorded.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

3 **Minutes of previous HotSW Joint Committee Meeting** (Pages 7 - 14)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as a correct record.

4 **Public Question Time**

The Chair will allow members of the public to present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. Questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting will be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

5 **Chair's Update**

Cllr David Fothergill (Chair) to give a verbal update.

6 **Heart of the South West Local Industrial Strategy**

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive – Plymouth City Council and SRO to the Joint Committee) and David Ralph (HotSW LEP) to give a verbal update.

7 **Devolution - next steps** (Pages 15 - 38)

To consider the report

8 **Climate Emergency Update**

This will be a verbal update and presentation at the meeting.

9 **BROG Update**

To receive an update.

10 **LEP Update**

David Ralph (HotSW LEP) to give a verbal update including the Productivity Strategy Delivery Plan.

11 **Forward Plan and SRO Update**

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive – Plymouth City Council and SRO to the Joint

Item Heart of the South West Joint Committee - 12.00 pm Friday 31 January 2020  
Committee) to give a verbal update.

12 **Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**

Next Meeting is on Friday 27 March 2020 at 12 00 pm at Devon County Council  
County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter Devon EX2 4QQ.

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## Guidance notes for the meeting

### 1. Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect Minutes, reports, or the background papers for any item on the Agenda should contact Scott Wooldridge on Tel: (01823) 359500 or Email:

[SWooldridge@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:SWooldridge@somerset.gov.uk) They can also be accessed via the Somerset County council's website on [www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers)

### 2. Public Question Time

If you wish to speak, please contact Scott Wooldridge - by 12 noon the (working) day before the meeting.

At the Chair's invitation you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Committee's agenda – providing you have given the required notice. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Committee's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the Agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered.

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish.

If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely. If an item on the Agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred just because you cannot be present for the meeting. Remember that the amount of time you speak will normally be limited to two minutes.

### 3. Exclusion of Press & Public

If when considering an item on the Agenda, the Committee may consider it appropriate to pass a resolution under Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, as defined under the terms of the Act.

### 4. Recording of meetings.

The Committee supports the principles of openness and transparency. It allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public - providing this is done in a nondisruptive

manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording may take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to the Committee Administrator so that the relevant Chairman can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee held at the Sandy Park Conference Centre, Exeter at 11.45am, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**Attendance**

**Voting Members:**

Pamela Woods	Chair of Dartmoor National Park Authority
Cllr John Hart	Leader of Devon County Council
Cllr Ben Ingham	Leader of East Devon District Council
Cllr Philip Bialyk	Leader of Exeter City Council
Cllr Andrea Davis	Deputy Chair of Exmoor National Park Authority
Cllr Ros Wyke	Leader of Mendip District Council
Cllr Bob Deed	Leader of Mid Devon District Council
Cllr David Worden	Leader of North Devon District Council
Cllr Tudor Evans	Leader of Plymouth City Council
Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts	Leader of Somerset West & Taunton Council
Cllr Val Keitch	Leader of South Somerset District Council
Cllr Gordon Hook	Leader of Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Steve Darling	Leader of Torbay Council
Cllr Anna Dart	Leader of Torridge District Council
Cllr Neil Jory	Leader of West Devon Borough Council

**Substitutes present:**

Cllr Liz Leyshon	Assistant Portfolio Holder for Enterprise & Finance for Mendip District Council
Cllr Gill Slocombe	Deputy Leader of Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Alistair Dewhirst	Deputy Leader of Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Ken James	Deputy Leader of Torridge District Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	Deputy Leader for Somerset County Council
Cllr Malcolm Prowse	Deputy Leader of North Devon District Council

**Officers present:**

Phil Norrey	Chief Executive - Devon County Council
Alex Parmley	Chief Executive – South Somerset District Council
Pat Flaherty	Chief Executive - Somerset County Council
Scott Wooldridge	Monitoring Officer- Somerset County Council
Lindsey Tawse	Clerk - Somerset County Council
Tracey Lee	Chief Executive - Plymouth City Council and Senior Responsible Officer
Alison Ward	Regional Portfolio Manager - Plymouth City Council
Steve Parrock	Chief Executive - Torbay Council
Karime Hassan	Chief Executive - Exeter City Council
Stephen Walford	Chief Executive - Mid Devon District Council
Ken Miles	Head of Corporate and Community - North Devon Council

Phil Shears	Chief Executive - Teignbridge District Council
Jenny Wallace	Head of Paid Service - Torridge District Council
Stuart Brown	Chief Executive - Mendip District Council
Doug Bamsey	Corporate Director - Sedgemoor District Council
James Hassett	Chief Executive Designate - Somerset West & Taunton Council
David Ralph	Chief Executive - Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Suzanne Bond	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy/Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Michael Titchford	Head of Place - North Devon Council
Eifion Jones	Chief Operating Officer – Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Paul Johnson	Devon CCG
Sophie Hosking	Chief Executive – South Hams & West Devon Councils
Sue Rose	Policy Lead – Devon County Council
Nathanial Lucas	Senior Economic Development Office – Somerset County Council
Ian Gent	Peninsula Enterprise

**Apologies received from:**

David Fothergill	Leader of Somerset County Council
Duncan McGinty	Leader of Sedgemoor District Council
Steve Hindley	Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
David Hall	Cabinet Member, Economic Development, Planning & Community Infrastructure for Somerset County Council
Darren Callow	Deputy Leader of Torbay Council
Andrew Cooper	Dartmoor National Park Authority
Judy Pearce	Leader of South Hams District Council
Ian Collinson	Homes England

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.01 Details of councillors' appointments to local authorities were displayed in the meeting room and therefore there was no need to verbally declare these as personal interests. Cllr Gill Slocombe declared a personal interest as a Member of Bridgwater Town Council.

**3. Minutes**

3.01 The Minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on 12 July 2019 were confirmed and signed as correct.

**4. Public Question Time**

4.01 There were no public questions.



## **5. Chair's Update**

5.01 The Vice-Chair Cllr Evans reported on developments since the last Joint Committee meeting, referring to:

- This being an extraordinary time for the country
- There has been a new Prime Minister and Cabinet since we last met (Theresa May stepped down on 24 July 2019)
- Parliament is still dominated by Brexit
- Reflected in the agenda today – BROG – potential damage of a No Deal Brexit
- Through our own councils and collectively through the Joint Committee we need to maintain focus on the day-to-day business of running public services
- We need to make sure we keep the pressure on Government – e.g. Delivering Housing/ tackling the Climate Change agenda/driving Inclusive Growth
- There is still no announcement on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – which leads to uncertainty on how we can put together the funding for delivering the Productivity Strategy and LIS
- We have managed to secure some funding into the region since we last met
- I'm pleased to confirm that a number of areas got through to the next round of the High Streets Fund – Barnstaple, Bideford, Newton Abbot, Paignton, Yeovil, Taunton and Plymouth,
- We've also had some Town Deals announced through the Town Deals Fund for Bridgwater, Mendip and Torquay.

## **6. HotSW Joint Committee - Senior Responsible Officer's update and position statement**

6.01 The Joint Committee received a verbal report by Tracey Lee, Chief Executive, Plymouth City Council and Senior Responsible Officer.

6.02 Tracey Lee indicated that:

- As SRO she focuses on the 3 pillars of the partnership to ensure they are balanced: strategy; maintaining a dialogue with Government; Governance
- We have a single **strategy** – with the productivity strategy as our foundation - and a range of delivery channels like the Local Industrial Strategy; housing; transport; digital; skills, rural delivery etc.
- The Joint Committee is working hand in hand with the LEP on the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) which is an important delivery channel to increase productivity for our region and which is co-designed with and will be signed off by Government. We shouldn't underestimate what a

great achievement it is to be amongst the first few areas nationally on this.

- We maintain a **dialogue with Government** – we started a great conversation with senior MHCLG civil servants in May following our letter to the Secretary of State. Despite lots of changes in roles and other pressures, we're still developing those relationships. We're definitely regarded by Government as an area that's united and keen to work as a testbed. We'll continue to promote our asks with Ministers and to raise our profile. Evidence of this is that we're looking to sign off 2 letters to Ministers today on Housing and Brexit.
- We make sure our **Governance** is strong and appropriate so that we can work effectively together.
- We have a report on the agenda today to agree some changes to our arrangements and to agree a sustainable budget for the partnership going forward.
- We are all taking a report through all our councils that provides an update on the work of the Joint Committee and seeks agreement on important changes to our arrangements concerning the LIS and on expanding the scope of our work programme.
- At the last meeting, we asked for you're the Committee's views on the priorities for the Joint Committee's work programme going forward. Housing was clearly important and we have an update of the reconvened Housing Task Group later in the agenda.
- We're also looking at how we can work together on the Climate Change Emergency agenda which was another priority theme.
- A further theme was about 'left behind' urban, rural and coastal communities. At our last meeting we had a report about Coastal Communities. The conclusion was that further work was needed involving a wider group of councils. This could take the form of a workshop later in the autumn and we'll update you on that in due course.
- We've also had a discussion session today on inclusive growth and how we can mainstream that into our economic growth - and clearly Brexit is an ongoing work stream.
- At our November meeting we'll look at the progress we've made in delivering the Productivity Strategy since the Delivery Plan was signed off in March this year – and we'll be considering an investment framework that will sit alongside the Delivery Plan.

### **7. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Update**

7.01 At Cllr Evan's invitation, David Ralph, Chief Executive, HotSW LEP, gave a verbal update on the activities of the LEP since the last meeting, referring to successes and other local developments as follows:

- An AGM meeting will be held next week. All are welcome to attend and the focus will be on clean growth.
- The LEP is held to account by the government twice per year and judged on 3 parts: governance; delivery; strategic approach. No compliance issues have been identified; some governance changes are being recommended. Regarding delivery, 76% of funding is now committed placing the LEP in the 'good' category indicating average performance. A large piece of work is being completed to assess outcomes and a second impact assessment will be completed shortly. Spending needs to be completed by March 2021; 8 projects are not yet contracted. there is a need to demonstrate impact. With regard to strategy, the LEP is working with partners to produce a quarterly bulletin. This should be a useful tool which can be made available to the Committee. Big issues for business include access to labour and brexit.
- LEP Scrutiny is also carrying out a review of their performance.
- The LEP has been going through a process of recruitment and some changes will be made to the Board this autumn.
- The LEP has received good feedback regarding the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and is now moving to submit this formally.
- It is recognised that the LEP has a leading role to bring the region together.

## **8. Housing Task Force Update**

- 8.01 The Joint Committee considered a verbal update on the work of the Housing Task Force presented by Stephen Walford, Chief Executive, Mid Devon District Council.
- 8.02 The Committee were informed that the Housing Task Force had met in Yeovil in September and had elected Cllr Tudor Evans as Chair.
- 8.03 The Task Force discussed current issues including:
- The restructuring of Homes England and how this is likely to impact on housing authorities. This could become another centralisation of efforts and further communication should be received shortly.
  - Wanting to strengthen our voice on what constitutes affordable housing and concerns about the Right To Buy scheme.
  - The delivery of social housing
  - The availability of construction skills
- 8.04 During discussion, it was agreed to circulate membership of the Task Force to all Committee members.
- 8.05 RESOLVED

The Committee wrote to the Minister of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in April 2019 but has yet to receive a response. It was,

therefore, proposed to write again to the Minister and to include the issues and concerns raised above by the Task Force. The wording of the letter was circulated electronically to Committee members ahead of the meeting and agreed with no changes.

## **9. Brexit Opportunities & Resilience Group (BROG)**

9.01 The Joint Committee considered a verbal update presented by Phil Norrey, Chief Executive, Devon County Council.

9.02 The update included:

- All Members of the Committee have a place on the BROG Group.
- The Group focuses on identifying critical issues to enable the Committee to lobby and communicate effectively with the Government and on developing relationships to enable us to respond effectively.
- There is serious concern about the impact of a no deal brexit on agricultural sector. This is a cross-departmental issue and it was, therefore, proposed to send a letter to Michael Gove MP to ask for a cross-government response on this issue. The wording of the letter was circulated electronically to Committee members ahead of the meeting and agreed with no changes.

9.03 During discussion, it was agreed that the letter would be sent on Monday and that there was no reason why members could not make an additional local representation if they wished.

9.04 RESOLVED

“ Joint Committee and LEP are co-signatories to a letter, seen by all Joint Committee leaders and signed off by the Chair, to Michael Gove MP raising the issue of the cumulative impacts on our economy and the wellbeing of people in the event of a significant economic shock in the farming, food and drink sector and advises the Committee how it intends to take cross-department action to address the issues raised by the sector in the event of a No Deal outcome.”

## **10. HotSW Joint Committee Governance Report Update**

10.01 The Joint Committee considered a report presented by Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager – Governance & Risk Monitoring Officer, Somerset County Council.

10.02 The report referred to:

- Clarification that the earlier request received from the Devon & Somerset Associations of Local Councils (DALC & SALC) was for one single, non-voting representative on the Joint Committee.

- The need for the Committee to move to a more sustainable financial position by increasing constituent contributions for the 2020/21 budget. It was noted that representation had been received from the National Park Authorities outlining their difficulty in increasing their contribution and requesting that their contribution be capped at the current rate.
- The need to review the appointment of the Administering Authority to the Joint Committee as the current appointment is due for renewal in January 2020.
- A review of the proposed meeting dates for the Joint Committee in 2020.

#### 10.03 RESOLVED

(a) To co-opt a single joint representative of DALC/SALC as a non-voting member of the Joint Committee with immediate effect;

(b) To recommend to the Constituent Authorities

(i) that the Joint Committee budget contributions for 2020/21 should be set at the following levels:

- County Councils - £21,000
- Unitary Councils - £8,000
- District Councils and National Park Authorities - £2,800

(ii) to reappoint Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority to the Joint Committee for the period 22 January 2020 to 21 January 2022.

(c) agree the Committee's proposed meeting dates for 2020 as set out in paragraph 4.4.1 of the report.

### **11. Great South West Update**

11.01 The Joint Committee considered a verbal update presented by David Ralph (Chief Executive – HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership) and Steve Hindley (Chair of the HotSW Local Enterprise Board).

11.02 The update indicated that:

- Great South West (GSW) is a partnership between Dorset, HotSW and Cornwall LEP's focused on developing a regional programme.
- GSW has been invited to submit a proposition, championing the priorities of the area.
- There is an existing steering group for GSW including 8 authorities and administered by Cornwall Council.
- All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings have taken place with a purpose of giving a script of what we would like to see. The current language from Government is about 'levelling-up' and setting out what two or three things we want to do first.

- Very few MP are attending APPG's, especially Somerset MP's. There is currently no date set for the next APPG meeting but this will be circulated once known
- It is paramount to have a very clear proposition. The Northern Power House have a very clear proposition about connecting and improving links between northern cities to improve productivity. The Midlands also have a clear proposition about the area being the heart of manufacturing. The GSW proposition centralises on clean growth, particularly in rural areas and the next step is to submit our business case by Oct/Nov.

11.03 During discussion:

- Members questioned whether District Councils could be included within the membership. It was clarified that the existing steering group already has local authority membership. The suggestion will be considered, however, the difficulty is that neither Dorset or Cornwall have District Councils.
- Concern was expressed about an emerging north/south divide. We need to be clear that we are the South West, not the South and that we have very real need. We are often treated as a corridor and ignored as a region.

11.04 The Committee noted the update.

## **12 . Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 10.00am – venue to be confirmed.

## **13. Any Other Business**

There was no other urgent business.

(The meeting ended at 12.56 pm)

## HotSW Joint Committee

Meeting date – 31 January 2020

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### HotSW Joint Committee – Devolution: Next Steps

Lead Officer: Tracey Lee, Chief Executive, Plymouth City Council/HotSW Partnership SRO

Authors: Alison Ward, Plymouth City Council ; Scott Wooldridge, Somerset County Council, Sue Rose, Devon County Council and Eifion Jones, HotSW LEP

Contact: [alison.ward@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:alison.ward@plymouth.gov.uk)

### 1. Summary

- 1.1** Following an action from the November 2019 Joint Committee meeting and after the General Election in December, a letter and brochure were sent to the Prime Minister setting out the Heart of the South West's priorities in a 'Programme for Action'. This is a list of actions based on the commitments in our draft Local Industrial Strategy, the Productivity Strategy, Housing Task Force work and other pieces, which collectively form our key asks and messages to the new government.

The letter, jointly signed by the chairs of the Joint Committee and the Local Enterprise Partnership, together with the brochure, were circulated to members of the Joint Committee in early January and are attached again to this report as Appendix A.

The letter also expressed the wish 'to explore the potential for devolved powers and funding, taking on greater local control and demonstrating strong leadership on behalf of the region' and this report proposes some practical steps to take that forward.

- 1.2** Prior to the Joint Committee meeting in November 2019 a briefing note was circulated to members regarding Devolution, including background information on the current set of Devolution deals across England and their governance arrangements, together with a brief description of the 'Powerhouses'. This is also attached as Appendix B. This document was intended to set the scene for further informal discussions by the Joint Committee on the government's future Devolution agenda.
- 1.3** This report seeks to formally endorse our Programme for Action as set out in the brochure and to agree that it should form the basis for conversations with Ministers, MPs and civil servants. The report also seeks agreement to move forward to explore with government what a Devolution deal for the Heart of the South West might involve. The recommendations therefore include seeking agreement on a number of actions:
- (a) Endorsement of the brochure as the framework for ongoing conversations, locally and with government
  - (b) A commitment to re-engage with government around the Devolution

agenda and an offer to work with colleagues from the relevant government departments and the LGA to help shape and inform the government's future policy around Devolution (to be set out in the government's Devolution/Regions White Paper)

- (c) Development of a business case exploring the potential benefits, risks and costs to the Joint Committee of moving to a Combined Authority model of governance, if it is required to best position the Joint Committee to negotiate a Devolution deal with government, and bringing this report back to a future meeting.

Further documentation about the Committee is available on its website <http://www.hotswjointcommittee.org.uk/>

Agendas/papers for its formal meetings can be accessed on Somerset County Council's website

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=357>

## 2. Recommendations

The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- (a) **Endorse the 'Programme for Action' set out in the proposition for the Heart of the South West brochure that was sent to the Prime Minister in December 2019**
- (b) **Agree to re-engage with the government and work with civil servants and others to help shape and inform future policy around Devolution, including exploring alternative governance models for large, non-metropolitan areas like the Heart of the South West**
- (c) **Agree that HotSW officers should develop a business case exploring the potential benefits, risks and costs of moving to a Combined Authority, to be brought back for consideration at a future meeting**

## 3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1
- The new government set out their intentions around Devolution in the Queen's Speech in December 2019:- as a mechanism for giving more power to local areas to strengthen local decision-making; for levelling up powers across the country and addressing regional disparities; and as crucial building blocks within the larger economic Powerhouse structures. The Heart of the South West Joint Committee needs to develop a response to this national policy direction.
  - The Heart of the South West has previously pursued a Devolution deal with Government, including exploring the option to create a Combined Authority. It is important that the Joint Committee reviews options at this point to ensure that our area is not left behind.
  - Our jointly produced Productivity Strategy and draft Local Industrial Strategy form a solid basis on which to negotiate our priorities with government. The key elements are summarised in the Programme for Action brochure. We therefore have a good foundation from which to



consider the next steps of the HotSW journey with government in order to deliver on the ambitions in our strategies.

## 4. Background

### 4.1 Establishment of the Joint Committee

4.1.1 The HotSW partnership of local authorities and the LEP came together in late 2015 to develop a statement of intent that was submitted to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, in response to his 'Fixing the Foundations' report on UK productivity. The partnership went on to submit a Devolution prospectus to government in February 2016, and considered creating a Combined Authority. During the summer of 2016, constituent authorities each took a report through their council seeking agreement 'in principle' to establish a Combined Authority (without a directly elected mayor initially), as part of negotiating a Heart of the South West Devolution deal with government.

Although the activity around a Devolution deal for the Heart of the South West generated a number of high-level conversations with Ministers and civil servants, the EU Referendum in June 2016 meant that Devolution was no longer a priority for government. In the autumn of 2016 the partnership agreed to pause the work on Devolution and instead focus on strengthening local joint working, and on developing the Productivity Strategy. It was also agreed to formalise the partnership by creating a Joint Committee, recognising that this would be a useful precursor to a Combined Authority should the need or opportunity arise in the future. The Productivity Strategy was formally endorsed at the inaugural meeting of the Heart of the South West Joint Committee in March 2018.

4.1.2 The potential benefits of establishing a Combined Authority would be explored in the business case, however from previous work the differences are summarised in the table below.

Criteria	Joint Committee	Combined Authority
Process and timeframe	By agreement through local councils - timeframe locally determined	Requires agreement by the SoS and the consent of local councils, and a Parliamentary Order Can take 12 -18 months to establish
Status and powers	Non-statutory No new powers Joint decision-making on issues identified locally as appropriate	Statutory body Original scope was economic development, transport and regeneration. Now have access to a wide range of powers that can be negotiated with Government
Minimum criteria to set up, and required roles	Locally agreed purpose and scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must improve the delivery of its functions in the area it covers</li> <li>• Must help to secure effective and convenient local government</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must reflect local identity and the interests of local communities</li> <li>• Requires identified Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer roles to be covered</li> </ul>
Funding	Minimal cost - to cover basic secretariat functions and a work programme as agreed	Levy on all members to meet the costs of statutory roles - in addition to covering the cost of any functions delivered by the CA
Membership	Local authorities and others as non-voting members	Only local authorities are 'constituent members' - other organisations can subsequently become 'non-constituent' members or associate members, including those outside the CA area

The key difference between a Combined Authority and Joint Committee is that the Combined Authority is a governance structure established through statute that provides a greater level of visibility and robustness for government to engage with, and would appear to be the government's preferred model, particularly in terms of Devolution deals.

4.1.3 It is vital that all stakeholders differentiate between creating a Combined Authority and Local Government Reorganisation. These are very different processes.

## 4.2 Queen's Speech December 2019

4.2.1 Following the general election in December 2019, the new government confirmed in its December 2019 Queen's Speech, the intentions of the previous administration - to publish a White Paper on Devolution. Although the scope and approach for the White Paper are not yet known, there is an expectation from previous references that it will involve strengthened local governance arrangements, including more Combined Authorities and more directly elected mayors across the country. The notes accompanying the Queen's Speech stated: 'These increased powers and funding will mean more local democratic responsibility and accountability.'

4.2.2 Given the Heart of the South West's achievements to date in terms of being one of only a handful of areas to have a draft Local Industrial Strategy currently awaiting sign off from government, we need to ensure that we do not lose ground, and that we agree a united stance on this agenda that will enable us to quickly enter into a dialogue with government.

4.2.3 It is still not clear what the new government's approach will be to allocating funding for investment or the replacement for EU funding, however it is clear that they consider areas with integrated leadership across functional economic areas and stronger governance arrangements to be best placed for delivering higher rates of economic growth and increased productivity.

Furthermore the indications are that funding streams like Stronger Towns and High Streets funding will be part of a broad package of funding that will be targeted at areas to assist with 'levelling up' disparities across the country, and this is likely to be channelled through integrated local governance arrangements.

4.2.4 The government has also committed to supporting the Northern Powerhouse, Midlands Engine and Western Gateway models. The Western Gateway was the latest 'powerhouse' area to be announced just before the election and covers a large geography along the M4 including the Bristol, Cardiff and Swansea city regions. The 'powerhouses' encompass multiple Combined Authority (and LEP) areas as well as individual councils. They are a way for government departments to engage across a larger geography, to drive economic growth; to channel investment; and to provide a clear brand to attract inward investment. They often benefit from substantial targeted funding (e.g. 50% of the whole Transforming Cities Fund budget went to the Powerhouse areas) and they are jointly led, and sponsored by government.

4.2.5 Councils, the LEPs, businesses and universities across Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset have been working together for several years to develop a Great South West (peninsula) proposition to government, following an invitation from the Minister, Jake Berry MP, and more recently from the Prime Minister. The prospectus was [published online](#) and presented to government on 22 January. It sets out a number of common themes across the peninsula where we are already working together and could go further with government support (including agriculture, environmental technologies, marine-based industries, and tourism). The prospectus sets out the case for the South West peninsula to be a 'powerhouse' type brand in its own right. The content is closely aligned with the HotSW Productivity Strategy and draft Local Industrial Strategy and picks up the themes where we already work across boundaries.

### 4.3 **Communications and Engagement**

4.3.1 The key to success for much of this agenda, and particularly going forward into any Devolution deal negotiations, will be ensuring that local MPs and partners are well briefed and supportive. The Programme for Action document prepared just after the election is intended to be used in discussions with MPs and Ministers to provide a quick overview of the key Heart of the South West priorities.

4.3.2 The Joint Committee has expressed a desire to improve visibility in Westminster and to step up our public affairs activity. Following the strong support from constituencies in the North and the Midlands for the current government and an explicit focus on these areas going forward, it is even more important to ensure that our voice is heard. We also need to ensure that our communications are clear and that we are able to easily explain the relationship between the different South West geographies and initiatives - as amplifications of the same set of messages.

- 4.3.3 Further work is underway to explore setting up an event for HotSW MPs to promote a better understanding of the collaborative working between the Joint Committee and Local Enterprise Partnership, and particularly to secure their active support for the priorities in the Programme for Action, the majority of which are commitments in the draft Local Industrial Strategy.

## **5. Equalities Implications**

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with the recommendations.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are none directly related to this report, however should there be further work required beyond the development of the business case, a consideration of future resources from the Joint Committee budget will be required.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report. The business case referred to in recommendation (c) will cover the potential legal implications of any Devolution deal or alternative governance arrangements.

## **8. Business Risk**

- 8.1 The key risk is that the progress and achievements the Joint Committee has made to date may be negated if we fail to develop a response to the emerging government policy direction on Devolution.

## **9. Other Implications: Health and Well-being; Health and Safety; Sustainability; Community Safety; Privacy**

- 9.1 There are no other implications

## **10. Background papers**

- 10.1 [House of Commons Library - Combined Authorities - December 2019](#)

**APPENDIX A - Letter to Prime Minister and Brochure**

**APPENDIX B - Background paper on Devolution – circulated in November 2019**

Dear Prime Minister,

## **Rebalancing the UK's economy – a proposition from the Heart of the South West**

The Heart of the South West is a diverse and vibrant part of the UK with a population of over 1.8 million and an economy worth £35bn – bigger than Birmingham and Liverpool. We are well known for our stunning countryside and coastline but we also have world-class businesses and institutions that are leading the way in clean growth industries and technologies.

Our area is ambitious and has a lot to offer. We have a strong track record of working together to deliver results, but in order to reach our full potential we need government backing.

Despite having some of the highest employment rates in Europe, our productivity is amongst the worst in England due to low wage levels, poor social mobility and a lack of connectivity - both digital and physical.

**If our productivity were at the UK average the economy would be £5 billion more per year. That would translate into every household being £11,500 better off each year. The prize is substantial - for families, communities - and for the Exchequer.**

The Heart of the South West partnership, comprising Council Leaders, the LEP, universities and businesses have worked closely over the last five years to build strong relationships. We have created a shared long-term vision that is clear and deliverable, and a plan for action that will:

- **Create the UK's first net zero carbon economy**
- **Close the productivity gap with the rest of the UK and grow the economy by £5 billion per year**
- **Ensure that inclusive growth is a strategic priority**

We have identified nine areas of focus under our programme for action. These are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transformational opportunities</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Connectivity and strategic infrastructure</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Workforce</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prosperity</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Innovation</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enterprise</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Employment sites</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funding</b></li> </ul>

We are absolutely committed to delivering this programme, working with partners in the region and nationally where we have common objectives. However, we recognise that we cannot fully achieve this without government support. We want to work closely with the new government to explore the potential for devolved powers and funding, taking on greater local control and demonstrating strong leadership on behalf of the region

We are determined to unlock the economic potential of our area through clean and inclusive growth, raising the prosperity of our communities and thereby helping to rebalance the whole of the UK's economy.

We would welcome an early meeting with you, your Ministers and senior officials to discuss how we can forge a new relationship to jointly deliver on this bold ambition.

Kind regards,

Karl Tucker  
Chair for Heart of the South West  
Local Enterprise Partnership

David Fothergill  
Chair of Heart of the South West  
Joint Committee

# Rebalancing the UK's economy

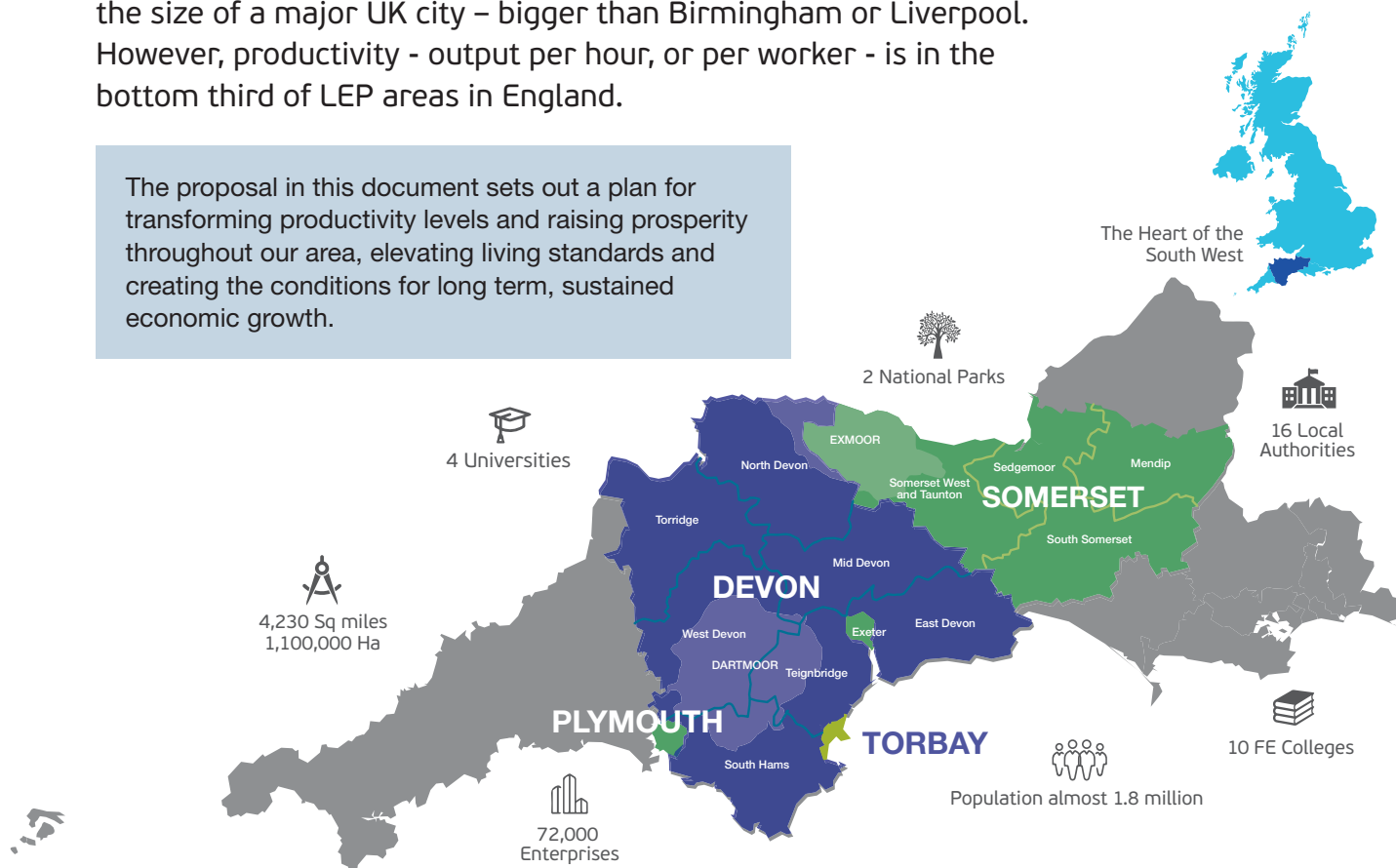
a proposition from the  
Heart of the South West

HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST  
PARTNERSHIP

# The Heart of the South West is a hidden asset for the UK

Renowned for our outstanding natural capital and tourism – yet the area has so much more to offer. An economy of £35 billion, 1.8 million people and 72,000 businesses means our economy is the size of a major UK city – bigger than Birmingham or Liverpool. However, productivity - output per hour, or per worker - is in the bottom third of LEP areas in England.

The proposal in this document sets out a plan for transforming productivity levels and raising prosperity throughout our area, elevating living standards and creating the conditions for long term, sustained economic growth.



## Unleashing Our Potential: A Programme for Action

Over the last five years, Council Leaders, the LEP, universities, and businesses across the Heart of the South West have worked together to agree a long-term Productivity Strategy – ‘Stepping up to the Challenge’ and a Local Industrial Strategy focused on our distinctive industrial sector strengths. These confirm our unity of purpose to transform the economy through **Clean and Inclusive Growth** by:

- Creating the UK’s first net zero carbon economy
- Closing the productivity gap with the rest of the UK and growing the economy by £5 billion per year
- Ensuring that inclusive growth is a strategic priority

This will have tangible benefits for our businesses and our residents.

“ Closing the productivity gap could translate into every household in the Heart of the SW being £11,500 better off every year.

The prize is substantial - for families, communities - and for the Exchequer.

We know that by doing this it will change our economic trajectory and create a different type of future for our area. We have world-class businesses aligned to cutting edge innovation and we have identified a set of actions that will help those businesses to flourish; from ensuring they have access to a workforce with the right skills for the future - to transport and digital systems that connect people to opportunities - and innovative ecosystems that help turn ideas into commercial return.

By investing in these things, all of our businesses and communities will benefit.

We have a credible and exciting proposition - and we invite government to join us...



Our **Programme for Action** focusses on driving growth through actions that meet low carbon and inclusive growth objectives, based on these nine key areas:



## 1. TRANSFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Fundamental to delivering our potential is unlocking the area's transformational opportunities in low carbon energy generation, data analytics and high tech engineering.

**We will:**

- increase the critical mass of businesses operating within or supplying to the energy sector, in order to create a globally recognised cluster by 2038
- pioneer clean growth by harnessing datasets and the application of AI to become a globally recognised centre of excellence by 2038
- increase the value and productivity of the engineering and high value manufacturing sector by 2038 through developing clean technologies and solutions

**We need government to support:**

- exploitation of the £50 billion opportunity in the civil and defence nuclear sector, building relationships with Tier 1 companies and openings for local supply chain businesses, and enabling development of the necessary skills. Alongside this, developing the potential global market for the rapid growth of floating offshore wind farms where we have a significant supply chain opportunity
- the ability to leverage the opportunities provided through the Met Office in Exeter and the UK Hydrographic Office in Taunton to drive a transformation in the use of data and autonomy across all sectors. Data analytics supports growth of the multi-billion pound global environmental intelligence and marine geospatial data markets, reduces emissions from agriculture, and presents opportunities in markets to promote healthy ageing
- national recognition of our existing strengths in sustainable aviation and industrial digitisation, and investment in these areas to strengthen our position in global markets. Designation as a national centre for excellence in marine autonomy
- the Great South West – 'Energising Our Future' - a 'powerhouse brand' partnership with Cornwall and Dorset to deliver England's net zero carbon region and a net zero clean growth cluster along the M5/A38 corridor



## 2. CONNECTIVITY AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

We will future-proof our infrastructure to support long-term prosperity and clean and inclusive growth.

**We need government to support:**

- funding for Peninsula Transport to continue their work in coordinating a high level transport strategy, identifying key investment requirements and championing the decarbonisation of the transport infrastructure
- the accelerated roll out of full fibre broadband; alternative solutions for deeply rural areas; and improved mobile coverage including 4G and 5G
- the prioritisation of upgrades to the energy transmission and distribution grid to be able to capitalise on the area's vast renewable energy resources, particularly given the huge potential market opportunity in offshore renewables, enabling us to become a net exporter of low-carbon energy to transform the UK's own carbon footprint



### 3. HOUSING

We will deliver a locally led housing programme, focussing on high quality, energy efficient homes that are affordable for local people.

**We need government to support:**

- a programme that drives and enables housing growth at the right pace and scale across our area
- a focus on building low carbon homes, employing innovative construction techniques and including a programme to retrofit energy efficient measures to existing homes
- resources for a strategic housing delivery team to accelerate delivery across the large opportunity sites within the Heart of the South West
- a major infrastructure delivery fund to unlock growth where large scale capital investment is required
- a small schemes liquidity fund to bring forward stalled sites and reinvest on a recoverable basis; accelerating small and medium-scale sites in parallel with our focus on strategic developments



### 4. WORKFORCE

We will ensure we develop a skilled workforce through the HotSW Skills Escalator, securing the opportunities for the future, including a focus on digital and skills for clean growth technologies.

**We need government to support:**

- localised funding and powers to fully implement the Skills Escalator approach
- improved alignment between national and local Careers Information, Advice and Guidance programmes for all ages
- our Inclusive Growth Expert Panel which will undertake a 'deep dive' into the issues around worklessness, social mobility and lack of opportunity, and therefore aspirations



### 5. PROSPERITY

We will lift economic performance in all areas, including underperforming towns, peripheral areas and coastal communities, to grow the economy and minimise the gap between the best and worst performing areas.

**We need government to support:**

- the implementation of the recommendations from our emerging Coastal Communities Productivity Plan
- the implementation of the recommendations of the South West Rural Productivity Commission through a negotiated comprehensive rural programme and implementing carbon net gain pilots
- increased targeted investment into our 'left-behind' places, to revitalise our high streets, market towns and smaller communities



## 6. INNOVATION

We will strengthen the area's capacity for innovation, commercialisation and the application of new ideas by enhancing our innovation ecosystem and achieving the national level of 2.4% of our GDP invested in R&D.

**We need government to support:**

- our existing partnership with Innovate UK to ensure more businesses can access this funding, and to expand the role our universities play in driving innovation
- our Strength in Places submissions in nuclear energy, floating offshore wind and the Digital Accelerator
- increased collaboration between universities, including the GW4 group



## 7. ENTERPRISE

We will create an environment that stimulates business investment and competitiveness, making it one of the best areas in the UK to start and grow a business.

**We need government to support:**

- our aims to create a 'best in class', comprehensive business support service that significantly improves our levels of business start-up and scale-up
- engagement with DIT to broker an agreement to help us promote our area to increase inward investment and boost our export potential



## 8. EMPLOYMENT SITES

We will promote a place-based approach to growth that ensures we have the necessary infrastructure for our businesses to thrive and to attract new businesses to locate

**We need government to support:**

- our work on exploring flexible financing and investment models for local areas to overcome development challenges, including reviewing the PWLB loan rate



## 9. FUNDING

We will seek to deliver this programme through a locally controlled investment programme.

Economic growth has been supported by both UK domestic and EU funding, addressing market failures. With the current EU programmes finishing in December 2020 and UK domestic Growth Deal funding finishing in March 2021, clarity on the future is essential.

**Our key messages to government are that the new funding must:**

- be based on productivity measures and be allocated on need rather than competitively, which risks the harder hit regions not securing the funding they need
- be set at a level which accounts for historic levels of both EU and domestic funding. EU funds include structural funds, CAP, innovation and research and development
- be administered locally and flexibly by areas, which must demonstrate robust governance and partnership. This will allow both local needs and opportunities to be targeted
- give certainty over the medium term; economic development has long time horizons and longevity of funding is essential to address long-standing structural challenges in the economy

## Heart of the South West Joint Committee

### Briefing Note – Devolution in England

#### National Context

In the Queen's Speech in October, the Government announced that it would bring forward a long-awaited Devolution White Paper. The Government's pledge was to increase the number of devolution deals and directly elected (Metro) mayors, in addition to 'levelling' up the powers between mayoral combined authorities.

The devolution of powers and funding to local areas started with the first Greater Manchester Devolution Deal in November 2014. The pattern continued over the next few years with deals being negotiated with groups of local authorities that agreed to form a combined authority and to have a directly elected mayor. Cornwall secured a devolution deal in 2015 without these prerequisites, however the scale of powers devolved and nature of the deal is very different from the others. London also has a different version of devolved powers and a directly elected mayor and is generally considered to be a special case. There are therefore 8 mayoral combined authorities across England that have devolution deals.

There are two more combined authorities that have not yet secured devolution deals. West Yorkshire (Leeds City Region) made up of 11 councils rejected a deal with Government on the basis that it failed to match their expectations. They are now pursuing a single 'One Yorkshire' deal which would cover a larger geography and for which there is now general support from the main political parties. This would be established after the end of the first term of the Sheffield City Region metro mayor in 2022. Further details are in Appendix 2.

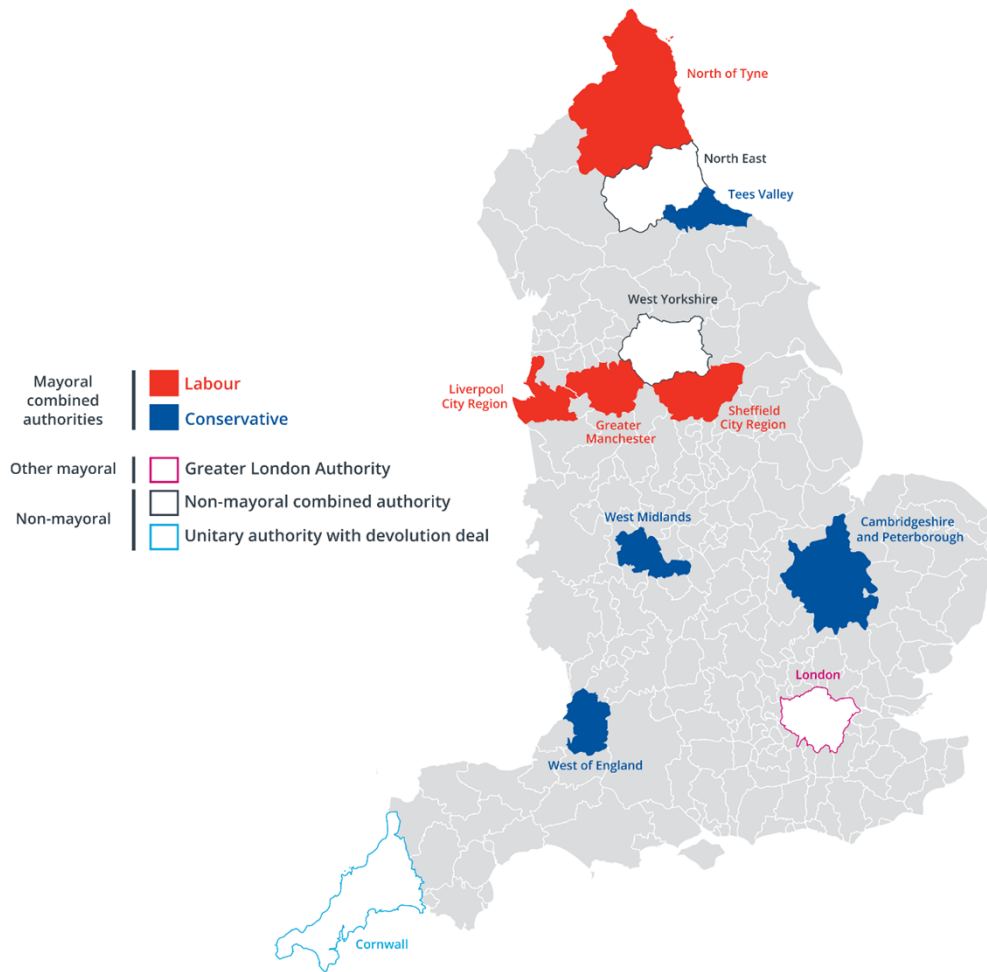
The North East Combined Authority covers County Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland councils. Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside councils were originally part of the same group but broke away following failed negotiations on a devolution deal in late 2016. They went on to create a separate combined authority and to successfully negotiate a devolution deal with Government in late 2017 (North of the Tyne).

Following the announcement of the general election, the main political parties have now published their manifestos. The sections relating to devolution to the regions are reproduced in Appendix 1. Each of the main parties appear committed to continuing to devolve powers and decentralise decision-making to a greater or lesser extent.

With this in mind, and as preparation for a fuller discussion at the January Joint Committee meeting, this briefing note provides a summary of the state of devolution deals and combined authorities across England. Further information can be found [here](#). A map showing the mayoral combined authorities with devolution deals is below, together with a table comparing the powers and funding.

Current state of English devolution, by mayoral arrangement and metro mayor party

IfG

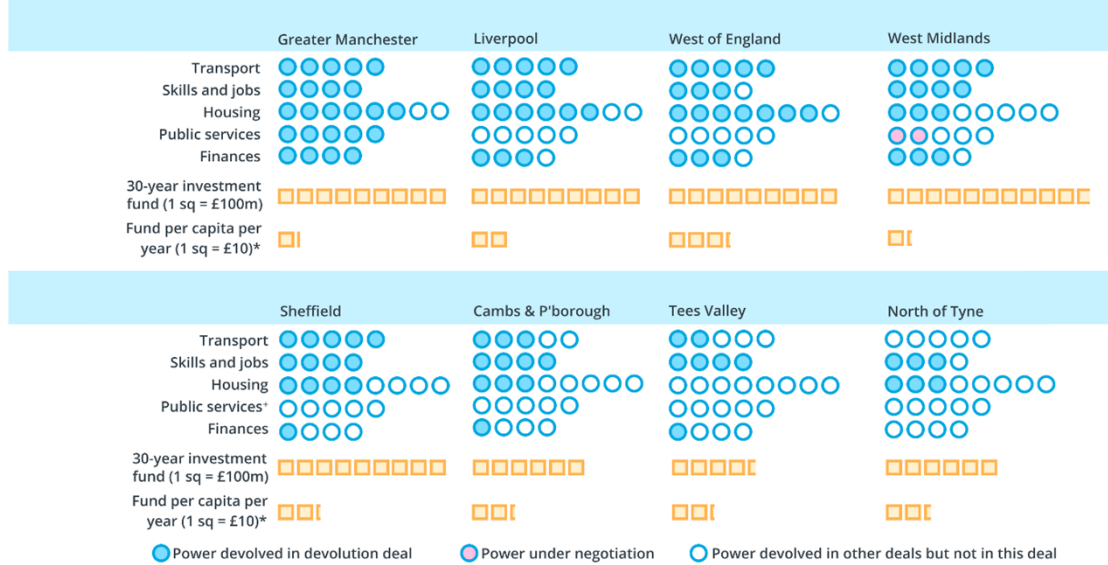


Source: Institute for Government analysis of combined authority websites, June 2019.

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Devolution deal coverage, showing number of powers devolved by subject in each deal

IfG



Source: Institute for Government analysis of House of Commons Library, Devolution to local government in England report, May 2019. The shaded circles represent the number of powers devolved in each deal. \*Public services includes powers over health and social care integration, children's services, and those transferred from the police and crime commissioner. \*Funding per capita is based on ONS population data for the years in which deals were introduced (other than the North of Tyne, for which the most recent data is from 2017).

### Local Context

The Heart of the South West Joint Committee originally came together as a partnership at the end of 2015 to pursue a devolution deal with Government. However, as Government agendas moved on, particularly following the EU Referendum in 2016, devolution faded as a policy priority and the partnership focussed its energy on developing the Productivity Strategy. In March 2018 the partnership formalised the arrangements to establish the Joint Committee.

There are clear differences between Combined Authorities and Joint Committees, which are set out in the table below.

### Comparison between Joint Committees and Combined Authorities

Criteria	Joint Committee	Combined Authority
Process and timeframe	By agreement through local councils - timeframe locally determined	Requires agreement by the SoS and the consent of local councils, and a Parliamentary Order Can take 12 -18 months to establish
Status and powers	Non-statutory No new powers Joint decision-making on issues identified locally as appropriate	Statutory body Original scope was economic development, transport and regeneration. Now have access to a wide range of powers that can be negotiated with Government
Minimum criteria to set up, and required roles	Locally agreed purpose and scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must improve the delivery of its functions in the area it covers</li> <li>• Must help to secure effective and convenient local government</li> <li>• Must reflect local identity and the interests of local communities</li> <li>• Requires identified Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer roles to be covered</li> </ul>
Funding	Minimal cost - to cover basic secretariat functions and a work programme as agreed	Levy on all members to meet the costs of statutory roles - in addition to covering the cost of any functions delivered by the CA
Membership	Local authorities and others as non-voting members	Only local authorities are 'constituent members' - other organisations can subsequently become 'non-constituent' members or associate members, including those outside the CA area
Relationship with the LEP	LEP is a member of the JC	LEP is a member of the CA

**Powerhouses**

A further construct of recent government policy are the ‘Powerhouses’. There are currently three with a fourth emerging. These are the Northern Powerhouse (the first), the Midlands Engine and the recently announced Western Gateway. The Oxford- Cambridge Arc has not officially been launched as a powerhouse area but has similar characteristics.

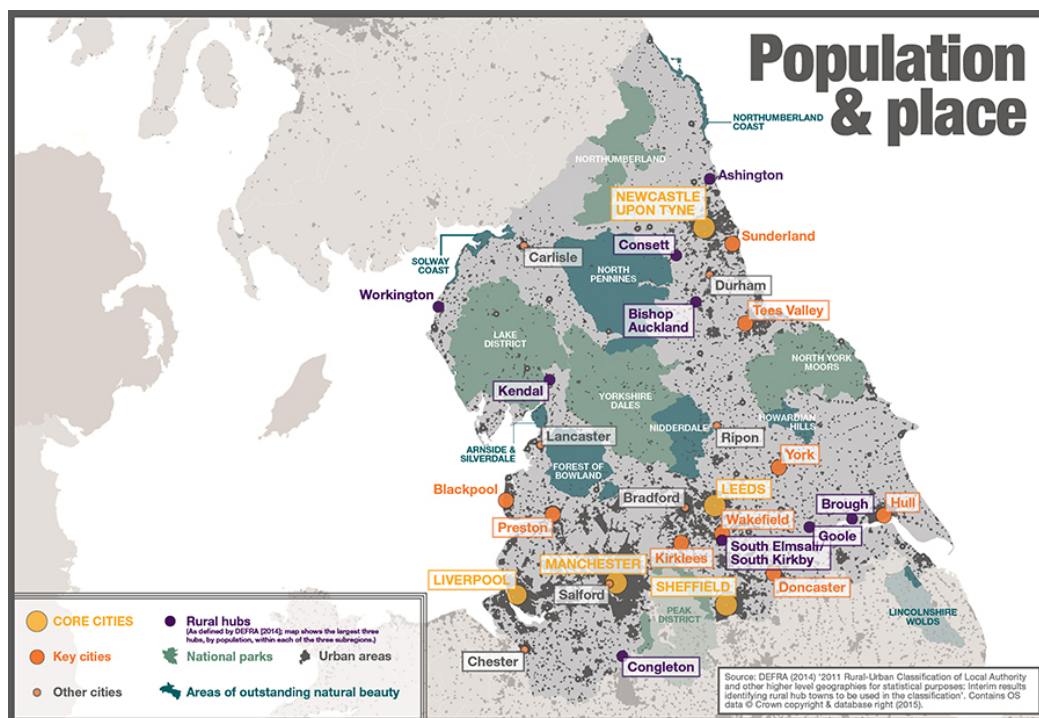
The powerhouse areas are a way for government departments to engage across a larger geography, to drive economic growth, channel funding, and with a clear branding to attract inward investment. They benefit from substantial government funding, preferential treatment and government ‘co-ownership’ but are made up of individual local authorities and combined authority groupings who are the decision-making bodies, together with elected mayors where they are in place.

A House of Commons Briefing paper entitled [Devolution to local government in England](#), published on May 2019 contains the statement below. Although produced by a think tank (IPPR) and not stated government policy, the recent launch of the Western Gateway suggests government is broadly following this model.

*‘The IPPR’s Commission on Economic Justice published its final report in September 2018. This proposed four ‘regional economic executives’, covering the North, Midlands, South-East and South West. These would be governed by an indirectly elected council of local authority members, and would be responsible for industrial strategy, infrastructure planning, inward investment and immigration*

*These would sit above a comprehensive pattern of combined authorities with revenue-raising powers and substantial responsibilities.’*

**The Northern Powerhouse Geography**





The Northern Powerhouse characteristics include:

- The statutory body **Transport for the North**.
- The **Northern Powerhouse Partnership**, a private sector group aiming to increase investment, with support from the Government;
- a '**Council of the North**' or '**NPII**', launched by the Government in June 2018. This is an advisory body made up of the chairs of the 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships in the area;
- the **Convention of the North** was a conference held in Newcastle in early September 2018 for politicians and stakeholders. The Convention planned to:
  - Create a powerful, coherent voice for the North...
  - Building a shared, inclusive and positive platform for cross-party political leadership and direction
  - Focus on common issues such as transport and the need for further devolution post-Brexit...
  - Provide a recognised and respected engagement channel for residents and stakeholders to shape and articulate the North's priorities.

**A recent publication by NPII - 'Manifesto for the North' set out the key asks and offers.**

The game changers pledged for the North are:

1. Local control of education and training, skills provision that is systematically connected to the North's businesses and growth needs, creating opportunity for all our people.
2. A commitment to rebalancing the economy as a formal HM Treasury objective, delivering transformational investment to power up the North, a formal commitment to rebalancing in the Green Book, and Office for Budget Responsibility measurement of progress towards this objective.
3. A transport budget for the North, enabling full delivery of the Transport for the North plan and supporting the devolution of control and shared accountability for the region's rail network.
4. Ownership of, and freedom to lead, investment and trade activities to drive export led growth, with a greater scale of investment to level up the North's export and inward investment activities.
5. Backing the North to lead the green industrial revolution, harnessing and investing in its prime capability in renewable energy, decarbonising industry, retrofitting existing housing stock and building new homes to the highest standards

**The Western Gateway**

This was launched by government on 1<sup>st</sup> November and whilst the geography has not been clearly defined, it broadly stretches along the M4 corridor from the West of England (Bristol/Bath) to Cardiff and Swansea.

# Leaders

for the Heart of the South West

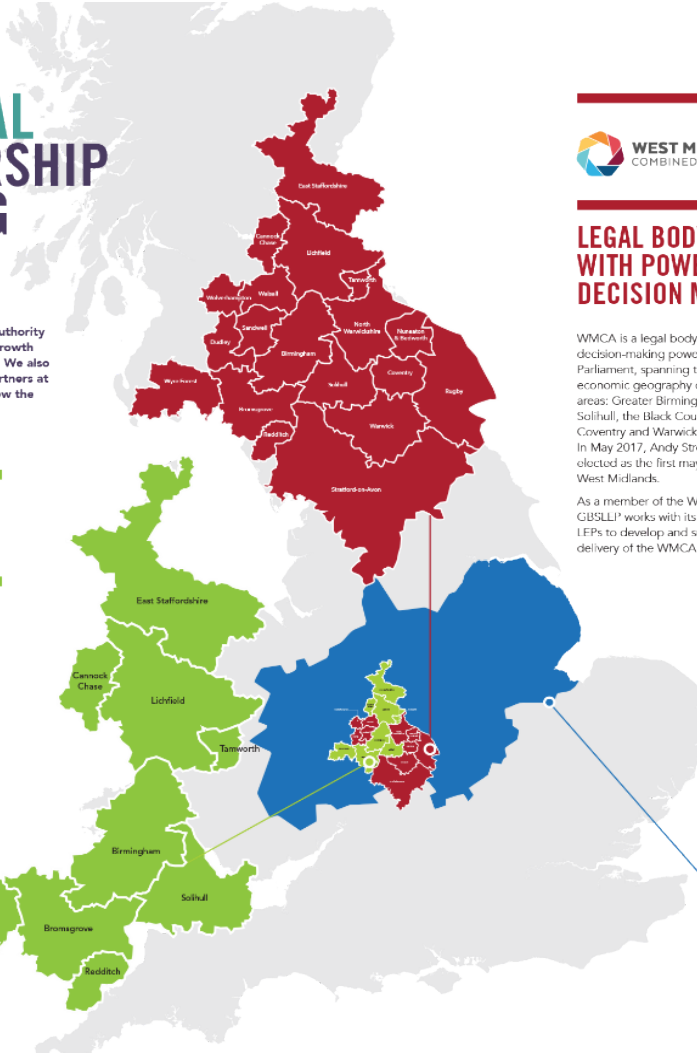
## The Midlands Engine

### REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP WORKING

GBSLEP works across nine local authority boundaries to deliver economic growth for more than two million people. We also work closely with our regional partners at different geographic levels to grow the wider economy.



### BUSINESS-LED PARTNERSHIP OF PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND ACADEMIC SECTORS



### LEGAL BODY WITH POWERS OF DECISION MAKING

WMCA is a legal body with decision-making powers granted by Parliament, spanning the functional economic geography of three LEP areas: Greater Birmingham and Solihull, the Black Country, and Coventry and Warwickshire. In May 2017, Andy Street was elected as the first mayor of the West Midlands.

As a member of the WMCA, GBSLEP works with its neighbouring LEPs to develop and support delivery of the WMCA SEP.

The WMCA SEP sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and actions to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives and works in the West Midlands. It recognises that a stronger West Midlands is not only good for its residents and businesses – but for the UK economy as a whole.

This year we have worked with our fellow LEPs to support the delivery of the WMCA SEP by:

- Collaborating on our respective Growth Deal 3 bids to Government
- Developing a joint response to the National Industrial Strategy Green Paper
- Jointly funding a Science & Innovation Audit to inform our LEP and WMCA investment priorities and future negotiations with Government
- Contributing to the ongoing devolution deal negotiations with Government
- Collaborating to develop a complementary Growth Hub offer to local businesses including investing in shared online procurement tool HVM (High Value Manufacturing) City
- Launching the 'Energy Capital' initiative to make the West Midlands a leading centre for energy innovation
- Developing a cultural, creative and visitor economy strategy
- Participating in commissions for Mental Health, Land, and Productivity and Skills
- Providing expert technical assistance to help WMCA develop its Assurance Framework and programme management and project appraisal arrangements



### COLLABORATION OF 9 LEPS, 28 UPPER-TIER LOCAL AUTHORITIES, 20 UNIVERSITIES

We have also worked with our neighbouring LEPs, along with our local authority, business and other partners, through the Midlands Engine initiative.

The Midlands Engine is a collaboration stretching from the Welsh borders to the North Sea, covering a population of just over 11.5 million people and focused on improving connectivity, innovation, skills, trade and inward investment across the wider Midlands. This year we have worked with Midlands Engine partners on:

- A Midlands UK pavilion at MIPIM 2017, showcasing regional investment projects worth £7bn and attracting nearly 3,000 delegates
- The £250m Midlands Engine Investment Fund for small businesses
- The 'Midlands Connect' strategy, a 25 year programme of investment in strategic road and rail improvements across the Midlands
- A Vision and Action Plan for the Midlands Engine in response to the Government's recently published strategy for the Midlands Engine

## Appendix I Party Manifestos



**Conservatives**



**Our Plan | Conservative Manifesto 2019**

*'We remain committed to devolving power to people and places across the UK. Our ambition is for full devolution across England, building on the successful devolution of powers to city region mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and others, so that every part of our country has the power to shape its own destiny. We will publish an English Devolution White Paper setting out our plans next year.*

*Through our City and Growth Deals we have already delivered more than £9 billion of funding across England, and almost £3 billion to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.*

*Through bodies like the Northern Powerhouse, Western Gateway and Midlands Engine we will drive greater levels of foreign investment into the UK, promoting our towns, cities and counties around the world. As part of our plans for full devolution we will also invite proposals from local areas for similar growth bodies across the rest of England, such as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.*

*This is an agenda which shows that the days of Whitehall knows best are over. We will give towns, cities and communities of all sizes across the UK real power and real investment to drive the growth of the future and unleash their full potential.'*



**Labour**



**LABOUR'S 2019 MANIFESTO**

*'Only a Labour government will safeguard the future of a devolved UK, reforming the way in which it works to make it fit for the future*

*Britain is one of the most centralised countries in Europe. Labour will decentralise decision-making and strengthen local democracy. We reiterate our commitment to One Yorkshire, and will make directly elected mayors more accountable to local councillors and elected representatives.*

*We will re-establish regional Government Offices to make central government more attuned to our English regions, to support our regional investments, and to enable the shift of political power away from Westminster.'*



**Liberal Democrats**



**MANIFESTO 2019**

**Power for Communities**

*'Communities should be empowered to have maximum control over their local services. Liberal Democrats are the only party with a vision for the future: Labour's instinct is towards centralisation and taking power from communities; the Conservatives' cuts to local government budgets have led to a huge reduction in services. We will drive a devolution revolution to give power to people and communities and help fund the services that people need. We will:*

- Decentralise decision-making from Whitehall and Westminster, by inviting local areas to take control of the services that matter to them most.*
- Give democratic local government enhanced powers to call on new income sources appropriate to their area to support local services and investment.*
- Give people more power, with customers holding companies delivering services to account for their failures, and with communities able to take charge of aspects of their own local development – through, for example, establishing local banks and community energy cooperatives.*
- Devolve further revenue-raising powers away from Westminster, to regions from Cornwall to North East England. We will legislate to empower groups of authorities to come together to establish devolved governance and ensure that any powers devolved are matched by the funding to deliver on the needs of local people.*
- Devolve more decision-making power over key levers of economic development including transport, energy, housing and skills.'*

## **Power for the Nations and Regions**

### England

*'Devolution of power to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has implications for the UK parliament and its dual role in legislating for England as well as the federal UK. Liberal Democrats support an English-only stage in legislation affecting England, so that English MPs can have a separate say on laws that only affect England.*

*However, this should be on a proportional basis, genuinely reflecting the balance of opinion in England.*

*In some areas of England there is a greater appetite for powers, but not every part of the country wants to move at the same speed and there cannot be a one-size fits-all approach. All areas should however have access to the same opportunities and mayoral authorities should not be ranked higher in terms of the powers with which they can be granted. We will enact permissive legislation to empower groups of authorities to come together to establish devolved governance – for example to a Cornish Assembly or a Yorkshire Parliament, building on the One Yorkshire campaign. We will proceed by consensus as far as possible but will not allow one local authority to veto a coherent proposal.'*

## One Yorkshire

**Population: 4,924,725 (3,550,070 without South Yorkshire)**

**GVA: £88bn (all of Yorkshire)**

Eighteen local authorities submitted a proposed deal to the Government in January 2018 under the title of 'One Yorkshire'. This sought devolution of the following powers;-

- Adult skills funding;
- Integrated business support, including DIT export support;
- A multi-year consolidated transport budget;
- Bus franchising in all or part of the region;
- Business rate supplements;
- Mayoral development corporations, compulsory purchase powers and a Yorkshire Land Commission;
- A £125 million per year investment fund;
- A £500 million Housing Investment Fund;
- Acting as a pilot of 100% business rate retention;
- National programmes addressing unemployment, health barriers to work and in-work poverty;
- Borrowing powers;
- Powers to acquire and dispose of land, and a 'strategic infrastructure investment framework'

If a One Yorkshire deal were to be approved, a single directly elected mayor and combined authority covering Yorkshire would be established, requiring the existing combined authorities to be merged into the new one.

The Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Jake Berry, indicated in July 2017 that the Government **would not agree** to a pan-Yorkshire deal. He said in a letter to the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority that "consent by the 20 councils (including Barnsley and Doncaster) for such an approach is very unlikely. Nor do I believe that a deal and governance across the whole of Yorkshire, given its scale and diversity, would in practice deliver the benefits that the proponents of such a deal seek".

However, March 2019 the government subsequently agreed that the deal originally negotiated with Sheffield City Region should go ahead for the duration of the mayors first term in office. Dan Jarvis MP had already been elected as mayor of the Sheffield City Region in May 2018. His term runs to 2022 after which time the councils involved could opt to join other structures (One Yorkshire) and pursue a separate devolution deal, or remain within the group. The deal would then continue on a pro-rata basis with the remaining councils in the SCR arrangement.

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