

The East Anglia Devolution Agreement

The full agreement which was published on 16 March 2016 is attached. A summary of the key points is below.

Key terms of the deal:

- Start of a new relationship with Government – the transfer of power and money from Whitehall to local and regional administration.
- This deal is on the table now but also states the area should go back to government with a 2nd devolution proposal in the Autumn.
- Geographic footprint covering Cambridgeshire/Peterborough/Suffolk/Norfolk.
- 22 LAs and 1 LEP have agreed to sign the deal (Cambridge City and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership are not signed-up).
- In signing the deal the Leaders have offered support in principle, subject to final decision by their Full Councils by June 2016.
- More work is required to develop the detail of what the deal and governance will mean.

Governance:

- Combined Authority (CA) and Directly-Elected Mayor in place by May 2017 – interim arrangements established 2016/17.
- Elected Mayor will act as CA Chairman, Chairman of a Joint Assets Board and have transport, housing and planning responsibilities and budgets.
- Each organisation will have 1 representative on the CA, which will hold infrastructure fund responsibility, skills provision and work and health programme responsibilities.
- Held to account by an Overview and Scrutiny committee.
- CA will be able to reject/amend the Mayor's budgets and strategies with the necessary majorities and make proposals for decisions.
- Sovereignty of Local Authorities is unaffected – no powers will be taken away without agreement and principle of subsidiarity agreed.

Finance and Funding:

- New money of c£1.3bn to support economic growth
 - Includes new money for an infrastructure fund – economic growth, local infrastructure and jobs – £30m a year for 30 years = £900m.
 - Additional housing support of £175m over 5 years for new homes – primarily Shared Ownership, but flexibility over 15% of the funds for a wider mix of housing provision and the ability to recycle receipts of high value asset sales to fund new housing).

- c£150m a year existing transport budgets devolved for 5 years.
- c£50m a year existing Adult skills funding devolved for 5 years.
- Existing Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) skills budget to be devolved.
- Flexibility for CA to combine all of the above budgets into a single funding pot which could be borrowed against.
- Continued ability to seek Government funding for projects.
- Delivery subject to 5 yearly gateway assessments to test against economic growth outcomes being achieved.
- Potential for Mayor to place a supplement on business rate with agreement from business.
- Exploration of potential powers around responsibility for European Funding.
- Opportunity for East Anglia to influence future localisation of business rates.
- Exploration of how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding could be used to support infrastructure.

Housing and Planning powers and responsibilities:

- Responsibility to drive forward increased housing delivery.
- Develop an associated strategic infrastructure delivery plan.
- All local planning authorities to have approved local plans by 2017.
- Will develop a non-statutory spatial framework and appropriate supporting planning documents.
- Create Development Corporations with planning and land assembly powers to support strategic sites across the area.
- Create a Joint Investment and Assets Board to review land and property held across national and local public sector.
- Create a land commission to develop a database of public/private land to support development schemes.
- Work with local areas' ambitions for new housing settlements, including a new settlement in Fenland and West Norfolk based on garden town principles.
- Stronger partnership with the HCA to meet housing need.
- Commitment to further improving planning, ie greater flexibility over fees, accelerate decision-making.
- Recognition of key growth centres around Ipswich, Cambridge, Peterborough and Norwich.

Transport and Electronic Communications powers and responsibilities:

- Greater control over bus franchising.
- Responsibility for Key Route Network of Roads (most economically important roads determined locally).
- Single asset management plan and shared procurement frameworks.
- Integrated approach to local buses, community-based transport and ticketing.
- Develop a Statutory Transport Body with wider region to influence national transport investment.
- Recognition of the importance of Great Eastern Mainline, West Anglian Mainline, Wyton Airfield (including a potential river crossing), dualling of A47 Acle Straight and third Great Yarmouth river crossing.
- Integrated approach to flood and coastal risk management.
- Commitment to digital infrastructure and connected economy.

Flood Defence and Coastal Management:

- Recognition that Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are subject to significant flood risk.
- CA to work with Government and relevant bodies on fully integrated approach, including aligning existing investment plans and economic risk management assessments.

Learning and Skills and Apprenticeships powers and responsibilities:

- Establish an education committee with a Regional Schools Commissioner to provide strategic direction over education.
- Area review of post-16 education and training, ie FE and 6th Form.
- Review of LEP skills strategies to ensure employer needs are met.
- Local commissioning of adult 19+ education budget from 2017/18, with budgets fully devolved to CA from 2018/19 subject to readiness.
- Recognition of the desire for a Peterborough University.
- Responsibility for the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) – complements mainstream apprenticeship funding.
- Opportunity to maximise the impact of the apprenticeship levy.

Employment and Business Support:

- Co-design new national work and health programme (to succeed work programme) to support those with health conditions or a disability and the very long term employed.
- Commitment to work with Job Centre Plus to deliver the ‘youth obligation’ programme.
- Join up health, skills and employment services to improve outcomes.
- Government will work with CA to develop local careers and enterprise provision for all ages.

- Support career and pay progression for Universal Credit claimants.
- Government support on productivity commission.
- Greater alignment of CA, LEP and local authority budgets for economic development and business support, including joint objectives and exploring pooling of staffing and resources.

Health and Social Care/Public Service Reform powers and responsibilities:

- Commitment to integrate health and social care.
- Commitment to innovative, integrated public services redesign.

Antoinette Jackson
Chief Executive