



To: The Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategy and Transformation: Councillor Lewis Herbert

Report by: Andrew Limb, Head of Corporate Strategy

Relevant scrutiny committee: Strategy & Resources
10/10/2016
Scrutiny Committee

Wards affected: Abbey Arbury Castle Cherry Hinton Coleridge
East Chesterton King's Hedges Market Newnham
Petersfield Queen Edith's Romsey Trumpington
West Chesterton

DEVOLUTION PROPOSALS FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH CONSULTATION RESULTS Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

This report gives the committee and Leader an opportunity to discuss the devolution consultation ahead of a decision at Full Council.

Council debated the proposed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal on 27 June 2016. Council supported, and the Leader agreed to, the Deal, the conclusions of the Governance Review and the Governance Scheme. Council supported, and the Leader agreed, to public consultation on the proposals.

Consultation took place from 8th July to 23rd August 2016. More than 4,000 people responded. The report attached at Appendix A brings together the findings, the methods and scope of the consultation and the responses received.

The Leader will be asked to decide whether to proceed with the devolution deal at Full Council. If the Leader, and all other councils involved in the proposals agree, it is anticipated that the Combined Authority would be in place by February 2017, with Mayoral elections in May 2017.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:
To consider the outcome of devolution consultation and related issues.

3. Background

3.1 Cambridge City Council has been engaged, since late 2014, in developing a devolution proposal with government covering all the councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A Government proposed deal for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk was rejected by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in March 2016.

3.2 Negotiations with Government continued for a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough deal. The key elements of that deal are set out in section 4 below (and in full in the background documents).

3.3 The consultation report at Appendix A sets out the consultation activity that took place and the results. A summary of the responses for Cambridge City, and comparison with whole-area responses, is attached at Appendix B. Full consultation reports are attached at Appendix C (MORI poll) and D (online survey).

3.4 If the Leader agrees, and if the other partner councils also agree, it is anticipated that the final order would be laid in Parliament in November, paving the way for the establishment of the Combined Authority by February 2017, and for the election of a Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in May 2017.

3.5 It is anticipated that proposals for scrutiny including by constituent councils/councillors will be put forward for when the Combined Authority is in place, and a report taken to Civic Affairs Committee in February.

3.6 The Leader has indicated that ahead of those formal proposals, he intends to bring a report to each Full Council meeting, starting at the next meeting and providing an opportunity for questions. There may also be further reports to this committee, for instance potentially on emerging proposals for arrangements associated with the devolution deal and mayoral combined authority, as appropriate.

4 The Proposed Deal

4.1 A copy of the proposed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough deal is available as a [background paper](#). In summary the deal delivers

- A new £20 million annual fund for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the next 30 years (£600 million) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs.
- An additional £70 million fund specifically for affordable housing in Cambridge which the council would have the freedom to use in its entirety to build new council homes.
- £100 million for non-HRA affordable, rent and shared ownership across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough particularly in response to

affordable housing issues in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City.

- Transport infrastructure improvements such as the A14/A142 junction and upgrades to the A10 and the A47 as well as Ely North Junction. Also it would support development at Wyton and St Neots and Wisbech Garden Town and the Wisbech- Cambridge rail connection.
- Rail improvements (new rolling stock, improved King's Lynn, Cambridge, London rail).
- Investment in developing a Peterborough University with degree-awarding powers.
- A local integrated job service working alongside the Department of Work and Pensions.
- Co-design with government a National Work and Health Programme focussed on those with a health condition or disability, as well as the long-term employed.
- Further integration of local health and social care resources to provide better outcomes for residents.
- Devolved skills and apprenticeship budget – to give more opportunities to our young people.
- Working with government to secure a Peterborough Enterprise Zone

4.2 This proposal is to be the first in a series of proposals which devolve more funding and powers from Government to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area.

4.3 A Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority chaired by a directly elected Mayor would be created to oversee and deliver the deal. This is a requirement from government before such extensive powers and funding can be devolved.

4.4 As well as benefiting from the range of initiatives and funding covered in the deal listed above, Cambridge specifically benefits from the £70 million targeted investment in affordable housing which the Council can control and use to fund new council homes owned and managed through the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The grant will be made available to the City Council via the Combined Authority.

4.5 This grant would deliver at least 500 new social rented homes (defined as rents at Local Housing Allowance levels). The City Council would be able spend the grant over a five year period. £10 million of the £70 million grant would also be available to the City Council to replace any of the 500 subsequently sold through the Right to Buy. The Council will have the freedom to choose the extent that it provides the new homes on land that it owns or land owned by others (including through section 106 planning agreements).

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

If the proposed deal is agreed, it will bring millions of pounds of investment to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as set out in section 4 above. In particular it would bring £70m for affordable housing in Cambridge.

The detail of the costs and funding of the Mayoral Combined Authority are still being worked up. While the proposed new Mayor would be able to raise a precept once established, it may be necessary for partner councils to provide resources to establish the Combined Authority in the first year.

It is anticipated that these costs could potentially be covered by savings to the partner councils achieved through public sector reforms. It may also be possible to fund some of the infrastructure delivery functions of the authority through capitalisation of some of the revenue costs from the infrastructure grant.

(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)

Officers of the Council have contributed to the development of the devolution proposals, and will continue to contribute to partnership work on the further detailed development and implementation of the proposals.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment was prepared for the report to all partner Councils in June, and will be updated ahead of the next Council discussion and the Leader's executive decision.

(d) Environmental Implications

It is anticipated that the establishment of the Mayoral Combined Authority would have limited direct environmental impacts, not least if it proves possible to co-locate the Combined Authority's staff and functions at existing partner premises. There will be some additional travel to meetings and other ancillary impacts.

More significantly it is anticipated that the combined authority will facilitate more efficient use of public buildings and assets in the longer term. And that funding made available through the deal would allow for investment in key transport challenges.

(e) Procurement

n/a

(f) **Consultation and communication**

The approach to consultation, and the results, are set out in the appendices.

(g) **Community Safety**

n/a

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

[Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution Proposal](#)

[Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Authorities' Statutory Governance Review](#)

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Scheme](#)

6. Appendices

Appendix A	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Devolution Consultation
Appendix B	Summary of Cambridge City devolution consultation results
Appendix C	Cambridge & Peterborough Devolution Research (MORI poll)
Appendix D	Cambridge & Peterborough devolution consultation online survey results

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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