

Devolution Deal: Briefing Note

November 6

Summary

Leaders are currently considering a devolution deal document for the East Midlands (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) as part of the final stages of negotiations with Government.

All of the Leaders of the 19 local authorities have discussed the deal document and a representative group will be returning to London next week for further talks about the powers that could be devolved.

The powers are designed to improve the lives of local people by making sure that decisions that affect them are taken locally by locally elected representatives rather than from Westminster.

A recent [Ipsos MORI](#) poll (October 2015) found that citizens trust local government to make decisions about local services.

The wide-ranging powers, which include skills, housing, transport, the economy and superfast broadband across the whole area, would be supplemented by a significant investment fund that would be spent locally for the benefits of local people.

The final details of the deal are expected imminently although any announcement would be subject to final ratification by the 19 authorities and the approval of the necessary legislation. Any final decisions by local members are likely to be taken some time next year with elections for a mayor not taking place until May 2017 at the earliest.

The following table summarises the current position regarding the deal and, importantly, seeks to translate how the powers would affect the lives of local people in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

East Midlands Devolution Deal: One page summary

Priority	What do we want?	What difference will it make?
Jobs and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater control over the courses on offer at local FE colleges A top quality, region-wide careers service A co-ordinated, one-stop job service with local authorities and Job Centre staff working together to offer employment and benefits advice A real say in the types of apprenticeships on offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People have the right skills to get the jobs on offer from local businesses Young people feel inspired to work and to develop skills to secure their future More people get help to get into work, particularly the long term unemployed Businesses have a supply of people wanting to work with the right skills.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to get extra Government funding for house building Powers to build our own affordable homes to meet local need Sharing the future development of our land assets – and Government's - to maximise the financial returns Tools to give more weight to each local authority plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A choice of good quality, affordable housing wherever people want to live Housing built in areas with the necessary schools and transport links to create real communities Our planning decisions reflect local need – not just national priorities
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One significant budget to support transport developments in the region A proper say in how national transport projects affect our area Powers to control how and where local bus services are run 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less congestion and pollution with reduced journey times and health benefits Easy to use public transport services - single ticketing on bus and trams across different operators Local transport services to meet local need.
Maximising national and international investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to prove to Government the merit of a Free Trade Zone to attract multi-national manufacturing firms via tax breaks Powers to provide business advice services and loans to support small firms A region wide Commission to look at high tech energy solutions and broadband improvements to tackle technology black spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth and investment will create more jobs – with additional benefits for supply firms Tailor made financial support will help small businesses to expand and increase competitiveness 100% access to high-speed fibre broadband for businesses and residents – putting the East Midlands in first place
A value for money Public Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A single budget to deliver locally agreed priorities for business growth, transport and regeneration Control over Business Rates including how we use them to encourage development in specific areas and sectors Sharing best practice across the region in how to deliver leaner, more efficient public services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased certainty that major improvements to transport and new business sites will be delivered Improved quality of life through economic and environmental regeneration More efficient and better value-for-money public services.