

**Report of the Cabinet Member for  
Policy, Corporate and Asset Management**

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 7 December 2023:

By Councillor Hannaford on:

Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal

- 1) Can the Leader please update council on the announcement last month regarding the new Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal.

By Councillor Atkinson on:

- 2) Devolution and gender equality

- a) How many women representatives there will be on any proposed devolved authority.
- b) If none from elected representatives, how is it proposed to fix this gender deficit to make sure that women's representation is 50: 50 with men on the new devolved combined committee?
- c) What impact analysis will be undertaken with regards the impact of the lack of women's representation in the devolution proposals and its consequences for decision making (e.g. learning the lessons for the lack of women's representation on decision making with respect to Covid) before any decision is taken?
- d) How the gender and other equality impacts of policy proposals will be assessed and reported to the Combined committee and scrutiny?
- e) His view on the importance on women's representation in any devolved activity

**Response**

1. Will give a verbal response
2. The proposed Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DT CCA) would be established under the provisions of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. The DT CCA's members would be existing councillors from Devon County Council, Torbay Council, Devon's district councils and the worlds of business, skills and education. I cannot predict how many members of the DT CCA would be women but I do agree with Cllr Atkinson that women are under represented in both politics and public life.  
When the proposed Devon and Torbay devolution deal is announced, and subject to Cabinet's approval, there will be a public consultation early next

year to gather views. As part of the consultation there will be a report to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 25 January 2024.

The proposed DT CCA and devolution deal will be subject to an equality impact assessment which the Council will need to take into account alongside the findings from the consultation before making any final decision to submit the proposal to Government.

**Councillor John Hart**

Cabinet Member for Policy, Corporate and Asset Management