

CEX/25/1
Council
9 January 2025

English Devolution White Paper

Report of the Chief Executive

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Council (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to set out the next steps for the County Council in its response to the Government's English Devolution White Paper published on 16 December 2024 and subsequent communications from the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution.

The White Paper makes clear that the Government "will facilitate a programme of local government reorganisation for two-tier areas" (English Devolution White Paper) in parallel this will support the delivery of Mayoral Strategic Authorities. This is an ambitious and complex programme moving at a fast pace, with significant details relating to timelines not yet fully determined or clarified. It is important to note that a key context to all of this is the need for public sector reform to create a local government infrastructure that works efficiently and effectively with key partners and can "be sustainable and resilient to financial shocks and deliver high quality services". In addition these new structures will connect public sector services, local and national government and will "shift the balance of power, but this must happen at the right level and to strong institutions able to deliver" (English Devolution White Paper).

Government have requested that the County Council confirm if they wish to be included on the Devolution Priority Programme or where reorganisation is needed to unlock further devolution options by 10 January 2025. This report specifically deals with these issues.

This report is not intended to address any proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. Local Authorities are expected to develop full proposals for reorganisation in line with Government guidance which will be issued in January 2025, working with and alongside partners to develop plans for sustainable unitary structures.

The Recommendations in this Report do not constitute a formal proposal for a single tier of Local Government in Devon, nor do they constitute formal consent to the establishment of a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

The process for these steps will be clarified by the Secretary of State dependent upon elected members decision on the next steps and if the County Council is selected for inclusion on this ambitious programme. In such an instance further reports and decision would be required through the County Council's governance arrangements.

1) Recommendation

That the Council agrees to:

- (a) Support the Leader of the Council to submit a letter of intent to Government committing to the Government's ambitious programme enabling the Council to Develop plans for local government reorganisation and deliver a Mayoral Strategic Authority.
- (b) As a consequence of joining this ambitious programme the County Council will make a request to Government to postpone the County Council elections due to take place in May 2025 to provide the capacity on which reorganisation and mayoral devolution can progress at pace in 2025 to ensure the benefits of reorganisation and devolution for the area are realised as quickly as possible.

2) Background / Introduction

This paper sets out the next steps for the County Council in response to the Government's English Devolution White Paper published on 16 December 2024.

The County Council's current devolution deal as approved by full Council on 29 April 2024 is currently going through final stages of the statutory instrument process. The Devon and Torbay Combined Authority Regulations 2024 are due to be enacted in February 2025.

The English Devolution White Paper was published by Government on 16th December. The paper sets a new framework for devolution and the legislative approach that will be used to deliver devolution in England along with the Government's vision to deliver devolution and Local Government re-organisation at pace, through the creation of Strategic Authorities across wider regional geographies. These Strategic Authorities will be made up of larger and more resilient Unitary Councils, which will replace the current two-tier local government structure as well as consolidating current small or failing Unitary Councils.

The White Paper also sets out Local Government arrangements with a clear commitment to move away from two-tier structures to unitary authorities.

"New unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 population or more, but there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including for devolution, and decisions will be made on a case by case basis"(English Devolution White Paper).

Refer to appendix 3 for population of Devon County Council and surrounding areas.

A new category of local government, statutory authorities will be created, and the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority will automatically become a foundation Statutory Authority once the Bill is passed. The new framework replaces the 'deal process' and deepens, the powers and opportunities for Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

The government has set out a timetable for the areas to develop devolution and reorganisation proposals at pace. This includes the offer of a Devolution Priority Programme for areas wanting to move quickly with deeper devolution proposals (which would include mayoral proposals) or where reorganisation is needed to unlock further devolution options and Authorities need to confirm this position by 10 January 2025.

In these instances, Authorities would prioritise reorganisation and devolution through the creation of a Strategic Authority with Mayoral elections in May 2026, should local agreement be reached. The Local Government Minister has been clear that they will lay secondary legislation and expects Local Authorities to postpone local council elections from May 2025 to May 2026, to help areas deliver reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframes. This will provide the capacity on which reorganisation proposals can progress at pace in 2025 to ensure the benefits of devolution for the area are realised as quickly as possible.

Irrespective of the inclusion or not on the Devolution Priority Programme, all areas are expected to produce local government re-organisation plans by Autumn 2025 which will replace the current landscape of two-tier authorities and small or failing Unitary Councils with larger and more resilient Unitary Councils.

There are significant devolution benefits articulated in the White Paper in relation to a Mayoral Combined Authority for an Area (see appendix 1,2 and 4). There have been ongoing discussions with Cornwall, Plymouth, and Torbay Councils. It has not been possible to reach an agreement.

Information to date is that the Minister has made it clear that interim plans for reorganisation have to be submitted by March 2025 with final proposals by either May 2025 or Autumn 2025.

It is recommended that the County Council supports the Leader to submit a letter of intent to Government committing to the Government's ambitious programme, providing capacity to enable the Council to develop plans for local government reorganisation and deliver a Mayoral Strategic Authority. It is proposed that this proactive approach will give the County Council the best opportunity to self-determine and shape both reorganisation and devolution proposals in the best interests of our residents and communities, within the challenging timescales set by Government.

As a consequence of this decision the County Council will request from Government a 12-month postponement of the County Council elections due to take place in May 2025, and Local Government Reorganisation proposals will be submitted to Government by May 2025 as requested. The purpose of this report is not to consider any future detailed reorganisation proposals at this stage, as the guidance has not been received from Government but to agree the approach, as requested by government.

3) Main Body / Proposal

Following the General election, in July 2024 the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Local Government wrote to all Local Government Leaders setting out the Government's ambition to widen and deepen devolution across the Country. This included

a subsequent request from MHCLG for Expressions of Interest from Council Leaders regarding initial views on adopting mayoral models.

On 16 December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper setting out a programme of devolution and Local Government reorganisation across England.

The vision outlined by Government is that all parts of England are to be part of regional Strategic Authorities that have a regional Mayor. These Strategic Authorities, working in a similar way to existing Mayoral Combined Authorities will have responsibility for driving growth and shaping public services across wider regional geographies covering strategic leadership of key place shaping responsibilities such as economic regeneration and growth, strategic planning, skills and employment and strategic transport.

The proposed Strategic Authorities will belong to one of three levels:

- **Foundation Strategic Authorities:** these include non-mayoral Combined Authorities and Combined County Authorities automatically. In exceptional circumstances, the Secretary of State will have the power to designate an individual Local Authority as a Foundation Strategic Authority.
- **Mayoral Strategic Authorities:** the Greater London Authority, all Mayoral Combined Authorities and all Mayoral Combined County Authorities will automatically begin as Mayoral Strategic Authorities.
- **Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities:** those who meet specified eligibility criteria may be designated as such. This unlocks further devolution, most notably an Integrated Settlement.

The government's strong preference is for partnerships that bring more than one Local Authority together over a large geography. In exceptional circumstances the Secretary of State will have the power to designate an individual Local Authority as a Foundation Strategic Authority only. The Government's ambition remains for all parts of England to have a Mayoral (and eventually Established Mayoral) Strategic Authority.

The Government will also legislate to ensure that Strategic Authorities can change structure should local government reorganisation take place.

The White Paper sets out that Strategic Authorities should meet the following principles:

- **Scale:**
Strategic Authorities should be of comparable size to existing institutions. The default assumption is for them to have a combined population of 1.5 million or above, but accepted that in some places, smaller authorities may be necessary.
- **Economies:**
Strategic Authorities must cover sensible economic geographies with a particular focus on functional economic areas, reflecting current and potential travel-to-work patterns and local

labour markets. It is likely that where travel to work areas is small and fragmented, Strategic Authorities will cover multiple travel to work areas.

- **Contiguity:**

Any proposed geography must be contiguous across its constituent councils (either now or with a clear plan to ensure continuity in the future through agreed local government reorganisation).

- **No 'devolution islands':**

Geographies must not create devolution 'islands' by leaving areas which are too small to go it alone or which do not have natural partners.

- **Delivery:**

Geographies should ensure the effective delivery of key functions including Spatial Development Strategies, Local Transport Plans and Get Britain Working Plans.

- **Alignment:**

The government will seek to promote alignment between devolution boundaries and other public sector boundaries.

- **Identity:**

A vital element of successful devolution is the ability for local residents to engage with and hold their devolved institutions to account – and local identity plays a key role in this.

The White Paper is clear that strong councils are the building blocks of Strategic Authorities and will facilitate a programme of local government reorganisation for two tier areas.

The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution Jim McMahon MP wrote to all Leaders in two-tier authorities and their neighbours on 16th December who might be in scope for a joint programme of devolution and local government reorganisation. The County Council is included in this group of local authorities and officers attended a MHCLG briefing on 17th December.

The letter from the Minister makes it clear that re-organisation should not delay devolution, and that delivering devolution is Government's overarching ambition. In his letter, the Minister is inviting local authorities to be part of a Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) that includes areas who wish to deepen their devolution arrangements and move to a mayoralty model, or where reorganisation is needed to unlock further devolution options. This is an opportunity for Devon and our neighbours to come together on an expanded geography.

The benefits of Devolution have already been explored and progressed by Full Council, but the 2024 White Paper sets out a strengthening of such arrangements, including an updated Strategic Framework of Powers, Functions and Funding outlined on Pages 86 – 90 of the White Paper along with the additional benefits of a larger geography and an elected Major. Please refer to appendices 1,2 and 4.

Government has set out the expectation that all Councils will be Unitary within a timeframe of the new structures being in place by 2028, Devon County Council now finds itself in a mandated position to not continue in its current form.

The White Paper in various places sets out the rationale for Local Government reorganisation and the development of Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

At the same time, the County Council may make a request to postpone the County Council elections to create the capacity to deliver the local government reorganisation and deeper devolution within the accelerated timescale this will be a decision by the Minister.

The Government also expects all two-tier areas and smaller or failing Unitary Councils to develop proposals for reorganisation considering where reorganisation can unlock devolution. These re-organisation proposals are required by May 2025 or September 2025. New unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas this will mean creating unitary councils with a population of 500,000 or more. The Government is clear that reorganisation should not delay devolution and plans for both should be complementary and with an expectation that all councils in an area are to work together to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.

Government is inviting Leaders to express an intention by 10th January to be part of the ambitious programme. An accelerated timescale could see elections for a mayor take place in May 2026, with Government undertaking the required consultations. At the same time Leaders can request to postpone elections to enable the delivery of a deeper devolution arrangement.

It is recognised that a level of re-organisation across the wider area will be required in order to unlock deeper devolution in line with the geography and existing boundaries. The Council will be working toward delivering both reorganisation and deeper devolution concurrently.

It is proposed that the County Council submits a letter of intent to the Minister committing to the Government's ambitious programme enabling the Council to Develop plans for local government reorganisation and deliver a Mayoral Strategic Authority
The Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority will come into being in February and this new statutory authority will continue to be mobilised and begin to operate under the new devolved powers and funding has been granted.

4) Options / Alternatives

Remaining at the Foundation Strategic Level, would bring some benefits to the Devon and Torbay County Combined Authority, see Appendix 1, but not to the extent that a Mayoral Strategic Authority would.

Not requesting to join the ambitious programme, will not realise the potential benefits for the people of Devon at the earliest opportunity.

If the County Council are not accepted onto the ambitious programme the County Council election will not be delayed. Local Government reorganisation will still be required and a

new council will have to develop and submit a proposal for re organisation by Autumn 2025, which from a national information session could be as early as 1st September (potentially within 4 months of a new council).

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

The Government has indicated that if the County Council is accepted onto this ambitious programme it will lead a consultation on the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority. Further consultation requirements will be determined before the submission of a formal proposal for a single tier of local government in Devon, though it is recognised that these processes will run concurrently.

6) Strategic Plan

The proposal is well aligned and provides opportunities across all of the Strategic Plan priorities aligning with the vision and priorities in the Council's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan>

7) Financial Considerations

Both devolution and local government reorganisation present significant financial opportunities for the efficiency, effectiveness, and financial resilience of Local Government in Devon, including the potential for additional powers and funding as set out in the devolution strategic framework and summarised in sections 1 and 2 of this report.

The recommendations set out in this paper relate to the timescales of reorganisation and joining the devolution priority programme, which are intended to unlock these opportunities earlier for the benefit of residents and communities across Devon.

The development and implementation of proposals for both Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation are expected to have one off resourcing implications for the County Council. The impact of these will need to be understood and reflected within future budget reports and the medium-term financial plan. It is noted that, irrespective of whether the County Council is included in the priority programme, the White Paper is clear that both deeper Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation proposals are required to be developed in 2025/26.

If government decide to postpone the County elections for 12 months this will defer the cost of the elections for 12 months to 2026/27 (approximately £1.5million).

8) Legal Considerations

The Council has already supported devolution (following its decision on 29 April 2024), and this report sets out its benefits in terms of additional powers for the region and an added layer of democracy through an elected mayor for the region. Being part of this ambitious programme provides a significant opportunity for Devon to gain the benefits set out in the White Paper ahead of other parts of England.

It is noted also that the Council is not committing to any specific form of reorganisation, but it has a very tight timetable to work with other authorities to put forward meaningful proposals for the area.

Past reorganisations across the country have demonstrated that this will require significant focus for all officers, councillors, and resources. There is a significant amount of work to do to prepare proposals for reorganisation and for deeper devolution arrangements if the timeframes set by Government for the priority programme are to be met.

The Recommendations in this Report do not constitute a formal proposal for single tier of Local Government in Devon, nor do they constitute formal consent to the establishment of a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

The process for these steps will be clarified by the Secretary of State if the County Council is selected.

The Recommendation to request a one-year delay of the County Council election scheduled for May 2025 does not guarantee that the election will be delayed. It is simply a request, and any delay of the Election will require an Order to be made by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has indicated that the election will only be delayed if the County Council is accepted onto this ambitious programme and a legislative change/Order is made.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

Both devolution and local government reorganisation are likely to present significant opportunities in relation to delivering climate change commitments for Devon. This is expected to be realised through the additional funding and powers set out within the devolution strategic framework and summarised in sections 2 and 3 and appendix 1 and 2 of this report and noting the specific reference in the White Paper (and the strategic framework) to environment and climate change. At this stage however a climate change assessment has not been completed and will be considered as further detail is developed and future proposals are put forward.

10) Equality Considerations

The Government has indicated that if the County Council is accepted onto the ambitious programme it will lead a consultation on the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

Further consultation requirements will be determined before the submission of a formal proposal for a single tier of local government in Devon. No equality impacts have been identified arising from the Recommendations set out in this Report.

11) Risk Management Considerations

This report focuses on the decision to join this ambitious programme and request a postponement of local elections. The decision itself rests with the Secretary of State.

The proposal to postpone elections has implications for local residents whose vote will be deferred from May 2025 to 2026. The issue needs to be considered against the benefits of delay to facilitate development of reorganisation and devolution proposals and draw down powers from central Government to a Strategic Authority overseen by a mayor.

Failure to engage in this process could lead to the risk of reorganisation being imposed on the council rather than participation in its formation and structure. The risks and the opportunities associated with the Devolution programme will be considered and reported to Members as proposals are developed.

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

The White Paper sets out Government's vision to deliver devolution and Local Government re-organisation at pace, which presents significant opportunities for our area to proactively self-determine the future structure of Local Government in Devon.

Given the significant devolution benefits articulated in the White Paper, it is recommended that the County Council requests to be included in this ambitious programme as a fast track to delivering deeper devolution for the area.

It is proposed that this proactive approach will give the County Council the best opportunity to self-determine and shape both deeper devolution and reorganisation proposals in the best interests of our residents and communities.

As a consequence of joining the ambitious programme the County Council the Leader will request from Government a 12-month postponement of the County Council elections due to take place in May 2025, with Local Government Reorganisation initial proposals to be submitted to Government by March 2025 and potentially final proposals by May 2025.

Name: Donna Manson
Chief Executive Devon County Council

Name: Maria Price
Director Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Electoral Divisions: All

Leader of the Council: Councillor James McInnes

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Papers

Cabinet Agenda 22 April 2024 [Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 22nd April, 2024, 10.30 am - Democracy in Devon](#)

Full Council Agenda 29 April 2024 [Agenda for Council on Monday, 29th April, 2024, 10.30 am - Democracy in Devon](#)

Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal [Devon and Torbay devolution deal - GOV.UK](#)
Devon and Torbay Combined Authority Regulations 2024 [The Devon and Torbay
Combined County Authority Regulations 2024](#)

Devolution White Paper [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

Link to the office of statistics population sizes by districts [Population estimates by output
areas, electoral, health and other geographies, England and Wales: mid-2021 and mid-
2022 - Office for National Statistics](#)

Appendix 1 Devolution strategic framework (non-mayoral)

Appendix 2 Devolution strategic Framework (mayoral)

Appendix 3 Populations of tier 1 councils in area

Appendix 4 Devolution Framework Summary Table

Contact for enquiries:

Name: Maria Price

Telephone: 01392 385546

Address: County Hall, Exeter maria.price@devon.gov.uk

Functions devolved to a Foundation Strategic Authority

Funding and Investment

- Consolidation of local growth and place funding in a single pot

Strategic leadership

Transport and Local Infrastructure

- Local Transport Authority and public transport functions, including bus franchising and responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan
- Simplification and consolidation of local transport funding
- Priority for strategic rail engagement (including mayoral partnerships) with Great British Railways
- A clear, strategic role in the decarbonisation of the local bus fleet
- Active Travel England support for constituent authority capability

Skills and Employment Support

- Joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan model, with Employer Representative Bodies
- Devolution of the core Adult Skills Fund
- Responsibility for developing local Get Britain Working Plans
- Devolution of supported employment funding

Housing and Strategic Infrastructure

- A duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy
- Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)

Economic Development and Regeneration

- Partnership working with Department for Science, Industry and Technology and UK Research and Innovation to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening local research and innovation capacity
- Responsibility as the accountable body for the delivery of Growth Hubs
- Partnership working with Department for Culture, Media, and Sport Arm's Length Bodies to maximise culture, heritage, and sport spending in place

Environment and Climate Change

- Heat network zoning coordination role
- Coordinating local energy planning to support development of regional network energy infrastructure
- Green jobs and skills coordination role
- A strategic role on net zero in collaboration with government, including on Great British Energy's Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan
- Responsibility for coordinating delivery and monitoring of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Health, Wellbeing and Public Service Reform

- A bespoke statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty^
- A role in convening partners and driving cross-cutting public service reform, including looking at areas such as multiple disadvantage

Public Safety

- A clear and defined role in local resilience, working with the Local Resilience Forum to embed resilience into broader policy and delivery^

Functions devolved to a Mayoral Strategic Authority

Funding and investment

- Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation
- Ability to introduce mayoral precepting on council tax
- Consolidation of local growth and place funding in a single pot

Strategic leadership

- A statutory duty to produce Local Growth Plans
- Membership of the Council of Nations and Regions
- Membership of the Mayoral Data Council

Transport and local infrastructure

- Local Transport Authority and public transport functions, including bus franchising and responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan
- Simplification and consolidation of local transport funding
- Removal of certain Secretary of State consents, e.g. on lane rental schemes
- Duty to establish a Key Route Network on the most important local roads
- Mayoral Power of Direction over use of constituent authority powers on the Key Route Network
- Priority for strategic rail engagement (including mayoral partnerships) with Great British Railways
- Statutory role in governing, managing, planning, and developing the rail network
- An option for greater control over local rail stations
- A clear, strategic role in the decarbonisation of the local bus fleet
- Active Travel England support for constituent authority capability
- Formal partnership with National Highways

Skills and employment support

- Joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan model, with Employer Representative Bodies
- Devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills functions through a consolidated skills funding pot
- Central convening of youth careers provision including greater flexibility for Careers hubs
- A clear role in relation to 16-19 education and training
- Responsibility for developing local Get Britain Working Plans
- Devolution of supported employment funding
- Co-design of future employment support that is additional to core Jobcentre Plus provision

Housing and strategic planning

- A duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy
- Strategic development management powers (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)

- Ability to raise a Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy to fund strategic infrastructure (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)
- Ability to make Mayoral Development Orders
- Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations
- Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)
- Devolution of wider grant funding to support regeneration and housing delivery
- Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England

Economic development and regeneration

- Partnership working with Department for Science, Industry and Technology and UK Research and Innovation to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening local research and innovation capacity
- Develop joint innovation action plans with Innovate UK to shape long-term strategies and investments
- Embed UK Research and Innovation lead points of contact for enhanced collaborative working on innovation with Mayoral Strategic Authorities that are committed to work collaboratively on innovation
- Responsibility as the accountable body for the delivery of Growth Hubs
- A Strategic Partnership with the Department for Business and Trade focused on domestic growth, exports, investment, and delivery of local growth priorities.
- Partnership working with Department for Culture, Media, and Sport Arm's Length Bodies to maximise culture, heritage, and sport spending in place

Environment and climate change

- Heat network zoning coordination role
- Coordinating local energy planning to support development of regional network energy infrastructure
- Green jobs and skills coordination role
- A strategic role on net zero in collaboration with government, including on Great British Energy's Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan
- Responsibility for coordinating delivery and monitoring of Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Health, wellbeing, and public service reform

- A bespoke statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty
- Mayors engaged during the Integrated Care Boards chair appointment process
- Mayors as members of local Integrated Care Partnerships, and consideration for position of chair or co-chair
- A role in convening partners and driving cross-cutting public service reform, including looking at areas such as multiple disadvantage

Public safety

- Mayors accountable for the exercise of Police and Crime Commissioner functions where police force and mayoral boundaries align
- Mayors accountable for the exercise of Fire and Rescue Authority functions where fire and rescue service and mayoral boundaries align
- A clear and defined role in local resilience, working with the Local Resilience Forum to embed resilience into broader policy and delivery

Population Size 2024

Devon County Council 838,000

Torbay Council 141,000

Plymouth City Council 268,000

Cornwall Council 581,000

Appendix 4– Devolution Framework Summary Table

Key: (**) refers to functions for which funding will be included in Integrated Settlements for Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

(^) refers to functions which apply to Combined and Combined County Authorities only.

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Funding and investment			
Access to a multi-departmental, long-term integrated funding settlement**			X
Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation		X	X
Removal of gateway review from investment fund, after Gateway One complete			X
Ability to introduce mayoral precepting on council tax^		X	X
Consolidation of local growth and place funding in a single pot**	X	X	X
Strategic leadership			
A statutory duty to produce Local Growth Plans		X	X
Membership of the Council of Nations and Regions		X	X
Membership of the Mayoral Data Council		X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Transport and local infrastructure			
Local Transport Authority and public transport functions, including bus franchising and responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan	X	X	X
Simplification and consolidation of local transport funding**	X	X	X
Removal of certain Secretary of State consents, e.g. on lane rental schemes		X	X
Duty to establish a Key Route Network on the most important local roads^		X	X
Mayoral Power of Direction over use of constituent authority powers on the Key Route Network^		X	X
Priority for strategic rail engagement (including mayoral partnerships) with Great British Railways	X	X	X
Statutory role in governing, managing, planning, and developing the rail network		X	X
An option for greater control over local rail stations		X	X
A 'right to request' further rail devolution			X
Priority for support to deliver multi-modal ticketing			X
A clear, strategic role in the decarbonisation of the local bus fleet	X	X	X
Active Travel England support for constituent authority capability^	X	X	X
Formal partnership with National Highways		X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Skills and employment support			
Joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan model, with Employer Representative Bodies	X	X	X
Devolution of the core Adult Skills Fund	X		
Devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills functions through a consolidated skills funding pot**		X	X
Central convening of youth careers provision including greater flexibility for Careers hubs		X	X
A clear role in relation to 16-19 education and training		X	X
Responsibility for developing local Get Britain Working Plans	X	X	X
Devolution of supported employment funding**	X	X	X
Co-design of future employment support that is additional to core Jobcentre Plus provision		X	X
Delegated delivery or commissioning of employment support that is additional to core Jobcentre Plus provision			X
Alignment of Jobcentre Plus boundaries with Strategic Authorities			X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Housing and strategic planning			
A duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy	X	X	X
Strategic development management powers (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)		X	X
Ability to raise a Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy to fund strategic infrastructure (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)		X	X
Ability to make Mayoral Development Orders		X	X
Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations		X	X
Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)	X	X	X
Devolution of wider grant funding to support regeneration and housing delivery**		X	X
Ability to set the strategic direction of any future programme to support affordable housing provision in their area			X
Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England		X	X
Support to establish a public sector land commission			X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Economic development and regeneration			
Partnership working with Department for Science, Industry and Technology and UK Research and Innovation to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening local research and innovation capacity	X	X	X
Develop joint innovation action plans with Innovate UK to shape long-term strategies and investments		X	X
Embed UK Research and Innovation lead points of contact for enhanced collaborative working on innovation with Mayoral Strategic Authorities that are committed to work collaboratively on innovation		X	X
Responsibility as the accountable body for the delivery of Growth Hubs	X	X	X
Devolution of Growth Hubs funding**			X
A Strategic Partnership with the Department for Business and Trade focused on domestic growth, exports, investment, and delivery of local growth priorities.		X	X
Partnership working with Department for Culture, Media and Sport Arm's Length Bodies to maximise culture, heritage and sport spending in place	X	X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Environment and climate change			
Devolution of retrofit funding this parliament subject to a successful transition period (see 3.7)**			X
Heat network zoning coordination role	X	X	X
Coordinating local energy planning to support development of regional network energy infrastructure	X	X	X
Green jobs and skills coordination role	X	X	X
A strategic role on net zero in collaboration with government, including on Great British Energy's Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan	X	X	X
Responsibility for coordinating delivery and monitoring of Local Nature Recovery Strategies^	X	X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Health, wellbeing and public service reform			
A bespoke statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty^	X	X	X
Mayors engaged during the Integrated Care Boards chair appointment process		X	X
Mayors as members of local Integrated Care Partnerships, and consideration for position of chair or co-chair		X	X
A role in convening partners and driving crosscutting public service reform, including looking at areas such as multiple disadvantage	X	X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Public safety			
Mayors accountable for the exercise of Police and Crime Commissioner functions where police force and mayoral boundaries align^		X	X
Mayors accountable for the exercise of Fire and Rescue Authority functions where fire and rescue service and mayoral boundaries align		X	X
A clear and defined role in local resilience, working with the Local Resilience Forum to embed resilience into broader policy and delivery^	X	X	X