



Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal

Deals within the UK

- Government's ambition to have every area of the Country covered by a Devolution Deal by 2030
- Deals in principle now agreed to cover 60% of England's population
- Delivery however proving more difficult. Of 10 Deals announced in the 2021 White Paper, only 6 moving forward as planned. Cornwall failed to progress with a mayoral deal, Suffolk currently stalled and Norfolk delayed for a year.
- Only three Level 2 (non-mayoral) Deals agreed so far; Devon and Torbay, Lancashire and Cornwall.
- However, Government currently seeking to fasttrack 7-8 County Deals at Level 2 amongst unitary counties.



Benefits for Devon – Economy and Growth

- The new body will take a lead role in promoting economic growth, working closely with Devon's Councils and Businesses
- Additional opportunities to create more jobs, increase investment in our businesses, and better support the County to grow.
- Will include the transfer of residual functions from the Local Enterprise Partnership, including a proportion of its remaining funding and assets. This includes resources to take forward business support, boost innovation and enable ongoing collaboration with the business community.
- Opportunities for additional activity to be devolved in the future, including joint working around tourism (through the Local Visitor Economy Partnership), inward investment and innovation funding.



Benefits for Devon – Skills

- The Combined Authority will become the accountable body for a range of devolved skills and training activity, including the Adult Education Budget (circa £15m per annum).
- Will also take the lead on careers and work experience activity, joint working with Department of Work and Pensions around employment and employability, and in developing our Colleges, Universities and wider training providers.
- Ability to deliver more skills and training opportunities to help people to secure a job they value.
- Opportunities for future devolution of skills activity and funding over time, including technical skills resources, nationally procured and administered employment support programmes and vocational and apprenticeship activity.



Benefits for Devon – Housing

- New role for the Combined Authority, working in partnership with the District Councils, to accelerate and support housing development.
- More homes, in the right place, of the right size, supporting local people.
- Seeks to build on the work of the Housing Commission and the Housing Task Force.
- Includes a new role working with Homes England around a shared pipeline of development projects and accelerating local housing programmes.
- To kickstart approach, £8m of capital funding to be made available next year to support small, net zero and green housing projects across Devon and Torbay.
- Opportunities to devolve further activity over the next few years, including Brownfield Development and Affordable Housing Funding



Benefits for Devon – Transport

- New role for the Combined Authority as the local transport authority
- Commitment to produce a provisional area-wide Local Transport Plan (LTP) by March 2025 – strong foundation with Torbay, with current joint LTP
- Stronger voice with Government to take advantage of future grant funding opportunities to support delivery of key transport asks, e.g:
 - Expansion of active travel networks: LCWIPs / multi-use trails
 - Transformational bus system – stronger area-wide brand; modernised ticketing systems; low carbon fleet and stronger partnership.
 - Growing the Devon Metro – new rail stations and line enhancements, delivering better connectivity, capacity and resilience
 - Enabling infrastructure to facilitate economic growth
- Creation of Single Enhanced Partnership with bus operators and Combined Authority resp. for subsidised bus services and Concessionary Fare schemes



Benefits for Devon – Net Zero and Low Carbon

- Combined Authority to have a convening and funding role to delivery net zero and climate activity.
- Ability to do more to respond to our Climate Emergency, and better align our local response and strategy.
- £5-8m of capital support for Net Zero business and skills projects to be made available in 2024/25.
- A starting point on Net Zero, with the opportunity to seek further control over net zero public investment and support local regulation and strategy.
- Longer term opportunities to accelerate progress on critical issues like retrofit, low carbon energy production and distribution, aquaculture and marine opportunities (including floating offshore wind) and habitat and landscape management.



Approach to Consultation

- Full consultation programme due to launch on the 12 February for 6 weeks, to cover every area of the County.
- Includes a dedicated website, range of social media and other digital routes to respond, and printed materials to be made available via our libraries and community hubs across Devon and Torbay.
- Wider programme of events and engagement planned over the 6 weeks, including dedicated consultation events to cover our 8 Districts, a range of thematic events for business, community and education/ skills partners, and one to one engagement with key community stakeholders, employers and wider partners.
- Work currently ongoing with DALC and District Councils around additional engagement and consultation opportunities, with the aim to extend the opportunity to respond to as wide an audience as possible.



Ambition and Partnership

- Devolution Deal is the start of a journey for Devon and Torbay.
- Opportunity through Devolution to do more moving forward, demonstrating our ability as local government partners to more effectively deliver on the County's needs and opportunities.
- Huge potential to do more for our residents. National programmes often fail to focus fully on things that matter for us; supporting our communities and places, fully meeting the needs of our young people or older residents. New flexibilities will allow *us* to choose what works.
- Gives us new tools through which to work with our partners, with collaboration essential to many of our shared challenges. Devolution provides us with further scope to re-set relationships – Government and reinforce our shared Team Devon approach.

