

NOTICES OF MOTION – BRIEFING NOTE

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Recommendation

that consideration be given to any recommendations to be made to the Council in respect of the Notice of Motion set out hereunder having regard to the relevant factual briefing/background papers and any other representations made to the Cabinet.

Introduction

The Notices of Motion submitted to the County Council by the Councillors shown below have been referred to the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order 8(2) - for consideration, reference to another Committee or to make a recommendation back to the Council.

A factual 'Briefing Note/Position Statement' prepared by the relevant Director is included, to facilitate the Cabinet's discussion of the Notices of Motion.

(a) Protecting Devons Pensions (Winter Fuel Cuts) – Councillor Connett

Cabinet to note this was debated and determined at the Council meeting of 5 September 2024.

(b) Young Carers Covenant - Councillor Letch

For Cabinet to note this will be subject to a briefing paper and recommendation at the November Cabinet.

(c) Winning a Better Devolution Deal for Devon (Councillor Leaver)

The commitment of the new Labour Government to Devolution is welcomed by Devon County Council.

Council now believes it is possible to negotiate a much better devolution deal for Devon than the spartan arrangements approved by the last Government which disregarded and marginalised the value and importance of the City, Borough and District Councils in the County.

Council seeks a genuine partnership with local councils across the county council area and partner councils in establishing a new devolution deal that will help deliver and secure jobs, skills and economic development, along with much needed socially affordable housing, and help develop our education and healthcare sectors among others.

This Council therefore calls for no further action to be taken on the old Devon/Torbay devolution deal and for the Council to open new discussions with the Government on a revised deal for Devon, including Torbay and Plymouth and to also invite other councils neighbouring Devon to participate.

Briefing Note / Position Statement from the Director of Performance and Partnerships.

The proposed devolution deal for Devon and Torbay was announced and published on 25 January 2024¹. At its meeting on 2 February 2024, the Cabinet agreed to support the proposed deal and resolved to carry out a public consultation jointly with Torbay Council (as the Constituent Councils) on the draft proposal to establish the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DT CCA) (minute *467 refers). On 29 April 2024 the Council considered the analysis of the responses to the draft proposal for the DT CCA and approved the final proposal for the DT CCA for submission to the then Secretary of State (minute 276 refers). The Council also resolved “that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be given delegated authority to consent to the making of the necessary regulations to create the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority thereby implementing and giving effect to the proposal, subject to those Regulations reflecting the principles in the proposal document and this report [i.e. report CEX/24/1]”.

The General Election was called before the regulations (i.e. the secondary legislation) required to set up DT CCA could be enacted by Parliament.

On 19 September 2024 the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution (Jim McMahon OBE MP) confirmed that having reviewed the councils’ submission and the summary of responses to the public consultation, he was satisfied that the statutory tests to implement the proposal for the DT CCA via secondary legislation had been met. Government will now finalise the necessary regulations to provide for the establishment, including governance arrangements, of the DT CCA. It will lay the regulations before Parliament subject to both Devon County Council and Torbay Council consenting. It is anticipated that the DT CCA will be established in early 2025.

¹ Devon and Torbay devolution deal - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The Devon and Torbay devolution deal website has useful information about the current position and next steps - [Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority and devolution deal - Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal \(devontorbaydeal.org.uk\)](http://devontorbaydeal.org.uk)

(d) Pension Scheme Divestment (Cllr Hodgson)

For Cabinet to note that this motion has been referred to the Investment and Pension Fund Committee for consideration

This Report has no specific equality, environmental, legal, or public health implications that will not be assessed and appropriate safeguards and/or actions taken or included within the detailed policies or practices or requirements in relation to the matters referred to herein.

MARIA PRICE

[Electoral Divisions: All]

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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<u>Background Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
NIL		