

Meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

Date **27 MARCH 2015** agenda item number **4**

From **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

NOTTINGHAM / NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Summary

- 1 This report updates the Joint Committee on the creation of a Combined Authority for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Background

- 2 It was noted in a previous item that all the Councils in the geographic area of Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire County, Ashfield District, Bassetlaw District, Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Mansfield District, Newark & Sherwood District, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils) have considered and approved the principle of creating a combined authority through their relevant Executive Bodies. This report updates on the 'Devolution Deal' which is to be agreed between the CA and Government.

Devolution Deal

- 3 The Government has invited those areas progressing towards Combined Authorities, and which also feature a Core City and a LEP, to negotiate 'devolution deals', potentially similar in scope to those already agreed for Manchester and Sheffield. A two stage approach is proposed:
 - Pre election - Outline proposal in form of a prospectus
 - Post election - Detailed development and negotiations of proposals, with a target 'sign off' date of November 2015.
- 4 The principles behind the deals are that Government want to see something in return, and they should be fiscally neutral. Propositions need to be compelling, building on other deals, but should also demonstrate distinctiveness and innovation, they should focus on specific problems and opportunities rather than making bids for greater power for its own sake. The scope and coverage of elements of the deal will need to differ depending on the individual propositions across the two Combined Authorities' areas.
- 5 The outline proposal currently has 5 themes within it:
 - Skills to Employment
 - Enterprise
 - Built Environment
 - Transport
 - SMART Infrastructure

Joint Committee and the Combined Authority

- 6 The two areas of most interest to the Joint Committee are likely to be Transport and the Built Environment. The Built Environment theme includes exploring further co-operative working between planning authorities both cross boundary and within local authority areas while the Transport theme includes long term funding allocations for transport, increased strategic transport connectivity, bus Devolution Powers, and further Traffic Management and highway safety freedoms. Also of interest under the Enterprise theme is the proposal to create a Free Trade Zone around East Midlands Airport, in partnership with the Leicester and Leicestershire LEP, whilst the SMART infrastructure theme includes a proposal for a localised energy strategy for energy reduction and production.

Recommendation

- 7 It is recommended that Joint Committee note the contents of this report.

Background Papers referred to in compiling this report

- 8 None.

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