

NOTTINGHAM / NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Summary

- 1 This report updates the Joint Committee on the creation of a Combined Authority (CA) for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (N2).

Background

- 2 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. These proposed arrangements are mirrored across the geographic County of Derbyshire, meaning that two CAs are proposed across the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership area. This report updates on progress with 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 was proposed, stage 1 (pre-election) being the submission of an outline proposal in form of a prospectus.
- 4 Stage 2 is now well underway, and involves detailed development and negotiations of proposals. Negotiations also continue on governance and structures.
- 5 The principles behind the deals are that Government wants to see something in return, and they should be fiscally neutral (although there may be some flexibility on this for the most ambitious deals). 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.
- 6 The initial outline proposal had 5 themes within it, and these remain largely unchanged, but with the Built Environment theme being more focused on Housing and Planning:
 - Skills to Employment
 - Enterprise
 - Planning and Housing

- Transport
- SMART Infrastructure

7 The latest development of the N2 “asks” under each of these themes was submitted to government on 4th September, and the government’s response is awaited. Once finalised, any devolution deal will require the agreement of all the constituent councils.

Joint Committee and the Combined Authority

8 The two areas of most interest to the Joint Committee are likely to be Planning and Housing and Transport. The Planning and Housing 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

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

Background Papers referred to in compiling this report

9 None.

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