

Bath & North East Somerset

West of England Devolution Deal
Parish Liaison
11 May 2016



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The national picture

Devolution is:

“The transfer of powers and funding by central government to local government”

- Devolution is current Government policy
- 8 Deals so far (*Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, North East, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley, West Midlands, West Yorkshire*)
- The budget announced deals with the West of England, Greater Lincolnshire and Greater Anglia
- Other areas are in discussion with Government on a Deal for their region



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Work to date in WoE

- A history of joint working between the WoE Unitary Authorities
- **2012** - City Deal was agreed
- **2014** - Strategic Leaders Board (SLB) was formed following the Local Growth Deal
- **June 2015** - Proposals for devolution to the West of England were beginning to emerge
- **July 2015** - SLB agreed to a governance review
- **Sept 2015** - Outline devolution asks submitted to Government
- **March 2016** - The Chancellor announced devolution deal for the WoE



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Regional challenges

The WoE is the only region (outside of London) that has above average productivity and growth. However, more recently:

- Productivity has stalled
- Skills shortages are on the rise
- Issues with housing availability and affordability
- Areas of deprivation with skills attainment issues
- Traffic congestion
- High population growth and evidence of an 'infrastructure deficit'



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An overview of the deal

'A prosperous economy with a rising quality of life for all'

- Devolution of **powers and money to the region** from central government
- An opportunity to **invest in new infrastructure, create new local jobs** and increase the **standard of living**
- WoE constituent councils remain in place and retain their existing powers – powers can only be transferred up should the councils decide to do so



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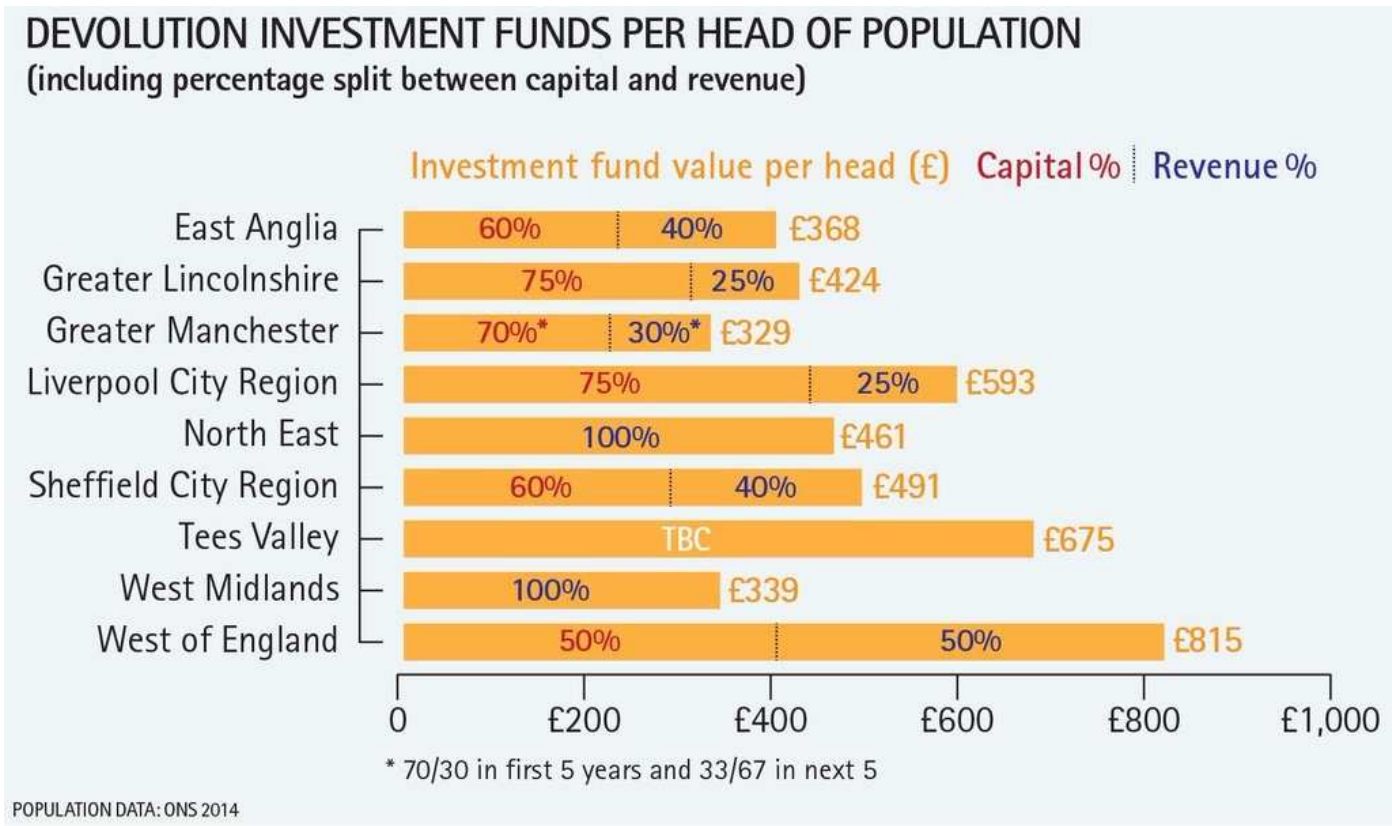
Money – the deal would include:

- **£900m in new money** made available to the Combined Authority and Directly Elected Mayor over 30 years at £30m per annum.
- **Protection of City Deal Economic Development Fund** –*including existing baseline*
- A single pot for **transport and growth fund** allowing for longer term planning
- Responsibility for the **19+ Adult Education Budget**, which will be devolved from academic year 2018/19.
- Direct negotiations on **business rate retention** and other funding such as Broadband and other flexibilities.
- Unlocks the door to further negotiations



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Money – comparing with other deals:



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Using new money – Bath Quays

Bath City Riverside North & South Quay

SITES:

 North & South Quay



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How could we use new money

- South Bristol Link Road
- Eastern Link Road
- Broadband
- Flood defence scheme
- Rail schemes
- Cycling and pedestrian schemes



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New skills powers

- **Adult Education Budget** by 2018, so that skills training locally tailored.
- Joint design of a new and locally relevant **Work and Health Programme**.
- Control of **Apprenticeship Grant for Employers** to meet local business need.
- Local influence over **careers advice** to ensure young people and long-term unemployed are able to make well informed choices.
- Flexibility to develop innovative and locally relevant **pilot programme for long-term unemployed**.

(no existing powers will be taken from the WoE constituent councils)



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New transport powers

- More influence through a **Joint Transport Strategy**
- **Devolved and consolidated** local transport budget (*removing DFT bidding processes*)
- Responsibility for a **Key Route Network** of local roads.
- Ability to introduce **smart and integrated ticketing**, subject to local consultation
- Better integration with **Highways England and Network Rail**
- Moving from an Band 1 to Band 3; unlocking access to future funding
(no existing powers will be taken from the WoE constituent councils)



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New housing/planning powers

- The **spatial framework**: will need to be approved by **unanimous vote** of the members appointed by constituent councils of the CA.
- **Strategic planning powers**, so that the right housing is built in the right places.
- **'Call-in' powers** for planning applications, to speed up the process of planning appeals and protect agreed Local Plans.
- **Unblocking stalled developments** with planning approval, including swifter compulsory purchase powers.
- **Development Corporations** for strategic sites to overcome a range of potential barriers to speedy development and delivery of homes and jobs.

(No existing powers will be taken from the WoE constituent councils)



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New business support powers:

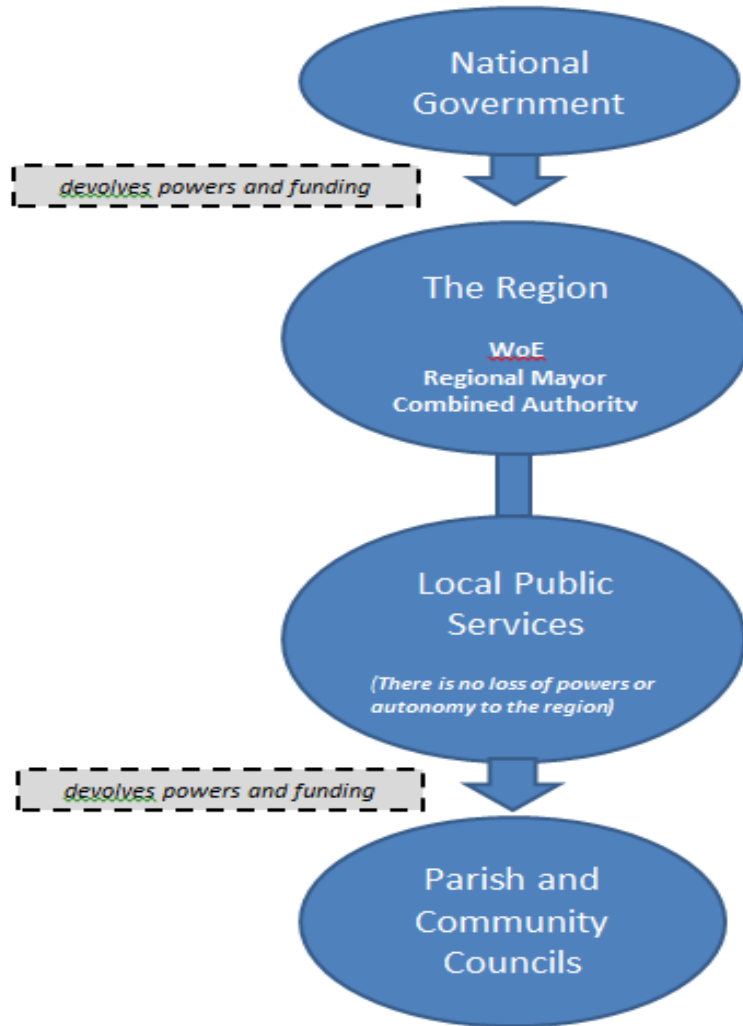
- Closer cooperation on integrated and locally relevant **inward investment and trade services**.
- Support for developing the **West of England Growth Hub**, to help growing businesses expand or set up.
- Increased support for the **Bristol & Bath Science Park** and the **J21 Food Enterprise Zone**, supporting innovation in key growth sectors.
- More local control over the **use of EU funds**. (*reducing bureaucracy*)
- Support the roll out of super fast **broadband**, particularly in rural areas

(no existing powers will be taken from the WoE constituent councils)



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West of England model of governance



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Constraints on the Mayor

- Mayor receives powers from Central Government, not the constituent councils of the combined authority.
- The combined authority may reject the West of England Mayor's plans if two-thirds of the constituent councils agree to do so (*including the Mayor's spending plans*)
- The spatial framework: will need to be approved by unanimous vote of the members appointed by constituent councils of the CA.
- The West of England Mayor will be **scrutinised and held to account** by the West of England Overview and Scrutiny and Audit committee.



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The Combined Authority (CA)

- The CA is a legal structure that will be set up by the constituent councils / the membership of the WoE devolution deal
- It will take on the powers set out in the WoE deal (*no existing powers will be taken from the WoE councils*)
- Membership: each constituent council will appoint one elected councillor (usually the Leader) to be a member. The Elected Mayor is also a member and will Chair the CA.
- The Combined Authority may reject the West of England Mayor's plans if two-thirds of the constituent councils agree to do so (*including the West of England Mayor's spending plans*)
- The Combined Authority will be held to account by the WoE Overview and Scrutiny Committees



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Devolution programme key milestones and activities



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