
Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 13 July 2018

Subject: **Devolution**

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1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the committee on progress towards securing devolution to Leeds City Region.

2 Information

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received regular updates on progress towards securing devolution to Leeds City Region, summarised elsewhere in this report. At the time of the publication of this report, Yorkshire leaders plan to meet on 12 July 2018. The committee will be updated verbally on any devolution developments arising from that meeting.

Background

- 2.2 In February 2017, the Combined Authority considered a report on the progress made in securing a second stage devolution deal for Leeds City Region, which was seeking to build on the first stage deal agreed with the Government in Spring 2015.
- 2.3 The Combined Authority noted that a formal response to the Leeds City Region devolution proposal submitted in September 2015 had not been received from Government. Members expressed a collective desire to secure a devolution deal and discussed the ongoing challenges, recognising that other options, based on a larger geography, should also be explored.
- 2.4 Yorkshire's council leaders began meeting regularly in spring 2017 to progress a range of issues in common, including options to unlock devolution across the region.

- 2.5 As a result of these meetings, 18 of the 20 Yorkshire council leaders formed a coalition under the 'One Yorkshire' banner seeking the widest possible Yorkshire geography covering at least the administrative areas of: Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Doncaster, East Riding, Hambleton, Harrogate, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, North Yorkshire, Richmondshire, Scarborough, Selby, Ryedale, Wakefield, and York.
- 2.6 In response to requests made by the coalition's Leaders to the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a meeting to discuss their devolution proposals, the Secretary of State agreed to meet Leaders, MPs and other stakeholders at the February 2018 meeting of the Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire All Party Parliamentary Group.
- 2.7 The Leaders welcomed the Secretary of State's confirmation at the meeting that the Government would not seek to prevent a proposal based on a One Yorkshire Mayor and a One Yorkshire Combined Authority from taking effect in 2020, providing it satisfied the various statutory requirements and had widespread support. This would include the ability for any of the South Yorkshire authorities to join a One Yorkshire deal from the start.
- 2.8 The Secretary of State requested detailed proposals and Leaders confirmed that, given the level of agreement achieved across Yorkshire, these could be submitted to the government rapidly.

Recent developments

- 2.9 Yorkshire Leaders met on 5 March 2018 and agreed to submit their devolution proposition to Government and [publish it more widely \(on the Combined Authority's website\)](#) in the interests of transparency.
- 2.10 The One Yorkshire devolution proposal was submitted to the government on the 5 March 2018 in a letter to the Secretary of State. The submitted technical deal proposal is included for information in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.11 At its 5 April 2018 meeting, the Combined Authority noted that Yorkshire Leaders had submitted the proposal as a basis for initiating negotiation with Government and endorsed ongoing work to:
- identify any specific place based investment Asks;
 - develop and agree detailed governance arrangements for the operation of the Yorkshire Combined Authority (including voting arrangements and representation);
 - demonstrating the economic case for a Yorkshire deal, and;
 - preparing a public facing version of the deal which explains the proposals and benefits in plain English.

The One Yorkshire Proposal

- 2.12 The proposal is to secure a deal for the widest possible Yorkshire geography by 2020, including Leeds City Region, with a directly elected Yorkshire Mayor and a Yorkshire Combined Authority (with cross party Overview and Scrutiny arrangements), having the ambition of securing a broad range of devolved

powers and funding, in ways that do not create net additional costs and bureaucracy.

- 2.13 The deal proposes powers and funding aimed at raising living standards for everyone in Yorkshire, closing the UK jobs gap by delivering 200,000 jobs, boosting productivity via an extra £12bn of economic growth, and moving towards becoming a net contributor to the public purse.
- 2.14 The Yorkshire devolution submission includes commitments to creating accountable democratic and governance arrangements including that the Mayor and Cabinet be required to be scrutinised and held to account by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

5 Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

6 External Consultees

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the progress made on devolution and the next steps highlighted in paragraph 2.11 be noted.

8 Background Documents

None.

9 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Yorkshire Devolution Agreement Submission