

**Name of meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 21 March 2018  
**Title of report:** One Yorkshire devolution proposal

### Purpose of report

This report provides information on the One Yorkshire devolution proposal submitted to government in March 2018, as the basis for discussion on the potential benefits to Kirklees.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Jacqui Gedman: 12 March 2018
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Eamonn Croston: 9 March 2018
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft: 12 March 2018
Cabinet member: Leader	Cllr Sheard

**Electoral wards affected:** all

**Ward councillors consulted:** none

**Public or private:** public

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides information on the One Yorkshire devolution proposal submitted to government in March 2018, as the basis for discussion on the potential benefits to Kirklees.
- 1.2 The devolution proposal aims to secure a devolution deal for all of Yorkshire by 2020, with a directly elected mayor, an ambition to secure a broad range of powers and funding and the presumption of devolving powers down from Whitehall to the lowest practical level, in ways that do not create a costly new regional tier of bureaucracy.
- 1.3 The deal package proposes powers and funding aimed at raising living standards for everyone, closing the UK jobs gap by delivering 200,000 jobs, boosting productivity via an extra £12b of economic growth, and moving towards becoming a net contributor to the public purse.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

- 2.1 Following a meeting of the Yorkshire All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on 27 February, at which Sajid Javid (Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government) was in attendance, Leaders of 18 local authorities in Yorkshire have submitted a detailed plan for a devolution agreement for Yorkshire by 2020.
- 2.2 The detail of that Yorkshire devolution agreement submission is included as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 At this stage, the One Yorkshire proposal above is the only option for devolution making progress. Initial proposals in 2015 for a Leeds city region deal stalled in 2016. The Greater Yorkshire proposal of a geography that includes North, West, East Yorkshire & Hull does not have the support of West Yorkshire leaders.
- 2.4 There remains a South Yorkshire deal which government are clear they do not wish to undermine. Barnsley and Doncaster will support a South Yorkshire deal if it is a stepping stone to a regional deal by 2020.
- 2.5 The One Yorkshire proposal suggests a mayoral term commencing in 2020. For this to include South Yorkshire, there would be a need to change the term of the South Yorkshire mayor from four to two years, following the scheduled May 2018 mayoral election. This would require full local and Secretary of State agreement.
- 2.6 The deal would enable a Yorkshire Combined Authority to create an Investment Fund of more than £3.75b through a 30 year gainshare revenue stream (£125m a year) and locally raised finance.
- 2.7 The deal proposes a directly elected mayor with a clear economic leadership remit, and streamlined and robust governance which create no additional cost burden on the tax payer. The proposal is based on the Yorkshire mayor working as part of a Yorkshire Combined Authority with a cabinet of council leaders.
- 2.8 The deal suggests that this will position Yorkshire to benefit from:
  - Becoming a significant player in an outward looking, competitive and prosperous UK.
  - Creating a compelling basis for government and business investment.

- Rebalancing the economy by increasing local and net national earning power.
- Sharing prosperity across society.

3.9 Government has clearly signalled its interest in working with mayoral areas. Half of the £1.7b Transforming Cities Fund has been allocated to the six areas with elected metro mayors to enable them to deliver local transport priorities while the remainder is accessed by an open competition.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

#### **3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)**

Devolving powers and funding from a national to a regional level will allow more local choices in terms of how resources are channelled into approaches that focus on early intervention and prevention.

#### **3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)**

The devolution proposal is focused on an economic agenda, based on raising living standards, closing the UK jobs gap, boosting productivity and becoming a net contributor to the public purse.

The focus of devolving powers and resources is to play a central role in the UK economy through self-reliance, self-help and self-sufficiency.

#### **3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children**

Proposals around strategic infrastructure investment, bus services, smart ticketing and enabling more houses to be built should have a positive impact on children and young people as well as the general population.

There are specific proposals around devolved budget for employer-led skills investment to allow a joined up skills brokerage service to help more employers offer apprenticeships.

There are also specific proposals for powers and devolved funding to drive the improvement of careers and enterprise in education, and inspiration around STEM (science, technology, English and maths) choices.

#### **3.4 Reducing demand of services**

Proposals around economic growth and infrastructure investment are designed to lead to improved living standards and the creation of 200,000 jobs, thus reducing the demand for services.

#### **3.5 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

As below (next steps) there are statutory requirements to progressing the proposals outlined in the devolution agreement submission. If this is agreed it will be a significant piece of work.

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

4.1 The devolution proposals and all levels of funding contained in the agreement are subject to political leaders consulting their local communities and businesses on the proposals, and local and combined authority ratification.

- 4.2 One of the identified next steps is ensuring that broadly based local support is demonstrated, including via support from MPs, Peers, and other stakeholders, as well as via statutory public consultation and involvement.

## 5. Next steps

5.1 A response from government is awaited.

5.2 Other identified next steps include:

- A statutory review to evidence the case that a Yorkshire Combined Authority would improve the exercise of statutory functions and cover a functional economic area.
- Local formal consent from councils and combined authorities.

## 6. Officer recommendations and reasons

To note the content of the Yorkshire devolution agreement submission and discuss the potential benefits to Kirklees.

This discussion will support Kirklees in playing a strong and focused role in the development of future arrangements that enable to district to best secure progress against its shared outcomes.

## 7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Following discussion at Leading Members this item is now brought for debate at Council.

## 8. Contact officer

Kate McNicholas, Policy, Partnerships and Transformation  
[Kate.mcnicholas@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.mcnicholas@kirklees.gov.uk)  
Tel: 72957 / 07581 188692

Rachel Spencer-Henshall  
Strategic Director, Corporate Strategy and Public Health  
[Rachel.spencer-henshall@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.spencer-henshall@kirklees.gov.uk)  
Tel: 72426

## 9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Various reports relating to the formation of West Yorkshire Combined Authority, including:

- *'West Yorkshire Combined Authority'* Council report, 2 July 2013
- *'Consultation response regarding West Yorkshire Combined Authority'* Council report, 4 December 2013
- *'Progress report on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority'* Corporate Governance & Audit Committee, 31 January 2014

- *'West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Appointments and Nominations'* Corporate Governance & Audit Committee, 6 March 2014

A motion regarding devolution was passed at Council on 2 September 2015.

The Kirklees Democracy Commission report, which was signed off by Council on 15 November 2017, included a chapter on regional devolution.

**10. Service Director responsible**

Jacqui Gedman  
Chief Executive