



**Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 21 September 2016

DEVOLUTION

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on proposals for a devolution deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note this report.

3. Background

3.1 In May 2015, the Government announced its intention to bring forward legislation to support the English devolution process. The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 made provision for further devolution of powers within England. Devolution is the granting of powers and funding from Central Government to local areas. It enables decision-making and resources to be managed locally. It involves the creation of a new Combined Authority, chaired by a Directly Elected Mayor.

3.2 Leaders of key public services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been discussing proposals for a devolution deal with the Government since initial proposals were submitted to Government at the end of last year. They have been seeking a devolution settlement which initially focuses on:

- Housing, Planning and Development
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Skills, Education, Aspiration and Employment.

Further powers may be agreed over time. Leaders have signalled their desire to discuss further devolution with the Government to support public sector reform in areas including community safety and health and social care.

- 3.3 Consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution proposals ran from the 8 July to 23 August 2016. A report on the outcome of the consultation exercise has been submitted to the Secretary of State, the results of which will help inform the decisions being made by partners and the Secretary of State.

4. Timetable

- 4.1 By the end of October/start of November the proposed governance model will be developed further. The devolution proposals will be considered by Full Councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Government approval sought.
- 4.2 If approved, through November to December, a legislative processes will be undertaken to establish the Combined Authority and secure the transfer of powers.
- 4.3 In November a Shadow Combined Authority would be formed which would operate until May 2017. The Combined Authority would be established in February 2017. A Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough would be elected in May 2017.

5. Community Safety

- 5.1 A future deal for community safety across local authorities, police, fire, probation and other services could build on the existing good partnership work in place to create a better alignment of priorities and activity to create safer and stronger communities. Existing good partnership working (at both the district / unitary level through Community Safety Partnerships and at the county level through for example Drugs and Alcohol Teams, Youth Offending Board) and the focus on putting safeguarding at the heart of everything these services do, would provide a firm foundation for moving forward.
- 5.2 Community's desire for increased visibility and responsiveness of public services to issues such as parking, speeding, anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, fly grazing, and graffiti remains high. This is in the context of increasing threats, reduced resources and the needs of the most vulnerable, whether the frail elderly, victims of domestic violence, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking continuing to rise.
- 5.3 Public sector organisations face significant challenges in the next few years. Rising recognition of need together with reduced resources will make redesigning public services imperative. Integration of operational front line services and governance arrangements, provides an opportunity to ensure we can respond to the changes. In this way, we can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our response to day to day community safety issues.
- 5.4 Profound changes are underway in services which deal with offenders and support victims. We need to build on our troubled families approach to take a system leadership approach and create truly integrated pathways which work with the criminal justice system and maximise the impact of our resources on reducing reoffending and providing resolution for victims.

- 5.5 Devolution provides an opportunity to discuss with the Government how it could support work to:
- improve the visibility, effectiveness and efficiency of our response to day to day community safety issues
 - improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Criminal Justice System
 - work with health and social care partners to create strong, as well as safe, communities.

6. Governance

- 6.1 The devolution governance proposals for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough enable the Mayor and Cabinet to agree to establish and participate in a Memorandum of Understanding with key partners to drive public service reform. This mechanism could be used to establish arrangements for the Combined Authority to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner on community safety issues.
- 6.2 An updated Countywide Community Safety Agreement and a reinvigorated Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board could provide the necessary partnership governance structures to drive forward these changes.
- 6.3 As with the legislative changes being made to fire and rescue governance arrangements, the Commissioner’s own governance arrangements focused around this Board would need to take account of any future community safety devolution.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Board is recommended to note this report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	<p>Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/1/contents/enacted/data.htm</p> <p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution consultation and associated documents https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/strategies-polices-and-plans/council-strategies/devolution/</p>
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