West of England Devolution – have your say

A £1 billion devolution deal for the West of England is on the table. This is new money and new powers for the area – and we want to hear your views.

- Better roads and transport
- More local jobs
- More affordable homes
- Improved careers advice and training
Have your say about Devolution for the West of England

Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council have now agreed to consult on a £1 billion devolution deal from Government. This would be run by the three councils and a regional mayor to oversee the additional money and powers handed over from national Government.

This means more money and powers locally for things like:
- Low-cost housing to meet local needs
- New investment, economic growth job creation and more apprenticeships
- Increased support for the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and Bristol & Bath Science Park
- Super-fast broadband, particularly in rural areas
- Improved careers advice and training for young people and long-term unemployed
- Improving air quality with Clean Air Zones

What does this mean for you?
- More funding and powers from Westminster to the West of England – with greater local control over how that money is spent, and the ability to deliver key infrastructure projects quicker.
- Three councils working together as a West of England Combined Authority to oversee the devolved arrangements.
- The public elects a West of England Mayor (in May 2017) to oversee the investment and new powers, working with the Leaders of the councils and the Mayor of Bristol.
- The Combined Authority would work more closely with the business community.

What does it mean for your Council?
- This does not mean a merger of the three councils and is not a return to the former Avon County Council. Each council would retain its responsibilities – continuing to make decisions and run local services for its own area.
- The West of England Mayor wouldn’t replace Bristol’s directly elected Mayor or the Leaders of Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils.
- An equal say in the investments and improvements as a result of spending this Government money.
- Your Council will have a veto over planning and transport matters in your area.
Why should you get involved?

Your say is very important. This deal is about stability and investment over the next 30 years – it will affect you and your children.

Please take part in the consultation – your views will be sent to the Secretary of State responsible for local government and devolution to consider. The final decision will be taken locally on whether to accept the deal for this area.

How to have your say:

Please complete the consultation survey to ensure your voice is heard.

The consultation runs from 4 July 2016 until 15 August 2016. This consultation is being run on behalf of B&NES, Bristol and South Gloucestershire Councils.

You can take part in the consultation in a variety of ways:

- Online: www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk
- Telephone: 0117 922 2848
- Paper copies will be available from local libraries, customer service points and One Stop Shops.

There are also opportunities to ask questions and find out more at public consultation events taking place across the West of England – check local media and the website for details: www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk