
Further devolution to the Greater
Manchester Combined Authority
and directly-elected Mayor



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1. The Government is fully committed to building a Northern Powerhouse, including through creating strong city regions, led by powerful, democratically elected Mayors. On 3 November 2014, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Greater Manchester civic leaders signed a ground-breaking agreement for Greater Manchester to create the first directly elected metro-wide Mayor outside of London, with powers over transport, housing, planning and policing.
2. Following the initial deal, Greater Manchester and NHS England signed up to arrangements to bring together £6 billion of NHS and social care budgets so that joint planning of these services can deliver better care for patients. In addition, the March 2015 Budget announced a pilot scheme in Greater Manchester and Cheshire East to enable the retention of 100% of any additional business rate growth.
3. The Government is committed to maximising devolution to Greater Manchester over time and this document further strengthens Greater Manchester's devolution arrangements. The document also demonstrates the Government's commitment to giving more powers to Mayor-led Metro areas.

Governance

4. The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill will enable the new directly-elected Mayor of Greater Manchester to take on the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and extends the period of office of the current Police and Crime Commissioner until 2017.
5. It will also allow the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to take on a broader set of functions than the current economic development, regeneration and transport. The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill currently in Parliament will establish the principles which will govern further prudential borrowing for Combined Authorities. Following Royal Assent, Central Government will work with Greater Manchester to determine how these powers could apply within a framework of fiscal responsibility and accountability to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Local Authorities.

Bus Franchising

6. The Bus Franchising element of the Devolution Agreement signed in November 2014 will be enabled through a specific Buses Bill, to be introduced during the first Parliamentary session.

Fire

7. The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority will be abolished and legislation will enable the transfer of its functions to the Elected Mayor. Appropriate arrangements will be introduced to oversee the operational discharge of functions.

Land

8. The Government will work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to create a Greater Manchester Land Commission. The Greater Manchester Land Commission will oversee the efficient utilisation of the public sector estate, creating a comprehensive database of all public sector land, identifying barriers to its disposal, and developing solutions to address those barriers to help Greater Manchester meet its goal to deliver more than 10,000 new homes per annum. The Land Commission will be jointly chaired by the Mayor and Housing Minister, and will include Ministers from key land-owning Departments.

Planning

9. The Government will provide the Mayor with further powers over planning, to ensure that she/he can drive forward and shape development in the area. These include:
 - power to make Mayoral Development Corporations to help drive regeneration and progress on complex schemes, subject to the agreement of the Cabinet member(s) from the borough(s) in which the Mayoral Development Corporation would have powers; and
 - Compulsory Purchase Powers for the Mayor, subject to the consent of the agreement of the Cabinet member(s) from the borough(s) in which the Compulsory Purchase Order will be used.

Children's Services

10. The Government and Local Authorities will undertake a fundamental review of the way that all children's services are delivered, including services by Local Authorities and other public service providers. The review will explore how integrated and more efficient ways of delivery of all services

can be achieved by and for Greater Manchester Local Authorities, making best use of existing resources and linking service transformation to the scaling up of Early Years new delivery models and to the education and criminal justice systems. The proposals will be developed within a framework of locally accountable leadership, delivery and commissioning arrangements and specific proposals will be subject to Department for Education, HM Treasury and individual Local Authority approval.

Employment and skills

11. The Department for Work and Pensions will work with Greater Manchester to facilitate the introduction of efficient (for both Greater Manchester and Central Government) administrative processes in order to support the delivery of the current devolution deal and will work with Greater Manchester to support long-term unemployed and people with health conditions into sustainable employment.
12. Central Government will explore with Greater Manchester the scope to incorporate greater local flexibility in employment and skills programmes generally to reflect the priorities of Greater Manchester, including greater co-commissioning responsibilities to be afforded to Greater Manchester.

Sunday Trading

13. The Government will consult this summer on devolving powers on Sunday Trading to city mayors. This would give the Mayor of Greater Manchester the flexibility to make alterations to Sunday trading regulations.

Health and Social Care

14. Health and social care leaders from across Greater Manchester are now coming together as part of the transition to their control of their £6bn health and social care budget.
15. Together they are making progress on work to extend seven day access to primary care, radically upgrade prevention and public health, help those with mental ill health into work and make Greater Manchester's Academic Health Science System a national leader.
16. By the end of this year they will have a Strategic Sustainability Plan in place to show how they will deliver a clinically and financially sustainable set of health and social care services for the people of

Greater Manchester. The production of the Strategic Sustainability Plan will be aligned with the Spending Review process that applies to NHS, Public Health and Local Authority social care funding.