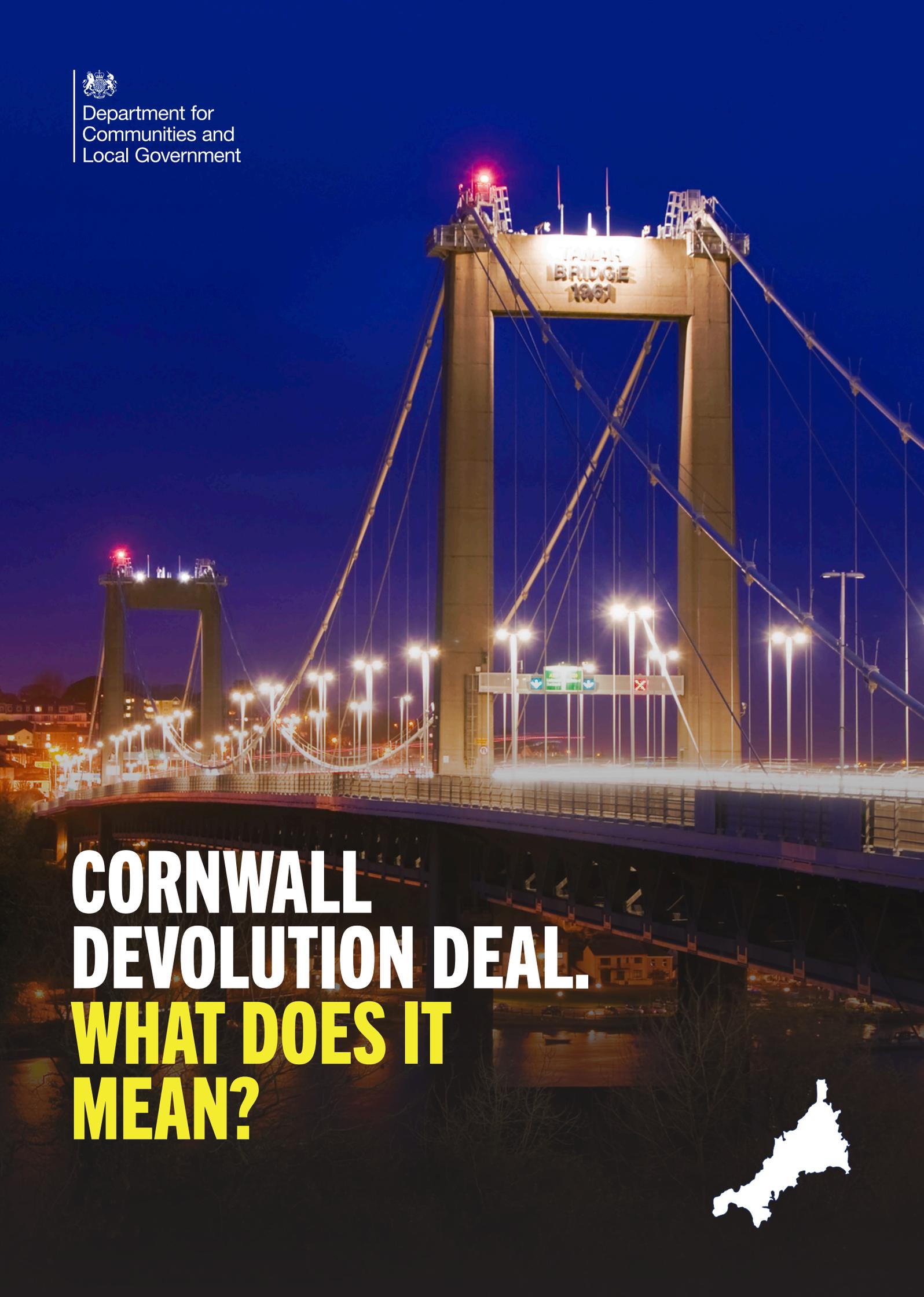




Department for
Communities and
Local Government



CORNWALL DEVOLUTION DEAL. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

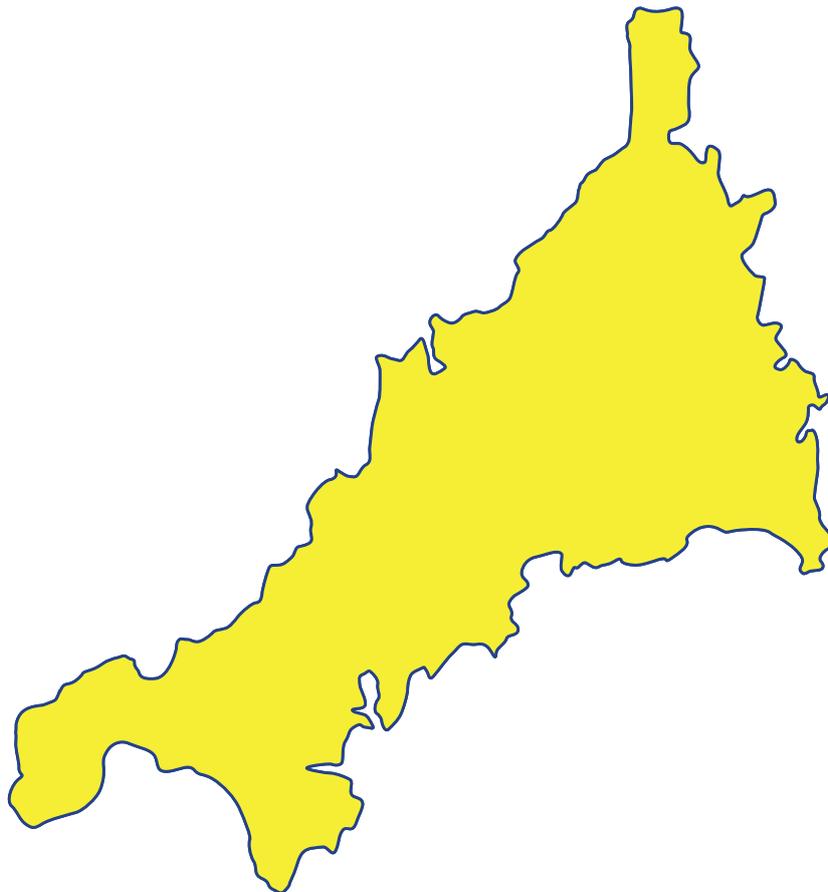


INTRODUCTION

In July 2015, Cornwall Council, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership and NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group agreed a devolution deal with government.

The devolution deal gives Cornwall a greater say over public sector funding and promotes local decision-making in many public services that are important to the people of Cornwall. The deal also agrees how different organisations in Cornwall will work with each other, and with government, to provide better services.

This guide aims to explain, in a clear way, what the devolution deal means for the local area and what will change.



ABOUT THE CORNWALL DEVOLUTION DEAL

The deal was officially signed in July 2015 by the leader of Cornwall Council, the chairman of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, the chair of NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Cornwall was the first mainly rural council area to sign a devolution deal.

The Cornwall devolution deal is unique as it does not put in place a new combined authority and directly-elected mayor, which will be created in other devolution deal areas in England from May 2017. For Cornwall this means that existing organisations, like Cornwall Council, must take responsibility for making the deal happen as part of their everyday work.

A Cornwall Devolution Monitoring Board brings together all relevant local partners to make sure the deal is being implemented. This Board is chaired by Cornwall Council and is also attended by representatives from Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership, NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England, three local Members of Parliament and the Government's Cities and Local Growth Unit.

Whilst the devolution deal applies to Cornwall only, the Government and local partners recognise that all policy areas have the potential to have an impact on the Isles of Scilly. Therefore, the Council of the Isles of Scilly is represented on the Devolution Monitoring Board.

Through the deal, Cornwall will be able to:

- set the rules for local bus services, including the routes, timetables and fares (*'Transport'*);
- ensure that employment and training schemes fit Cornwall better (*'Employment and skills'*);
- have greater control over how some European grant schemes are spent (*'EU funding'*);
- make it easier for local businesses to access advice and funding (*'Business support'*);
- attract and support businesses in the low carbon sector (*'Energy'*);
- better co-ordinate decisions about preventing floods and reducing the impact of floods when they occur (*'Flooding prevention and mitigation'*);
- make better use of publicly-owned buildings and join up services (*'Public estate'*);
- help bring together health and social care in Cornwall to better serve residents (*'Integrated health and social care'*); and
- undertake and publish a study on how and why Cornwall has a distinct culture (*'Heritage and culture'*).

The details of the agreement between Cornwall and the Government are published at www.gov.uk/government/publications/cornwall-devolution-deal

AREAS OF THE DEVOLUTION DEAL

Transport

Cornwall Council is expected to receive powers to have more say over how bus services are run locally (subject to the passage of primary legislation in Parliament). The Government also agreed to devolve central funding for local transport. This will deliver an integrated public transport system with smart ticketing – where tickets are stored electronically on a microchip rather than being printed on a paper – and will mean fares and timetables can be combined for travel between bus, rail and ferry services.

Employment and skills

The deal sets out the ambition for government, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Cornwall Council and training providers to work together to improve employment and skills opportunities. These include ensuring that training and learning provision meets local needs, developing new apprenticeship opportunities and improving careers advice for young people.

EU funding

The deal describes changes to the way that two European Union (EU) schemes – European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) – will work in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. An organisation will be created to select projects and take decisions locally. The Department for Communities and Local Government (for ERDF) and Department for Work and Pensions (for ESF) will continue to make sure that projects meet EU requirements. Government will guarantee funding for projects reliant on European Structural and Investment Funds, where agreements have been signed before the UK's departure from the EU (expected in 2019), even where those projects continue after this point, if they provide good value for money and are in line with domestic strategic priorities.

Business support

This part of the deal sets out that government will work with Cornwall Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership to bring together national and local business support services through a local 'Growth Hub'. This will make it easier for local businesses to find advice and support. It also says that government will support the Local Enterprise Partnership in developing new financial products (such as loans) to help local businesses. This will make more loan funding available to businesses.

Energy

The Government agreed to support Cornwall's aim to create a low carbon 'Enterprise Zone' to encourage private sector investment in this industry. It also agreed to work with Cornwall Council to develop deep geothermal energy production – harnessing energy from heat generated deep below the ground; to work with partners to help address the current constraints on the national energy grid; and to develop proposals to improve energy efficiency in homes.

Flooding prevention and mitigation

The deal committed to improve how decisions are taken about flooding and coastal defence in Cornwall. It brings together a range of partners, including the Environment Agency, South West Water and the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. This is intended to lead to the development of a joint investment programme to improve flood and coastal defences.

Public estate

This part of the deal set out agreements between government, Cornwall Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership to develop locally led proposals that allow public buildings to be better used to meet local needs, save money, support regeneration and increase co-operation between organisations.

Integrated health and social care

Health and care leaders in Cornwall will develop proposals to have greater influence over how health services are planned, agreed and monitored. They will work with government and NHS England (who oversee funding and planning of health services across the country). This will allow Cornwall partners to better plan health and care services around the needs and circumstances of the people who live in Cornwall.

Local partners, such as those working for NHS organisations which plan and organise health services (NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group), the local authorities, and health and social care providers have the same accountabilities and responsibilities as their equivalents across England. For example, all NHS hospitals in Cornwall are still subject to national targets and national expectations of the quality of services.

In England, councils are responsible for planning their local public health and adult social care services. Councillors who serve in local authorities are accountable to their populations through local elections. This has not changed in Cornwall.

NHS Kernow are accountable to NHS England for how they use public money and the results they achieve. NHS England are in turn accountable to Ministers in the Department of Health. Ministers in the Department of Health remain accountable to Parliament for the performance of the NHS, in Cornwall as in the rest of the country.

Heritage and culture

This part of the deal committed to create a Cornish Heritage Environment Forum and the production of a 'Cultural Distinctiveness' study. The partners consider cultural distinctiveness in Cornwall to be an important factor in the local economy, for example encouraging tourism.

Business rates

In February 2017, the government also announced that Cornwall Council will take part in a Business Rates Retention pilot. This is in addition to the devolution deal.

The pilot will enable Cornwall Council to keep all the income which it collects from business rates, rather than giving some of it back to the Government as happens at the moment.

The amount of government grant paid to Cornwall Council will be reduced by the same amount as the amount of extra business rates kept locally.

If new businesses start or existing businesses expand in Cornwall, this will increase the amount of income available to the council.

This extra funding can only be calculated after the first year, once the growth in business rates is known.

The Council will remain accountable for making sure that taxpayers' money is spent carefully and that the law is followed. The pilot will run from 1 April 2017 and until the national introduction of full business rates retention.

Further Information

For more information on the Cornwall devolution deal, please visit:

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living/communities-and-devolution/devolution/devolution-to-cornwall/>

For more information about the local partners involved in this deal, please go to their websites:

- Cornwall Council – www.cornwall.gov.uk
- NHS Kernow – www.kernowccg.nhs.uk
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership – www.cioslep.com