Devolution: A Mayor for the North of Tyne. What does it mean?
In May 2019, there will be a major shift in the relationship between central Government and North East England.

In 2016, the three North of Tyne authorities (Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside) approached Government with proposals for a landmark devolution deal for their area. The agreed terms of the deal were announced on a “minded-to” basis at Budget 2017. This meant that the announced deal terms would come into effect once public consultation had taken place and the consent of all affected local authorities and Parliamentary approval of the necessary secondary legislation was obtained. This process was completed and a new North of Tyne Combined Authority established in November 2018, confirming the devolution deal.

The North of Tyne deal means that powers, budgets and responsibilities will be passed down from central government to a new directly elected mayor in the North of Tyne area. On Thursday 2 May, residents of Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside will elect the first ever mayor for the North of Tyne area. The mayor will represent the North of Tyne nationally and internationally and will work with leaders of local councils and businesses to promote inclusive economic growth within the North of Tyne area.

The directly elected mayor and the North of Tyne Combined Authority will be able to:

- **Invest in local economic priorities through a new Investment Fund** grant worth £20m of revenue funding per year over 30 years.

- Create new **mayoral development corporations**, which will support delivery on strategic sites in the North of Tyne area.

- **Exercise compulsory purchase powers**, subject to the agreement of the Cabinet member representing the local authority where the relevant land is located, and subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

- Control **adult education services** to help local people get the skills they need (if Parliament approves the relevant legislation and the North of Tyne meets the conditions set by the Department for Education).

- **Set a precept on local council tax bills** to help pay for the mayor’s work. This would be subject to the provisions on council tax referendums, as determined each year by Parliament.

This guide provides more information about the powers and budgets being passed to the North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority and mayor, and who will be responsible for what. A copy of the devolution deal between the North of Tyne Combined Authority area and the government, which goes into more detail on the changes that have been agreed to powers, budgets and ways of working, can be found online here.
STATEMENT FROM THE NORTH OF TYNE COMBINED AUTHORITY

For the new North of Tyne Combined Authority – spanning Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland – the future focus is on positive change. It will quickly and decisively make a real and positive impact on people’s lives, businesses and communities.

The vision is of a dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region’s future.

The North of Tyne area has great assets in our universities, innovative businesses, international connectivity and rich cultures. Its unique combination of city, coast and countryside offers a range of great places to live, work and bring up families.

Whether it’s high technology exploration at the bottom of the ocean, digital innovation, dramatic breakthroughs to ensure people of all ages have fulfilling lives, a must-see cultural attraction or a thriving rural enterprise, it wants people and businesses to have high ambitions, and be supported to meet them.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority will seek new ways to unlock potential. It will create the conditions for businesses to flourish, nurturing investment and supporting new jobs growth. And it will connect people with these opportunities. This means working for better educational outcomes and making sure that people get relevant skills and qualifications. It will support the development of vibrant communities which inspire pride, and even better digital connectivity and transport links.
The combined authority brings together the councils in the area to work together on issues that affect everyone in the North of Tyne area.

The combined authority will have a Leadership Board, known as its Cabinet. The mayor will be a voting member and will chair its meetings. Each of the three constituent authorities will provide two Cabinet members, including the Leaders of Newcastle City Council and Northumberland County Council and the elected mayor of North Tyneside.

Proposals for decision by the North of Tyne Combined Authority may be put forward by the mayor or by any of the other Cabinet members. Any questions that are to be decided by the combined authority are to be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise set out in legislation or specifically delegated through the combined authority’s constitution.

Decisions by the combined authority should have the support of the mayor, unless specifically set out otherwise in the authority’s constitution. The mayor is not able to veto any decision of Cabinet. However, the mayor will be able to require a “mayoral review” of any decision for which the Mayor has not voted with the majority of Cabinet members; such a review will cause the decision to be re-considered by the Cabinet. At the conclusion of the mayoral review the decision may be confirmed or changed by the Cabinet.

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership, a business-led partnership that works to deliver more and better jobs across the North East, will have one non-voting representative on the cabinet, who will normally be the LEP Chair.

Combined authorities are covered by the Local Government Transparency Code, which explains how all councils must make information on their decisions available to the public. More information on this is available here. The formal meetings of the Combined Authority must be open to the public, and agendas, discussion papers and minutes must be published online.

The mayor will be required to consult the North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet on his/her plans and strategies, which the Cabinet may amend if two-thirds of the members who have been appointed by the constituent councils agree to do so.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority must establish at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the decisions of the combined authority and the mayor. The majority of members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be constituent local authority councillors. This committee can write reports and recommendations and can require the mayor and combined authority members to answer its questions. It is able to challenge decisions that have been made but not yet carried out and ask the mayor and the other members of the combined authority to explain their reasons for making a decision.
The North of Tyne Combined Authority, just like the individual councils that make up the area of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, must be run in the way described in the Local Government Accountability System Statement. This is a document that describes how the Accounting Officer for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government makes sure they are confident that all local authorities – including combined authorities – are managing their finances appropriately.

It explains how local authorities must be careful with taxpayers’ money and make sure that the law is followed properly at all times.

The Accounting Officer at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government must make sure that the overall funding system for local authorities (the ‘Local Government Finance System’) meets the needs of local authorities, and that local authorities are being careful with taxpayers’ money and following the law.

If a local authority is not following the law or spending money properly, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government can step in and, as a last resort, take control of how the local authority is run until the problems are resolved.

The costs of the combined authority’s and mayor’s activities are funded through devolved budgets explained in this document and contributions from the member councils, who agree their contributions through their own budget setting process. The mayor must set a budget for mayoral functions and may set a precept on council tax to fund these. The other members of the North of Tyne Combined Authority can propose amendments to the mayor’s draft budget. The combined authority can insist amendments are made if at least two thirds of the combined authority members support a change.

The combined authority’s Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 officer) must make sure that the combined authority manages taxpayers’ money properly and secures good value for money. The combined authority must also establish an audit committee which is responsible for making sure that the combined authority’s finances are properly managed. This must include at least one independent person.

**The Wider North East**

The establishment of the new North of Tyne Combined Authority involved removing the three North of Tyne local authorities from the existing non-mayoral North East Combined Authority. This non-mayoral combined authority continues to exist, with members from Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership.

Current transport arrangements for the seven local authorities in the North East will be maintained as they are now. This has been achieved through the establishment of a statutory joint committee comprising both the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the non-mayoral North East Combined Authority. All of the local transport functions and powers of both combined authorities will be exercised through this committee.

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership will retain its role delivering more and better jobs across the North East, working with both the North of Tyne Mayoral Combined Authority and non-mayoral North East Combined Authority.
WHAT BUDGETS WILL THE MAYOR AND COMBINED AUTHORITY HAVE?

The Single Investment Fund

The mayor and the North of Tyne Combined Authority will be able to:

- **Invest in local economic priorities to drive growth in North of Tyne through a new Investment Fund** grant, worth £600m over 30 years;
- Control **adult education services** to help local people get the skills they need (if Parliament approves the relevant legislation and the North of Tyne Combined Authority meets the conditions set by the Department for Education).

As part of its devolution deal, the North of Tyne Combined Authority will have control of a ‘single pot’ of funding from government to invest in local economic priorities. This will be made up of a number of different budgets. The North of Tyne Combined Authority will have flexibility to move funding between different types of projects and between financial years, to support the local economy.

The different budgets from government which are included in North of Tyne’s Single Pot are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE SINGLE POT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Fund Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Education Budget (subject to forthcoming legislation.)</td>
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</table>

The local area must produce an Assurance Framework which meets the requirements set out in national guidance published by the Government. This framework explains how the combined authority will make decisions on spending the Single Pot funds. The Accounting Officer for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government must agree the Local Assurance Framework prior to funding being released. The North of Tyne Assurance Framework will be available online.
THE SINGLE INVESTMENT FUND – GRANT

WHAT WILL THE MAYOR AND COMBINED AUTHORITY BE ABLE TO DO?

The mayor and combined authority will take control of a long-term fund of £20 million per year, over 30 years, to invest in projects that drive economic growth. They will be able to use this funding to bring in further investment from elsewhere. The funding is subject to five yearly Gateway assessments to review the economic impact of the Investment Fund spends to economic growth.

WHAT IS THE LOCAL AREA accountable FOR, AND HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

What is the local area accountable for?

The combined authority, chaired by the mayor, is accountable for allocating the Investment Fund. They should consider advice from business leaders (via the Local Enterprise Partnership) and from local officers. They should follow a clear and open process for choosing what projects they will deliver.

Before receiving this funding, the local area must agree an Assurance Framework with Government.

The combined authority’s Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 Officer) must make sure that the combined authority is careful with taxpayers’ money and following the law.

How are decisions made?

The combined authority will aim to reach decisions by consensus. The combined authority is responsible for administration of the Investment Fund.

WHAT IS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR, AND HOW?

The Accounting Officer at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is responsible for making sure that the overall funding system for councils (the ‘Local Government Finance System’) meets the needs of councils, and that councils are being careful with taxpayers’ money and following the law.

The Accounting Officer for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government makes sure they are confident that this is done properly through the process set out in the Accountability System Statement for Local Government. If a council is not following the law or spending money properly, the Secretary of State of Housing, Communities and Local Government can step in, as a last resort, and take more control of how the council is run until the problems are resolved.

The Accounting Officer for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government must also agree the Local Assurance Framework (see above).

An independent panel will report to the government every five years on how investments have made a difference to the local economy. Government ministers will then decide whether or not the funding should continue for the next five years.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS INVOLVED?

An annual payment of £20 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to the North of Tyne Combined Authority. The maximum value of Government funding will be £600 million, over the maximum 30 year lifetime.

WHEN DOES THIS START AND END?

This will start in financial year 2018/19 and will end, at the latest, in 2047/48.
Devolution: A Mayor for the North of Tyne. What does it mean?

ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET AND POWERS
(SUBJECT TO FORTHCOMING LEGISLATION)

WHAT WILL THE MAYOR AND COMBINED AUTHORITY BE ABLE TO DO?

The combined authority will take responsibility for the Adult Education Budget in the combined authority area. The Adult Education Budget provides funding to engage adults and provide the skills and learning they need to equip them for work, an apprenticeship or further learning. By law, it must pay for adults 19+ without the equivalent of a pass in GCSE English or maths, and those aged 19-23 without the equivalent of 5 GCSE passes or 2 A-level passes, to study for those qualifications.

The Adult Education Budget also pays for other training for adults up to and including Level 2 (GCSE equivalent). This includes training for unemployed people, who are referred to training by the national welfare system, and community-based learning for disadvantaged people.

WHAT WILL THE LOCAL AREA BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR?

The North of Tyne Combined Authority will be accountable for the decisions it takes on funding adult education and the outcomes achieved as a result. It will have statutory duties to ensure appropriate further education for people aged 19+, funded through the Adult Education Budget.

Responsibility for traineeships, apprenticeships and higher-level further education, supported by Advanced Learner Loans, remains at the national level.

The local area must agree an Assurance Framework with government (see above), this will need to cover adult education.

Parliament will need to agree to the transfer of the statutory functions associated with the administration of the Adult Education Budget from central government to the combined authority. The combined authority will become responsible in law for duties transferred in this way.

Before the relevant orders can be laid in Parliament, the combined authority will need to agree with the Department for Education the accountability arrangements covering the operation of devolved adult education within the wider education and skills system.

As part of this, the combined authority and the Department for Education will need to agree that the area has met the readiness conditions for devolution of the Adult Education Budget. This is to ensure:

• maintenance of a suitable base of learning providers (such as FE colleges, local authority adult education services, private and voluntary sector training organisations) in the area for learners aged 19 and over, following recent Joint Area Reviews of the provider base;

• an appropriate distribution of any financial risk between the combined authority and the Department for Education;

• protection of learners’ interests; and

• arrangements for funding and managing learning providers which are transparent and ensure good value for money.
WHAT WILL CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR, AND HOW?

The Accounting Officer for the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government must agree the Local Assurance Framework (see above).

The Department for Education will need to agree with the combined authority the governance arrangements covering the operation of devolved adult education within the wider education and skills system.

The Department for Education must report to Parliament on how the central Adult Education Budget has been spent. Mayoral combined authorities will be accountable for spend and reporting in their area. The Department for Education and Mayoral combined authorities will collect data in their areas of responsibility in order to do so.

The government will still be able to step in if something is going wrong at the local level.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS INVOLVED?

The Department for Education will annually calculate the appropriate portion of England’s Adult Education Budget for local areas.

WHEN DOES THIS START?

Subject to forthcoming legislation, and if the combined authority has met all the necessary conditions, devolution will start year in academic year 2020/21.
WHAT POWERS WILL THE MAYOR AND COMBINED AUTHORITY HAVE?

Functional power of competence
The mayor and North of Tyne Combined Authority have a ‘functional power of competence’. This means that the mayor and combined authority can legally do anything that individuals generally can do if they consider this necessary to exercise their functions, unless the law specifically prohibits it.

Raising a precept
The mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority will have the power to set a charge, or precept, on council tax bills to help pay for the mayor’s work.

When the mayor proposes a precept as part of their draft budget, the other Cabinet members can propose amendments, including on the amount of precept. They can also insist that an amendment is applied if at least two thirds of the other members support a change.

Borrowing Powers
The North of Tyne Combined Authority will be given powers to borrow for its new functions, which will allow it to invest in economically productive infrastructure, subject to an agreed cap with HM Treasury. The North of Tyne Combined Authority will agree overall debt limits with HM Government, and update HM Treasury about any deviation from its underlying borrowing plans.

Land and Development
The directly elected mayor and the North of Tyne Combined Authority will be able to help shape **how land is used** to meet the area’s housing needs.
# Land and Development Powers

## What Will the Mayor and Combined Authority Be Able to Do?

### Housing, regeneration and development
The North of Tyne Combined Authority will have broad powers to acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration.

They will be able to invest to deliver housing for the area.

### Compulsory Purchase
The mayor will have compulsory purchase powers, subject to the agreement of the North of Tyne Combined Authority member where the relevant land is located, and to the consent of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

### Mayoral Development Corporations
The mayor will be able to propose that particular areas should be included in mayoral development corporations.

A mayoral development corporation is an organisation which has powers to acquire and develop land to deliver regeneration and economic development.

Within the area covered by a mayoral development corporation, the corporation may take on the task of making local plans for the area or deciding on planning applications.

## What is the Local Area Accountable For?

### Housing, regeneration and development
The combined authority, and each of the local councils in the North of Tyne Combined Authority area, must make sure that the houses the area needs are built, meeting targets set in local plans.

### Mayoral Development Corporations
The mayor must make sure that any mayoral development corporations that may be set up are funded and run effectively, and that they are careful with taxpayers’ money and follow the law.

Increases in the value of the land as a result of the work of the development corporation will be reinvested in the corporation to deliver new schemes.

## How Are Decisions Made?

### In General
Decisions on combined authority business are taken by the North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet. The Cabinet is comprised of the North of Tyne Mayor (who Chairs the Cabinet) and two representatives from each of the constituent authorities.

### Mayoral Development Corporations
This power may be exercised only with the consent of the combined authority member(s) who represent the area in which the development corporation is to be established.

If relevant, the consent of the Northumberland National Park Authority will also be required.
### Mayoral Development Corporations

To establish a mayoral development corporation the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government must lay before Parliament an Order which will automatically become law unless there is an objection from either House of Parliament.

### How Much Money Is Involved?

Spending on these functions will be a decision for the mayor and combined authority as part of its budget setting process.

## Transport

The North of Tyne deal envisages that transport in the North East will continue to operate across all seven authorities in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Area.

### What Will Happen to Transport Governance in the North East?

Current transport arrangements for the seven local authorities in the North East will be maintained as they are now. This will be achieved through the establishment of a statutory joint committee comprising both the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the non-mayoral North East Combined Authority. All of the local transport functions and powers of both combined authorities will be exercised through this committee.

### Who Will Make Up the Joint Transport Committee?

The statutory joint committee will have seven members drawn from the two combined authorities. The North East Combined Authority will appoint four members. The North of Tyne Combined Authority will appoint three members, one of whom is to be the mayor, unless the mayor agrees otherwise.

### What Will the Role of the Joint Transport Committee Be?

The statutory joint committee will be responsible for preparing a single Transport Plan for the area of the two combined authorities. It will continue with the ongoing work to maintain and improve strategic transport connectivity across the region and to international markets.

### Does the North of Tyne Deal Contain Any New Transport Powers?

The North of Tyne Deal contains no new powers, functions or funding in relation to transport. As such the North of Tyne mayor will not be individually exercising any transport powers, (for example those for bus franchising).

### How Will the Joint Transport Committee Be Overseen?

Arrangements for overview and scrutiny and for audit will be undertaken jointly by the two combined authorities in relation to the work of the statutory joint committee.
Annex A: Combined Authorities: Origins, Powers and Responsibilities


The power to create a combined Authority is contained in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). This gave the government the power to establish combined authorities, which, as originally provided for, would only have powers to deliver transport functions and local authority functions relating to economic development and regeneration.

Changes in 2016

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) became law on 28 January 2016. This amended the 2009 Act to allow combined authorities to receive a wider range of powers and functions and to have directly elected mayors. By making secondary legislation, called an order, the government may:

- give any local authority power to a combined authority;
- give any public authority power (except for the power to make laws or to regulate the use of any powers that the combined authority itself uses) to a combined authority;
- create an elected mayor for a combined authority’s area, to take on particular responsibilities directly, and to work with and chair the combined authority.

Secondary legislation

The legislation establishing the North of Tyne Combined Authority, establishing the office of mayor and transferring powers can be found online: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1133/contents/made
## ANNEX B:
### USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

<p>| ACCOUNTABLE / ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PUBLIC MONEY | Accountability, or being accountable, for public money means that a person or organisation is responsible for using public money in an appropriate way and within the law. Local councillors, government Ministers and other holders of public offices must answer for their decisions and how they spend public money. |
| ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM STATEMENT (FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT) | A document written by a government department which sets out how their Accounting Officer ensures that funding is allocated and spent legally and in a way that represents good value for public money. |
| ACCOUNTABLE BODY | An organisation with the responsibility for holding and spending public money legally and in a way that presents good value for money for taxpayers. |
| ACCOUNTING OFFICER | The most senior civil servant within a central government department who is personally responsible for assuring Parliament and the public that funding is being spent legally and in a way that represents good value for public money. |
| AUDIT | An independent examination leading to an opinion on the financial accounts of an organisation. For local public bodies, an audit also leads to a conclusion on the organisation’s arrangements to secure value for money in the use of its resources. |
| BEST VALUE DUTY | This is the legal duty for various types of organisation, including councils, to aim to make continuous improvement when making decisions, delivering services and spending money; and to take into account economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The duty is set out at Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999. |
| BUSINESS CASE | A document that sets out the case for spending money on a particular project. |
| CALL-IN | To review a decision. |
| COMBINED AUTHORITY | A corporate body formed of two or more local government areas (county councils or district councils in England) which may be given powers to exercise specified functions of both local authorities and public authorities. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONSTITUENT COUNCIL / CONSTITUENT MEMBER</td>
<td>A constituent council, or a constituent member of a particular combined authority, is a local authority whose area is within the area of that combined authority. A combined authority’s area is defined by its constituent council members. It is possible for only some of the district councils within a county council area to be constituent members of a particular combined authority.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONSTITUTION</td>
<td>A set of principles and rules by which an organisation, such as a combined authority, is governed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNCIL (LOCAL AUTHORITY)</td>
<td>A democratically elected organisation that is responsible for delivering various local public services. They receive funding for these services directly from Government and by raising money themselves locally (such as through council tax).</td>
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<tr>
<td>(MAYORAL) DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION</td>
<td>Organisations set up to improve a defined area using a range of powers, including planning powers and the powers to acquire land.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEVOLUTION</td>
<td>When local areas take on new powers, budgets and responsibilities from Government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEVOLUTION DEAL</td>
<td>An agreement between Government and local areas in England to devolve new powers, budgets and responsibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRANT FUNDING</td>
<td>Grants are payments made from one organisation to another which do not need to be repaid. Government is providing a range of grants to combined authorities as part of devolution deals. Depending on the terms of the grant, funds can be clawed back by Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS (LEPS)</td>
<td>Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) bring together business and civic leaders across a functional economic area to shape local decisions and prioritise investment in order to drive local growth. The close involvement of LEPs is very important to devolution deals and combined authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SYSTEM</td>
<td>The way in which local government funding works, including the requirements which local authorities must follow to make sure that funding is being spent legally and in a way that represents good value for money for taxpayers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORDER</td>
<td>A type of secondary legislation. Also referred to as a Statutory Instrument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRECEPT</td>
<td>An additional amount on an existing tax, such as council tax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY LEGISLATION</td>
<td>A law passed by Parliament.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC AUTHORITY</strong></td>
<td>Generally, organisations including government, local authorities, combined authorities, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS</strong></td>
<td>Any public authority function can be transferred to a combined authority. These functions can include government powers, but do not include local authority (council) functions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCRUTINY / SCRUTINISE</strong></td>
<td>Scrutiny is the process of taking a close look at the decisions of an organisation (such as a local authority). All combined authorities must establish at least one overview and scrutiny committee and an audit committee to scrutinise the decisions of the mayor and combined authority, to help make sure that the decisions being made are well thought-through and legal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECONDARY LEGISLATION / STATUTORY INSTRUMENT</strong></td>
<td>Additional legislation passed by Parliament which often puts primary legislation into action. For example, an order is a type of secondary legislation which is needed to set up combined authorities and devolve powers to an area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECTION 151 OFFICER / SECTION 73 OFFICER</strong></td>
<td>The finance director of a council, named after Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 151 of this Act set out in law that the finance director must make sure that funding is being spent legally and in a way that presents good value for money for taxpayers. The Section 73 officer, named after Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985, does the same thing, but for a combined authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SINGLE POT</strong></td>
<td>An agreement in a devolution deal which brings together different sources of funding into one consolidated fund held by the Combined Authority.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LOCAL ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK</strong></td>
<td>A document written by the combined authority which explains how decisions will be taken to invest in and monitor the progress of projects, to make sure that any such investments present good value for money for taxpayers.</td>
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