



## DEBATE PACK

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# Elected mayors outside city-regions

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## Summary

This pack has been prepared ahead of the Westminster Hall Debate initiated by Justin Madders MP on Tuesday 14 June, 4.30pm - 5.30pm.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

Directly-elected mayors are to be introduced in a number of city-regions under 'devolution deals' agreed between those city-regions and the Government. The first 'devolution deal' was announced by the Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in November 2014. More recently, deals have been agreed with predominantly rural areas: East Anglia, Greater Lincolnshire, and the West of England (Bristol). As of June 2016, devolution deals with eleven areas have been agreed. Once a deal document has been agreed and published, each council involved must then itself approve (or 'ratify') its participation in the deal.

Many aspects of the deals are to be implemented via Orders under the [Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016](#). Other elements of the devolution deals do not concern statutory functions, and as such will not need to be implemented via Orders.

The Local Government Chronicle has developed [an interactive devolution map](#) showing the progress made so far towards devolution deals across England.

The devolution deals agreed so far have many similarities in terms of powers to be devolved. The powers devolved frequently include the following:

- Further education / adult skills;
- Business support;
- Joint control of the Work Programme;
- EU structural funds;
- Fiscal powers: investment funds, supplements on council tax and business rates;
- Transport, including bus franchising;
- Planning and land use, land commissions, CPOs;

Where they exist, the elected mayor will chair the combined authority, and will appoint the combined authority's 'members' (the leaders of the participating local councils) to portfolios in their 'cabinet'. The members will be able to overrule the mayor by a two-thirds majority on certain matters, such as the budget and mayoral strategies. On other matters, such as spatial plans, unanimity will be required.

Where local areas have agreed to the creation of a directly-elected mayor, elections are expected to take place in May 2017. The areas in question are Greater Manchester; Liverpool City Region; Sheffield City Region; Tees Valley; North-East; West Midlands; Greater Lincolnshire; West of England; and East Anglia.

## 2. Parliamentary material

### 2.1 Parliamentary Questions

**Asked by: Madders, Justin**

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what representations he has received in favour of elected mayors in Cheshire and Warrington.

**Answering member: James Wharton** | Department: Department for Communities and Local Government

Cheshire and Warrington were one of 38 areas across the country to submit devolution deal proposals in September 2015. Devolution deal proposals are developed and led by local areas. Therefore, the decision to release information regarding the content of any submission—including governance objectives—is a matter for the local area to decide, not the Government.

26 Apr 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 35058

**Asked by: Madders, Justin**

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether a devolution deal with Cheshire and Warrington is dependent on the introduction of an elected mayor.

**Answering member: James Wharton** | Department: Department for Communities and Local Government

Devolution deal proposals must be led and agreed by local partners—the Government will not impose an arrangement on any area. What we are saying, though, is that if an area wants far-reaching control over major powers and budgets, we will expect that deal to include a directly-elected mayor covering the whole area.

25 Apr 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 34725

### 2.2 Debates

[Elected Mayors and Local Government](#)

Motion that this House has considered elected mayors and the future of local government. Agreed

09 Jul 2015 | Debates | House of Commons | 598 cc167-190WH

Lead member: Cunningham, Jim | Answering member: Jones, Marcus · Reed, Steve

Department: Communities and Local Government

[Devolution \(East Anglia\)](#)

Motion: that this House has considered Government proposals for devolution in East Anglia. Agreed

27 Apr 2016 | Debates | House of Commons | 608 cc637-654WH

Lead member: Jackson, Stewart | Answering member: Wharton, James

Department: Communities and Local Government

## 2.3 Communities and Local Government Select Committee

[Devolution: the next five years and beyond: Government response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2015-16](#)

CM 9291, 26 May 2016

[Devolution: the next five years and beyond](#)

HC 369 29 January 2016

### 3. Press and journal articles

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[Cheshire 'to get elected mayor' in devolution deal](#)

BBC News  
9 June 2016

[Cheshire East leader to discuss devolution with neighbouring councils](#)

Crewe Chronical  
26 May 2016

[Doubts cast over rural England elected mayor plans](#)

BBC News  
27 April 2016

[Government to offer town 'once in a lifetime' business rate retention deal – on condition of elected mayor](#)

Warrington Guardian  
18 March 2016

[What mandate for directly elected mayors?](#)

Public Finance - News & insight for Public Finance professionals  
30 March 2016

[Election rivals welcome more power for Warrington – but council leader opposes elected Mayor](#)

Warrington Worldwide  
17 March 2016

[Government's devolution model doesn't make sense for rural areas](#)

Guardian  
16 May 2016

[Government moves to break up Hampshire devolution bid](#)

Southern Daily Echo  
27 February 2016

[How to make rural devolution work](#)

Rural Services Network (RSN)  
3 January 2016

Approaches adopted by large or metropolitan cities will not necessarily suit county areas, finds Brian Wilson

## 4. Further Reading

### 4.1 Commons Library briefings

[Devolution to local government in England](#)

This briefing sets out the progress so far of 'devolution deals' and directly-elected mayors for combined authorities across England.

5 April 2016 | Commons Briefing paper | SN07029

[Combined authorities](#)

Combined authorities are a legal structure that may be set up by local authorities in England. They can be set up with or without a directly-elected mayor. This briefing paper gives details of the structure of combined authorities.

20 Jan 2016 | Commons Briefing papers | SN06649

### 4.2 Blogs

[Justin attacks the government's "strange insistence on Elected Mayors"](#)

Justin Madders.com

19 May 2016

### 4.2 Think Tanks

**Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)**

[Empowering counties: Unlocking county devolution deals](#)

Ed Cox and Jack Hunter, 16 November 2015

This report considers how the decentralisation process is impacting on England's counties, and how these diverse areas can – by securing locally-specific powers and governance arrangements – boost their economies and improve their services.

**Localis**

[Making devolution work: A practical guide for local leaders](#)

Grant Thornton UK LLP, October 2015

**LGiU, the local democracy think tank**

[Devolution: a road map](#), Patrick Diamond and Jonathan Carr-West,

June 2015

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