



## Devolution to English Cities Debate on 17 July 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Heseltine to move that this House takes note of devolution to English cities in the light of Lord Heseltine's report *Empowering English Cities*, published on 2 July

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- Michael Heseltine, [Empowering English Cities](#), July 2019, pp 5, 21–30 and 60–65

*Introduction, chapter on 'the Combined Authority Model', proposals and conclusion from Lord Heseltine's report on devolution in England's cities. The report was commissioned by the West Midlands combined authority to consider the effects of devolution on English cities so far. Recommendations included: transferring day-to-day responsibility to metro mayors for services such as affordable housing; schools performance; the skills budget; and the unemployment and employment programmes.*

- House of Commons Library, [Devolution to Local Government in England](#), 15 May 2019; and [City Deals](#), 31 October 2018

*Briefing papers by the House of Commons Library detailing local devolution deals in England. The first briefing includes information on the history of devolution in England as well as the specific deals agreed with local areas. An outline of powers devolved to each area is given in Appendix 1. The second briefing provides information on the city deals agreed between the Government and local areas between 2012 and 2018. The briefing includes a quote from the then Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, who stated that the city deals would enable "civic and private sector leaders to influence the key decisions that affect their economic competitiveness; and/or innovative projects to unlock growth in each area".*

- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Combined Authorities](#)', 22 May 2019, HL15627

*Answer from the Government on the powers devolved to combined authorities. The answer details powers held by several combined authorities, such as integrated transport functions and bus improvement powers, as well as powers specific to singular authorities, such as public health functions that are exclusive to Greater Manchester.*

## Parliamentary Statements and Questions

- House of Commons, '[Written Statement: Industrial Strategy Update](#)', 13 June 2019, HCWS1616
- House of Commons, '[Written Statement: Industrial Strategy Update](#)', 16 May 2019, HCWS1559
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Local Government: Devolution](#)', 18 March 2019, HLI4271
- House of Commons, '[Written Statement: Local Growth](#)', 24 July 2018, HCWS927
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Local Government: Devolution](#)', 22 March 2018, HL6412

## Press Articles and Comment

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, '[Radical Shake-up of Power Puts Communities in Control](#)', 28 January 2016
- Steven Morris, '[Brexit Calls for Radical Shift of Power to Regions, Mayors Say](#)', *Guardian*, 23 October 2018
- Christopher Caden, '[Metro Mayors Are a Good Start](#)', Institute for Government Blog, 2 May 2018

## Further Information

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, '[Secretary of State's Annual Report on Devolution 2017–18](#)', March 2019
- House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, '[Devolution and Exiting the EU: Reconciling Differences and Building Strong Relationships](#)', 31 July 2018, HC Paper 1485 of session 2017–19, pp 24–30
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, '[Devolution and Mayors: What Does It Mean?](#)', 12 April 2017
- Institute for Fiscal Studies, '[Taking Control: Which Taxes Could be Devolved to English Local Government?](#)', March 2019
- National Audit Office, '[Devolving Responsibilities to Cities in England: Wave 1 City Deals](#)', 9 July 2015
- Centre for Cities, '[Devolution](#)', accessed 10 July 2019

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