

West of England devolution deal

January 2017

What is the West of England devolution deal?

Three West of England authorities have agreed a devolution deal:

- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- Bristol City Council
- South Gloucestershire Council

The aim is to shape the region's future the way we think best

Linking the key drivers of economic growth:

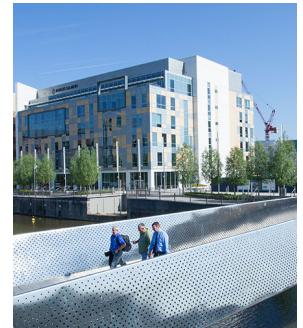
- Business
- Skills
- Infrastructure
- Housing



What will the Devolution Deal deliver?

Key benefits of the deal:

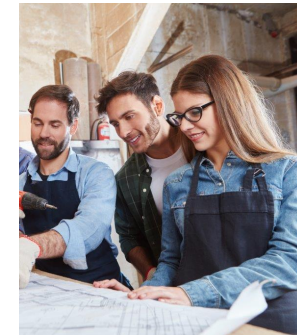
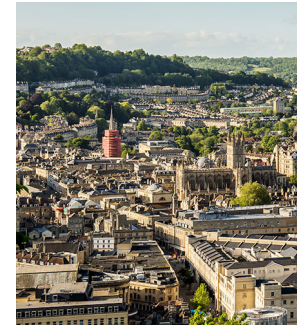
- £1bn of investment to deliver infrastructure. Govt to provide £30m/year funding over 30 years; additional funds to come from other sources
 - Decisions on which projects to fund will be based on economic growth & sustainable development principles and determined by WECA Board.
- Devolution of multi-year transport budgets, providing greater certainty that funds are in place to deliver transport projects
 - Coupled with further transport powers, including responsibility for a Key Route Network of selected roads.
- 3 WoE councils to participate in Business Rates Retention pilot
 - Local business rate retention to double from 50% to 100%.



What will the Devolution Deal deliver?

Key benefits of the deal:

- Enhanced powers to speed up delivery of new housing in line with the Joint Spatial Plan
 - Powers to resist unsustainable developments not in line with jointly agreed planning policies.
- Responsibility for the Adult Education Budget from 2018/19
 - Fully devolved to the WECA, helping to ensure that adult skills provision meets the needs of local businesses and learners in the WoE.
- Co-design with the DWP of the new Work and Health Programme
 - Focusing on supporting those with a health condition or disability and the very long-term unemployed. The WoE will also bring forward a pilot scheme to offer intensive support to those furthest from the labour market.



Timetable

Feb 2017	New West of England Combined Authority (WECA) established
27 th March 2017	Pre-election period begins
28 th March 2017	First date for prospective candidates to register
4 th April 2017	Closing date for prospective candidates to register
5 th April 2017	Full list of candidates to be published
13 th April 2017	Last date for public to register to vote
4 th May 2017	West of England Mayoral Election
8 th May 2017	New West of England Mayor takes office