

# DEVOLUTION:

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR  
THE EAST MIDLANDS



**£1.14 BILLION** deal for Derbyshire,  
Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham

- 
- MORE INVESTMENT IN OUR AREA
  - ECONOMIC GROWTH
  - MORE AND BETTER JOBS
  - BETTER TRANSPORT, SKILLS TRAINING, HOUSING
  - AN ENHANCED GREENER ENVIRONMENT
  - MORE POWER IN LOCAL HANDS

#EASTMIDLANDSDEVOLUTION  
#EASTMIDSCOMBINED

MORE FUNDING,  
MORE CONTROL,  
A BRIGHTER FUTURE

# A DEVOLUTION DEAL FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS: ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN THE COUNTRY

Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council have been offered a **£1.14 billion devolution deal** by Greg Clarke MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The deal with the government would see an extra **£38 million a year** coming to the East Midlands from 2024, addressing years of historically low investment in our area.

It would mean funding and powers move from a national level to a regional level to help the 2.2 million people who live here.



**Barry Lewis**  
Derbyshire  
County Council



**Ben Bradley MP**  
Nottinghamshire  
County Council



**Christopher Poulter**  
Derby City Council



**David Mellen**  
Nottingham  
City Council

“ We want to make the most of every penny so this can be used to make a real difference to people’s lives.

As Leaders, we have all fought for a fairer share for our cities and counties, and a bigger voice for our area, to give us the clout and the influence we deserve, and to help us live up to our full potential. This deal would help make that a reality.

More and better jobs through greater investment in our area, economic growth, better transport, housing, skills training, and an enhanced greener environment, as we move towards being carbon neutral, are what we all want to see. We will work together for the common good of the East Midlands.

We haven’t always had the same level of funding or influence as other areas, which has held us back. This is a golden opportunity to change that and put the power to do so in our own hands.

There is a lot still to be agreed, and this is the beginning of the journey, not the end. We’re determined to build on this deal over time, as other areas have done.







## £1.14 BILLION OF FUNDING

The deal would mean a new guaranteed funding stream of **£1.14 billion**, or **£38 million** a year over the next 30 years to help level up the East Midlands, as well as an extra £16.8 million for new homes on brownfield land and control over a range of budgets like the Adult Education Budget.

The deal offers the joint largest Investment Fund in the country, matching the amount offered to West Yorkshire, with other similar deals attracting lower Investment Fund figures.

Other areas with devolution deals have been able to make their funding go even further by offering loans to businesses so they can invest and grow, with devolved areas making money from the interest – so the true financial benefit is likely to be greater still.

## Building on our regional strengths...

- Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham have a combined population of 2.2 million people and contribute **£50.5 billion** to the UK economy in terms of GVA (Gross Value Added).
- The area has more than **88,000 businesses** providing over **930,000 jobs** in sectors with potential for growth, including advanced manufacturing, engineering, clean energy, logistics, creative and digital, education, health, pharmaceuticals, and wholesale and retail trade.
- The region is home to Toyota UK, Rolls Royce, Alstom, and Boots, as well as the University of Derby, Nottingham Trent University, and the University of Nottingham, which provide centres of research excellence with expertise in aerospace, rail, life sciences, and strong transport links.
- The area is home to major tourist attractions including the Peak District National Park, the National Forest, Nottingham Castle, Derby's Silk Mill and Sherwood Forest.
- There are major strategic opportunities presented through the East Midlands Freeport, the East Midlands Development Corporation, and the announcements in the Integrated Rail Plan on HS2.
- The two cities and counties are geographically close and already work closely together on many collaborative large-scale initiatives.

## ...and helping us to overcome the challenges we face.

- Productivity in the East Midlands is behind the UK average - we need an increase of **14.6%** to close the gap.
- Public spending per person has historically been below the UK average.
- There are areas within our region with high levels of poverty and poor social mobility.
- More local powers will help us tackle these challenges and harness the true economic potential of our area, for the benefit of everyone who lives here, and which would also benefit the whole country.
- Devolution for the East Midlands would give us more control and flexibility to respond to local needs including transport, skills training, regenerating our villages, towns, and cities, and more.



# WHAT WOULD DEVOLUTION MEAN?

Devolution would create a new legal entity known formally as a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). This would include Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council and cover the areas of both cities and both counties.

The four authorities would still exist as individual councils and would work together on a formal and legal basis to improve the region for our communities and businesses.

It would mean we can work more effectively across council boundaries. People move across these boundaries every day to get to their homes, for work, for leisure, and to visit friends and family, and so it makes sense that we all work together to improve things on a regional level.

Councils in our counties and cities already work in partnership in many different ways. Devolution would mean we can do this more efficiently and do more than is currently possible.

Rather than a brand-new tier of government, this devolution deal would move existing funding and powers from London, directly to us in the East Midlands, which means that local voices would play a greater role in decision making.

The new MCCA would include representatives from existing county, city, borough, and district councils. It would be led by a new regional mayor, and there would also be opportunities for private, public, and voluntary sector organisations to contribute and have their voices heard.

Devolution is a major opportunity to bring decisions closer to where they have an impact, and to get a fairer share to help to close the gap in public investment in the East Midlands, so we can see more economic growth and new and better jobs. Devolved funding is allocated for specific purposes. For example, the adult skills budget must be used on training.

The deal would give us much more control over our own area. Rather than many major decisions being made for us in London, as happens now, local people would have a say in the region's priorities, and devolution would give us a national platform and greater representation in London.

Devolution has seen real improvements in other parts of the country where it has been successfully adopted.





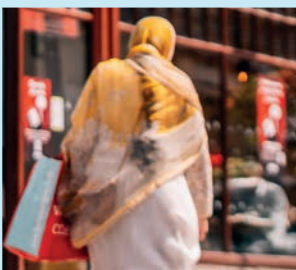
# A MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE

Devolution is a great chance for us to improve our economy and prepare for the industries of the future. It would mean we could develop new commercial spaces to maximise jobs and business opportunities.

We can build on our region's existing knowledge and expertise, for example in transport and green technology, promoting the growth of a future low carbon economy by investing in related skills training at colleges and other training facilities.

By playing to our strengths and tailoring our approach to the needs of our area, we can encourage economic growth and make sure local people benefit.

Devolution also means we can take advantage of economies of scale by using combined and devolved budgets to deliver more value for taxpayers and more cost-efficient services.





## A FUTURE WITH MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Devolution means we'd get more say locally, and get to make decisions about our area, in our area. For example, we'd have a fully devolved adult skills budget, which means we'd no longer be constrained by rules set nationally on what we can use adult education funding for – only on specific age groups, for instance – and could instead tailor this to the needs of people in our communities.

We could help this funding be available to the people who need it, so they can fulfil their potential and help them get the jobs they want. We'd also help employers hire people with the skills they need by addressing the skills gap, by removing barriers to better paid work.

We can play to our strengths in research and industry, including aerospace, life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and energy, as well as make the most of opportunities in the future associated with the East Midlands Freeport, HS2 and rail, and the East Midlands Development Corporation,



## A BETTER-CONNECTED FUTURE

Devolution would give us the opportunity to:

- combine local transport plans together, so we have a single integrated plan, rather than four
- develop new smart integrated ticketing on public transport
- create new concessionary fare schemes

It would also mean we could set up and coordinate a Key Route Network, which would be made up of some of the busiest and most important roads in our area, so we could better manage our highways.







## A GREENER FUTURE

Devolution means we can work more effectively on a larger scale so we can all benefit from cleaner air, lower heating costs, and so we can move towards being carbon neutral, with:

- new low carbon homes
- retrofitting existing homes with external wall insulation
- promoting the use of renewable energy
- protecting and enhancing our green spaces.

It would make £18 million available to support housing and drive Net Zero ambitions in the East Midlands.



## BETTER HOUSING FOR US AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

With devolution, we could work at a regional level with Homes England to build more affordable homes, using new powers to buy land and housing, with the consent of district and borough councils.

It could mean new and better standards for homes, low carbon measures, and improvements to existing housing.

It would mean £16.8 million a year would be available for building new homes on brownfield land, subject to suitable areas being identified.





## AND MORE...

Devolution also means we could work with national government at a regional level on new initiatives to support young people and to tackle:

- Homelessness
- Domestic abuse
- Community safety
- Social mobility



## OUR FIRST REGIONAL MAYOR

A new regional mayor would give us a bigger voice, more influence, and a higher profile across the country. It would create a single point of contact for businesses and other organisations looking to move into our region or expand.

A regional mayor would help us speak with one voice and help us make a strong case to the Government for more investment in the East Midlands.

The mayor would be directly elected by residents in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham, giving them more influence over issues which affect them.

The first election for a regional mayor would be in spring 2024.





# WHAT'S NEXT?

All four city and county council leaders in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Nottingham have signed up to work on this devolution deal with the government.

We want to hear your views. Each council will look at the details of the deal in the autumn to approve the deal for a consultation later this year, so that residents, businesses, and other organisations can have their say. The deal also needs new legislation from central government.

A devolution deal is the beginning of the journey, not the end. There would be opportunities to build and enhance on it over time, as has happened in other areas. A new combined authority would be considered at future national government spending reviews.

There is still a lot to do and details to work out for devolution to become a reality in 2024. We will have to work hard to make devolution work for us, and to ensure it results in the improvements we want to see. But we're convinced it's the right move and would be a massive step forward for the East Midlands.

Our region has so much potential, but we've not always had the investment or control over our own future to make a difference. A devolution deal is our chance to create a better future.







## WHO'S BACKING DEVOLUTION?

Those supporting devolution include local leaders across the political spectrum, the Chamber of Commerce, the East Midlands D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the University of Derby, Nottingham Trent University, and the University of Nottingham.

It is supported by a wide range of different organisations and local leaders because they see the great potential it offers for improving our area, our communities, and the lives of people who live, work, and visit our region.



#EASTMIDLANDSDEVOLUTION  
#EASTMIDSCOMBINED