



Report title: Combined Authority and Devolution Proposals

Wards affected: City Wide

Strategic Director: Patricia Greer, Programme Director

Report Author: Patricia Greer, Programme Director

Recommendation for the Mayor's approval:

The Cabinet is asked, subject to the views of the following meeting of Council, to:

To agree to proceed with the devolution deal as set out in the governance scheme

- 1 Note the West of England Devolution Agreement (Appendix 1);
- 2 Consider the Governance Review for the West of England 2016 (Appendix 2) conducted under s.108 of the 2009 Act and agree the conclusion that the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for the area of Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council, would be likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in relation to the area and secure the offer within the devolution agreement;
- 3 Consider the proposed Governance Scheme for a Mayoral Combined Authority (Appendix 3) and agree to publish the Scheme for public consultation under s.109 of the 2009 Act (as amended);
- 4 Authorise the City Director to subsequently submit to the Secretary of State;
 - a) the Governance Scheme;
 - b) the consultation responses received (or an appropriate summary); and
 - c) any further consultation response that the Council itself may wish to make to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government;
5. Authorise the City Director to make any minor amendments or corrections to the governance scheme to enable publication of the scheme for public consultation;
6. Delegate the decision whether or not to grant consent to the making of any resulting Order establishing the Combined Authority to the Mayor.

Purpose of Report:

- a. To note the strategic governance review conducted into the joint working arrangements between authorities of the West of England.
- b. To consider whether the test for establishing a combined authority is met and to take the necessary steps to agree and submit to the Secretary of State a scheme for the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for the area of Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

Key Background / Detail:

1. The four councils for the West of England area signed a devolution deal with government in March 2016. The deal was formally announced by the chancellor in the budget on 16 March 2016.
2. At its Council meeting of 8th June 2016 North Somerset Council decided not to proceed with the deal but the three remaining councils wish to proceed with the Order making process.
3. The benefits of the deal are set out in the Deal Agreement; in essence the benefits are that the Mayoral Combined Authority will receive devolved powers and additional funding from government which will benefit the three council's areas.

