

Council Meeting, 23 July 2015

Notice of Motion – Devolution

There has recently been a great deal of interest in the promise of powers and greater financial freedoms for English Local Authorities through Devolution.

Devolution can provide;

- **Fiscal Powers** – greater freedom for local authorities to share incentives and raise a greater proportion of revenue through local taxation, plus a call to establish a system of place based, multi annual financial settlements giving local authorities a stable platform on which to secure improved outcomes for residents and communities,
- **Governance Arrangements** – new models of joint governance that ensure effective accountability and the delivery of outcomes in local areas.
- **Powers and Duties** – HM Government can consider specific proposals on a range of devolution options that promote local decision making, increase local accountability and give greater funding certainty without the need for structural or organisational change.

It is known that all of the other authorities in the area have already commenced such discussions with each other, and in some circumstances with central government. Torbay Council has extreme budgetary challenges ahead, and cannot afford to be left behind. It is critical that all members are involved in progressing the devolution agenda, as any decision will ultimately be a matter for Full Council.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- (i) That a politically balanced Devolution Working Party be established, comprising of seven members (political balance to include the Mayor and the three Group Leaders), tasked with exploring the opportunities for devolution, and report back to the Council meeting in September 2015, on their progress, and any recommendations.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas (D)

Seconded by Councillor Darling (S)