



**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 3 February 2016

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Report Title:** Devolution of the Heart of the South West – A Prospectus for Productivity

**Is the decision a key decision?** Yes

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** As soon as possible

**Executive Lead Contact Details:** Mayor Oliver, Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance and Regeneration, (01803) 207001, mayor@torbay.gov.uk

**Supporting Officer Contact Details:** Fran Hughes, Assistant Director of Community and Customer Services, (01803) 208002, frances.hughes@torbay.gov.uk

---

## **1. Proposal and Introduction**

- 1.1 Devolution for the Heart of the South West (HotSW) is being led by the Leaders of Somerset and Devon County Councils, all Somerset and Devon Districts, Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks and the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 1.2 Our shared Devolution Statement of Intent was submitted to Government on 4 September in response to announcements in the July Budget and a deadline set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Government subsequently asked partners to produce formal devolution proposals with a view to negotiating a formal deal thereafter. Partners agreed to move forwards quickly and after a recent decision to allow more time, complete a prospectus by late January 2016 with a view to subsequent Full Council approval in February, followed by submission to Government.
- 1.3 This report updates the Council on the necessary activity to date and introduces the completed prospectus (Appendix 2).
- 1.4 Any final devolution deal with government will be subject to further approval / ratification by all partners individually.

## **2. Reason for Proposal**

- 2.1 The Council has an opportunity to benefit from devolution across a wide range of topics and services. The Heart of the South West devolution prospectus proposes benefits in the following key areas:
  - Health, social care and wellbeing
  - Skills and employment
  - Business Support
  - Resilience and connectivity

- Housing and Planning

2.2 Devolution has clear links to, and potential to enhance productivity for people, business and place and links to the council's corporate ambitions of improving prosperity and health for the people of Torbay.

2.3 These recommendations continue the approach towards securing authority to submit formal proposals and pursue solutions that help the council maximise the opportunities of devolution. They do not commit the Council to a formal devolution deal, only to make and negotiate on proposals.

2.4 At this stage of the process the Council is not required to take decisions on the detail of future service provision but rather to be actively aware and involved in discussions.

### **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

3.1 That the Council endorses the Mayor's current approach to devolution and the drafting of proposals, their submission and negotiation of a deal for the Heart of the South West, namely:

Working with local authorities, National Parks and the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver full proposals for devolution which will seek a formal agreement with Government on a formal devolution deal.

3.2 That the submission of the final draft of the Heart of the South West Devolution Prospectus (Appendix 2 to the submitted report) to Government, be approved subject to any changes made to the final draft prior to submission.

3.3 That the Executive Director of Operations and Finance, in consultation with the Mayor, be authorised to make any final changes and approve the submission of the Heart of the South West Devolution – A Prospectus for Productivity to Government.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Appendix 2: Devolution for the Heart of the south West: A Prospectus for Productivity

### **Background Documents**

None