Have your say about devolution for the West of England.

Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council have agreed to move forward with a £1 billion devolution deal from Government that would see the creation of a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. It would devolve new powers, funding and responsibilities from central Government to the region. As a result, more decisions could be made locally, rather than nationally, about spending on regional transport, adult education and skills, for example.

We believe a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would benefit the region in four key areas:

- Decision making
- Place (transport and housing)
- People (adult education and skills)
- Business

How will my views play a part?

This public consultation is your chance to have a say on the creation of a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. The results will be considered by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will take account of the views of the public when deciding whether the West of England devolution deal should go ahead. The deal will then be subject to final endorsement at a local level.

You can also take part in this consultation online at [www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk](http://www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk) where you can access supporting documents and background information.

If you are unable to take part online or using this paper survey, please call the Consultation Team on 0117 922 2848 and we will discuss the best way for you to participate. This may include making materials available in another format, such as large print, braille or another language. An audio version of the survey can be found online at: [www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk](http://www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk)
Decision Making

A West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would receive powers from central government - it would not take powers from existing local authorities without agreement.

- It would be chaired by a West of England Mayor who the public would vote for in May 2017.
- The members of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would be the West of England Mayor, the leaders of Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils and the Mayor of Bristol.
- The West of England Mayor would be given powers over spending, previously held by central Government, on the region’s transport, housing, adult education and skills.
- They would not replace Bristol’s directly elected Mayor or the leaders of Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils.

To make decisions, a majority of the members of a West of England Combined Authority, including the West of England Mayor, would be required to be present and voting. The West of England Mayor would:

- Have one vote, as would the other voting authority members.
- The West of England Mayor would have to consult combined authority members on his/her strategies, which those members may reject if two out of three agree to do so.
- Members of a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would also be able to amend a West of England Mayor’s spending plans if two out of three agree to do so.
- Decisions made on the Joint Spatial Plan would require a unanimous vote.
- Certain financial aspects would require unanimous agreement of the three councils.
- The Mayoral Combined Authority must have the agreement of an individual authority where a planning or transport matter (for example) is likely to impact on that authority’s specific geographical location.
- A West of England Combined Authority, including a West of England Mayor, would be scrutinised and held to account by a West of England Overview and Scrutiny and Audit committee(s).

Do you believe the proposed West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would benefit decision making in the region? Circle ‘Agree’, ‘Disagree’ or ‘Don’t know’ below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A West of England Mayor would provide increased accountability and transparency for decisions affecting the region</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would strengthen the ways the West of England councils work together</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Don’t know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would improve strategic decision making, leading to more economic growth</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Don’t know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like to add anything about the potential effect of a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority on decision making in the region, please share your comments here:
Place - Transport

The proposed West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would be given further powers over transport, including the ability to franchise bus services and responsibility for a Key Routes Network of roads. It would also have the power to implement Clean Air Zones to help achieve air quality standards.

Do you believe the proposed West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would benefit the region’s transport? *Circle ‘Agree’, ‘Disagree’ or ‘Don’t know’ below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It would enable longer-term planning and allow for more ambitious schemes with a greater impact through guaranteed funding each year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>It would support the introduction of smart and integrated ticketing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>It would integrate public road and rail transport across the region making it easier to access employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would integrate public road and rail transport across the region to speed up - and reduce the environmental impact of - longer journeys</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you would like to add anything about the potential effect of a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority on transport, please share your comments here:
Place - Housing

A West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would be given stronger strategic planning powers to speed up the delivery of new housing, including:

- the delivery of the Joint Spatial Plan,
- enhanced compulsory purchasing powers,
- powers to determine cross-boundary infrastructure applications as a combined authority,
- setting up Development Corporations put in place to facilitate building of houses on strategic sites.

The adoption of the Joint Spatial Plan will be subject to a unanimous vote of the combined authority members.

**Do you believe the proposed West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would benefit the region’s housing?** Circle ‘Agree’, ‘Disagree’ or ‘Don’t know’ below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It would improve planning processes and decisions so that the right houses are built in the right places</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like to add anything about the potential effect of the proposed West of England Mayoral Combined Authority on housing, please share your comments here:
People

A West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would have increased powers for spending on people’s education, skills and employment in several ways:

• It would have control of the entire Adult Education Budget by 2018
• It would be responsible for the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers which incentivises employers to offer apprenticeships
• It would work with central government on the design of local careers and enterprise provision, such as the Careers and Enterprise Company and the National Careers Service.
• It would work with the Department of Work and Pensions to develop the new National Work and Health Programme designed to focus on those with a health condition or disability and the very long term unemployed.

Do you believe the proposed West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would benefit people in the region? Circle ‘Agree’, ‘Disagree’ or ‘Don’t know’ below:

It would ensure skills and training provision are more accurately tailored to local needs

Agree Disagree Don’t know

If you would like to add anything about the potential effect of a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority on people’s education, skills or employment, please share your comments here:
Business

A West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would have increased control and resources for business including:

- Integrated and locally relevant inward investment and trade services, led by Invest in Bristol & Bath
- Support for developing the West of England Growth Hub
- Increased support for the Bristol & Bath Science Park and the Junction 21 Food Enterprise Zone,
- More local control over alternative funding sources, such as the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers.

It would also be a member of the Local Enterprise Partnership ensuring a close working relationship with the business community.

**Do you believe the proposed West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would benefit business in the region?**

*Circle* ‘Agree’, ‘Disagree’ or ‘Don’t know’ below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>It would support innovation in key growth sectors</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>It would boost productivity and growth through improved sharing of specialist knowledge and services</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If you would like to add anything about the potential effect of a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority on business, please share your comments here:

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**On balance - do you believe that a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority would benefit the West of England Region?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Is there anything more that you would like to say about the proposed devolution deal or West of England Mayoral Combined Authority?**

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Some questions about you so we can understand who has taken part

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is your postcode?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

Please tell us who you are *(tick all that apply)*

- [ ] Resident
- [ ] Elected Member
- [ ] Business
- [ ] Education Provider
- [ ] Trade Union
- [ ] Voluntary Community Sector
- [ ] Housing Association
- [ ] Other

How would you describe yourself?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your age?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 - 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 - 44</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 - 54</td>
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<tr>
<td>55 - 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 - 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Your gender?

- [ ] Female
- [ ] Male
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Your ethnicity?

- [ ] White British
- [ ] Other White
- [ ] Black / Black British
- [ ] Asian / Asian British
- [ ] Mixed / Dual Heritage
- [ ] Any other ethnic group
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Are you disabled?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Do you have a religion or belief?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Transgender

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Prefer not to say

- [ ] Are you lesbian, gay or bisexual
- [ ] heterosexual *(straight)*
- [ ] Prefer not to say

Thank you for sharing your views on on devolution and the proposed Mayoral Combined Authority for the West of England.

Please return completed surveys to:

**Freepost RTKJ-SGBZ-ULSH**  
Consultation & Intelligence Team [Parkview]  
West of England Devolution  
PO Box 3176  
BRISTOL  
BS3 9FS