



PART B:	RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE:	31 MARCH 2016
REPORT OF THE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE, JANET WAGGOTT
TITLE OF REPORT:	DEVOLUTION - TOWARDS A WAY FORWARD FOR YORK, NORTH YORKSHIRE AND EAST RIDING
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report and the associated presentation at the 31 March Policy and Resources Committee is to update Members on progress in developing a draft deal for devolution for York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding; and to request the authority for officers to seek agreement with Central Government to enter into formal negotiations in relation to its further development.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that support is given to officers to continue discussions with government on a devolution deal based on a York, North Yorkshire and East Riding geography on a formal basis alongside other options.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The deal provides for the transfer of significant powers for employment and skills, transport, planning and investment from central government to this area. It paves the way for further devolution over time and enables the Combined Authority to create a significant Investment Fund, through a 30 year initial allocation of funding for capital financing, to support infrastructure and the local economy.
- 3.2 The deal reflects an ambition to create the best possible conditions for growth in jobs, investment and living standards and to make this area an excellent location for business, to prioritise and deliver high quality infrastructure, and to enable all the people of the area to raise their skill levels and to benefit from economic growth long into the future.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 An expression of interest for a devolved governance arrangement through a Mayoral Combined Authority for York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) was submitted to Government for its deadline of 4 September 2015. Since then officers have continued to have informal discussions with Government to shape and refine the 'asks' and 'offers' of the draft deal. Much positive feedback has resulted from these informal discussions.

REPORT

5.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 5.1 A full and detailed presentation will be made to Members at the 31 March Policy and Resources meeting. The presentation will set out the progress that has been made to date in developing the draft YNYER deal; the devolved powers, budgets and responsibilities that it contains; and the proposals for establishing a Mayoral YNYER Combined Authority including current proposals for its governance arrangements.
- 5.2 It is important to note that the recommendations of this report do not formally commit any local authority to anything, but do make the case with Government to enable formal negotiations on the Deal to proceed and allow discussions with adjacent authorities. Individual local authorities would still be required to formally commit to the proposed YNYER arrangements in due course through their own approval processes.

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