

Item 4

**Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance & Communications
to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
on 9th February 2016**

Devolution Proposal

1.0 Introduction & Background

- 1.1 As a result of central government offering more powers to English regions to improve their area, particularly help to grow the local economy and create private sector jobs, Sheffield City Region (SCR) has developed a proposed devolution deal so the local area can have more control over things that we want for our towns and cities. Other areas which have taken this opportunity include Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, the North East, West Midlands and Tees Valley.
- 1.2 The SCR deal covers Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Barnsley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, North East Derbyshire, Bolsover and Bassetlaw and has been worked up with local councils and business leaders. It will allow the region to have more money and decision-making powers as well as greater control over job creation, skills and transport improvements, and increase the number of new businesses.
- 1.3 A public consultation was made available online regarding the SCR proposed Devolution Deal to gather the views of people within the city region before the deal is finalised. The consultation was open until 15th January 2016 and was publicised by the communications teams of the local authorities involved including posts on websites and social media. Within Barnsley, an article was also placed in the Council's 'Open News' supplement in the Barnsley Chronicle.

2.0 Advantages for Barnsley

- 2.1 For Barnsley, alongside benefiting from a share of £900m over the next 30 years to spend on important economic regeneration projects to improve the borough and create jobs, current and future plans include:
- £100m plans for the Better Barnsley scheme to boost regeneration and investment in the town.
 - Business park expansion to provide businesses with the right infrastructure and create a more competitive private sector employment base.
 - Future opportunities to benefit from a housing investment fund allowing more affordable homes to be built in the area.
 - Potential funding from the devolved adult skills budget to: review current post 16 education and training; give an increased focus on traineeships and apprenticeships; offer better, joined up careers advice.
 - Leading on Superfast South Yorkshire - delivering the broadband infrastructure required to make South Yorkshire a well-connected and attractive place for both residents and businesses located at business parks and in enterprise zones.
 - Building on the success of Enterprise Barnsley, the economic development branch of the council, business support programmes, both local and national, will be developed through the new growth hub for Sheffield City Region.
 - The development of the Barnsley Bus Partnership to lead on improved regulation of public transport.

3.0 Invited Experts

3.1 At today's meeting, the following representatives have been invited to give a presentation and answer questions from the committee regarding the SCR Devolution Proposal, progress that has been made and the next steps:

- Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, Leader of BMBC and Chair of Sheffield City Region Combined Authority
- Diana Terris, Chief Executive, BMBC

4.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

4.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What are the main challenges and opportunities the Devolution Deal would bring for Barnsley?
- How would resources be divided between the local authorities involved and how would you ensure this is fair?
- How effective are relationships between key stakeholders?
- How will you ensure public engagement and involvement in the design, delivery and review of projects/services?
- Are there any plans to seek devolution of other services/responsibilities in the future?
- What actions could be taken by Members to maximise the outcomes from the Devolution Deal for Barnsley?

5.0 Background Papers and Useful Links

- Sheffield City Region Proposed Devolution Deal Agreement:
<http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SCR-Devolution-Agreement-2015.pdf>

6.0 Glossary

BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CA – Combined Authority
LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership
MCA – Mayoral Combined Authority
SCR – Sheffield City Region

7.0 Report Author and Officer Contact

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