

REPORT OF THE
Cabinet / Leader
PART II

173. DEVOLUTION: UPDATE ON PROGRESS

1. At its meeting on 21 September 2015, Cabinet received and noted an update on progress made since July to develop a joint bid for a devolution deal between Hampshire and Isle of Wight, including Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, Hampshire's 11 District Councils and Isle of Wight Council, Enterprise M3 and Solent Local Enterprise Partnerships, New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities and Government.

2. Efforts had focused on the preparation of a Statement of Intent (SOI) outlining proposals for a devolution deal across four main themes: accelerating housing delivery, raising productivity in both EM3 and Solent LEP areas, investing in infrastructure and transforming public service delivery. The joint SOI was submitted to Ministers on 31 July 2015. Work was undertaken by a representative group of bidding Authorities and key partners, including representatives from the eight Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England (Wessex) to develop the SOI into a formal prospectus, which was submitted to Government by the 4 September deadline.

3. Cabinet noted that Government had received devolution bids from approximately 35 areas and was committed to taking forward negotiations with a handful of these and agreeing deals to be announced with the Comprehensive Spending Review on 25 November 2015. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was encouraged to aim for this November announcement.

4. During formal negotiations with Government in early autumn, partners will commence initial preparatory work for a formal Governance review. Following the anticipated successful announcement on 25 November, there will be a period of consultation with both stakeholders and the public on possible governance arrangements based on the details in the deal. The formal Governance Review will likely be finalised by June 2016, depending on Royal Assent being awarded to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill.

5. Cabinet welcomed the report and supported the further work being undertaken to help improve the overall quality of life for the communities within Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm
by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Devolution: Update on Progress (search item reference 6944)

COUNCILLOR ROY PERRY
Leader of the Council

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