

Thursday, 31st October 2024

Report of the Leader of the Council

Staffordshire Leaders Board Update

Exempt Information

Not Exempt

Purpose

To inform Cabinet Members of the Staffordshire Leaders Board action to write jointly to Government to seek a conversation about devolution and how it could benefit the whole of Staffordshire.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet notes this update from the Staffordshire Leaders Board

Executive Summary

In the King's speech in July 2024, plans were unveiled to create an English Devolution Bill which aims to give local government greater powers over local growth through a standardised devolution framework set out in law.

On 30 September 2024 Leaders representing the county, city and eight district and borough councils across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent wrote jointly to Government to seek a conversation about devolution and how it could benefit the area.

The Staffordshire Leaders Board have set out their commitment to explore how a transfer of powers and investment from Whitehall could boost the local economy and living standards.

This could include wide-ranging new powers around issues such as economic development and skills, housing, transport, energy and the environment, regeneration and planning.

There is more detail to come from Government around the new devolution framework and what this means in practice, but leaders across Staffordshire are ready to work with government to explore how devolution could bring extra powers and investment to support our ambitions.

In the letter to government, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's Council Leaders have welcomed the Government's flexibility on the governance arrangements for devolved

powers and recognise that whilst there are benefits to elected mayors for some areas, this is not a model which is suitable for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Options Considered

None specifically arising from this report

Resource Implications

None specifically arising from this report

Legal/Risk Implications Background

None specifically arising from this report

Equalities Implications

A copy of the Community Impact Assessment is available at Appendix 1

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

None specifically arising from this report

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