



# **REPORT OF THE DEVOLUTION CROSS-PARTY MEMBER GROUP**

**APRIL 2023**

*Working for  
Warwickshire*

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the Working Group

On 2 February 2022, the Government published its Levelling Up White Paper<sup>1</sup> which set out the intention to extend, deepen and simplify devolution across England so that by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal.

As part of the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government presented a devolution framework setting out the types of powers and functions that would be considered for each devolution level, bringing together policies from across Government.

On 10 March 2022, Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet received a report<sup>2</sup> setting out an analysis of the key elements of the White Paper, providing linkages to our Council Plan (approved by full Council on 8 February 2022)<sup>3</sup> and a proposed direction of travel and next steps to ensure Warwickshire is best positioned to benefit from the opportunity that a devolution deal could present. Cabinet resolved to:

1. Support and commission the development of a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire
2. Authorise the Chief Executive to develop a Devolution Deal for consideration by Cabinet, engaging with key stakeholders and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to take such other steps as she considers necessary in consultation with the Leader
3. Request that a Cross Party Member Working Group be established to support the development of the Devolution Deal

This report details the work of the Cross-Party Member Group which was established in response to Resolution 3 above. The Group's Terms of Reference is appended to this report.

## 1.2 Members and Contributors

The Members who have been involved in the work of the Cross-Party Member Group over the period are; Councillors Brett Beetham, Jonathan Chilvers, Yousef Dahmash, Pete Gilbert, John Holland, Jack Kennaugh, Chris Mills, Jerry Roodhouse, Isobel Seccombe (Chair), Adrian Warwick and Martin Watson. The Group also welcomed Councillors Tim Sinclair and Heather Timms as substitutes.

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<sup>1</sup> Available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>

<sup>2</sup> Available from <https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=6383>

<sup>3</sup> Available from <https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=5666>

The Group was supported by the following officers from Warwickshire County Council:

Dave Ayton-Hill - Assistant Director, Communities  
Sarah Duxbury – Assistant Director, Governance & Policy  
George McVerry – Corporate Policy Officer  
Deborah Moseley – Democratic Services Team Leader  
Spencer Payne – Service Manager Business Intelligence  
Nigel Minns – Strategic Director for People  
Rob Powell – Strategic Director for Resources  
Mark Ryder – Strategic Director for Communities  
Steve Smith – Assistant Director, Commissioning Support Unit  
Gereint Stoneman – Corporate Policy & Commissioning Manager

### **1.3 Evidence**

The Group held several information gathering sessions with officers from Warwickshire County Council to consider the six devolution themes which have informed the development of proposals for a devolution deal. These sessions detailed the strengths and challenges of the evidence base and identified alignment between devolution themes and related Council activity.

The six Devolution Themes considered by the Member Group were:

1. inclusive, green economic growth, good jobs, and skills for the future;
2. educational attainment;
3. improving infrastructure, transport, and connectivity;
4. regenerating priority communities, planning & meeting future housing need;
5. improving health and well-being; and
6. delivering net zero.

The Group also received summary analysis regarding learning from devolution deals agreed during 2022 (Cornwall, Norfolk, Suffolk, East Midlands, and York and North Yorkshire) and the position relating to the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal to consider optimisation of the benefits for Warwickshire Councils.

### **1.4 Dates and Timescales**

| <b>Meeting Date</b> | <b>Focus Areas</b>  |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>13/06/22</b>     | Agreement of the terms of reference, framing the current work on levelling up and devolution and discussion of headline themes and the emerging content of devolution deals |

| Meeting Date | Focus Areas  |
|--------------|--|
| 29/07/22     | Deep dive conversations on the themes of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Inclusive, green economic growth, good jobs, and skills for the future</li> <li>2 Educational Attainment</li> </ol>                                       |
| 29/09/22     | Deep dive conversations on the themes of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Improving infrastructure, transport, and connectivity</li> <li>2 Regenerating priority communities, planning &amp; meeting future housing need</li> </ol> |
| 02/11/22     | Recap of the package of proposals discussed to date alongside learning from new devolution deals and the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal   |
| 12/12/22     | Deep dive conversations on the themes of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Delivering Net Zero</li> <li>2 Improving Health and Wellbeing</li> </ol>  |
| 19/01/23     | Exploration of the financial models associated with devolution   |
| 02/03/23     | Analysis of devolution deals recently agreed, an update on the position of the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal and final recommendations and proposals to Cabinet.   |
| 11/05/23     | Report to Cabinet  |

## 2 Overview

### 2.1 Background

In England, devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government. It means that decisions are made closer to the local people, communities, and businesses they affect, with provision for more freedoms and flexibilities at a local level so that Councils can work more effectively to improve public services for their area.

The first devolution deal with Greater Manchester was announced in November 2014, followed by deals with Cornwall in July 2015 and the West Midlands in November 2015. The Government also invited devolution proposals from local areas as part of the 2015 Spending Review, receiving 34 bids from local areas, of which 12 were initially brought forward for negotiation with 11 areas subsequently signing devolution deals.

In February 2022, the Government published the Levelling Up White Paper. The White Paper sets out twelve missions within associated metrics and targets for 2030. One of these twelve missions is that “every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution” by 2030, opening up the possibility of devolution for the first time to all areas of England.

The new devolution framework provides for three levels of varying benefits, recognising that a one-size fits all model would not be suitable, with different powers and functions for each devolution level:

| Level  | Summary of Powers  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Level 3</b> A single institution or County Council working with a directly elected mayor/leader, across a Functional Economic Area or whole county area.</p> | <p>Access to the largest set of powers, including the ability to consolidate existing core local transport funding into a multi-year integrated settlement, devolution of locally led brownfield funding, mayoral control of Police and Crime Commissioner functions where boundaries align and the ability to introduce a mayoral precept and supplement on business rates.</p> |
| <p><b>Level 2</b> A single institution or County Council without a directly elected mayor/leader, across a Functional Economic Area.</p>                           | <p>Fewer powers than Level 3, but still significant powers, including control of appropriate local transport functions, ability to introduce bus franchising, the ability to provide input into Local Skills Improvement Plans, and Homes England compulsory purchase powers.</p>  |
| <p><b>Level 1</b> Local Authorities working together across a Functional Economic Area or whole county area e.g. through a joint committee.</p>                    | <p>Access to three core powers: the ability to host Government functions best delivered at a strategic level including more than one authority, the opportunity to pool services at a strategic level, and the opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change.</p>  |

The Levelling Up White Paper named ten areas which would be invited to start formal negotiations: Cornwall; Derbyshire and Derby; Devon, Plymouth and Torbay; Durham; Hull and East Yorkshire; Leicestershire; Norfolk; Nottinghamshire and Nottingham; and Suffolk were invited to agree new County Deals. York and North Yorkshire were invited to agree a mayoral combined authority deal and the North East were invited to negotiate and agree an expanded mayoral combined authority deal. The Government further committed to open negotiations on trailblazer deeper devolution deals with the West Midlands and Greater Manchester Combined Authorities, acting as a blueprint for other Level 3 devolution deals.

In June 2022, the Government published the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which expanded on the devolution framework set out in the White Paper

and enabled the creation of County Combined Authorities through new devolution deals.

## **2.2 Context**

Since publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, and due to the interest shown by a number of local authorities, the resources in Central Government have been focussed on the agreement of Level 3 deals. This focus on Level 3 negotiations is expected to remain for much of 2023 and is likely will impact the pace at which Level 2 deals will progress.

Areas that have so far been successful in putting together devolution deals went through a process whereby their initial proposals were tested with relevant Government departments. Over time this has resulted in a significant degree of standardisation across each of the devolution deal areas, at least in terms of the first deals agreed. Subsequent deals have built on first deals with the devolution 'asks' becoming more ambitious as track record on delivery has been demonstrated at a local level.

The agreed 'first' deals have a common focus on finance and investment, providing for the decentralisation of powers over skills and education, transport policy, housing and land, climate change and the environment, digital connectivity, and culture and tourism. The themes of innovation, trade and investment, rural service provision and resilience and public safety have been seen less frequently in published devolution deals to date. However, recently published deals are increasingly being seen as a first step on the devolution ladder, with the possibility of future iterations offering the ability to build on any initial deal.

## **2.3 Objectives**

The objectives of the Cross-Party Member Group were to provide support and advice to the Cabinet in the development of a devolution deal for Warwickshire. In particular, its role was identified as:

1. to operate as an advisory group on the development of a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire;
2. to influence and inform the Council's overall approach to devolution;
3. to contribute to building and shaping the content of a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire; and
4. to ensure links to connected elements including Levelling Up, WCC Council Plan, Delivery Plan and strategies.

## **3 Findings and Conclusions**

For each of the six devolution themes, the Member Group met with senior officers to consider the evidence base, including areas of strength and

challenge, and a range of options for consideration as potential 'asks' for a devolution deal for Warwickshire. Key aspects of this evidence are set out below:

### Inclusive, green economic growth, good jobs and skills for the future

This theme has links to the levelling up missions of Living Standards and Skills and further links with workstreams focussing on the wider determinants of health, education, infrastructure, and investment.

Warwickshire's numerous strengths in this area were noted including:

- the county is home to the UK's globally recognised largest concentration of automotive technology activity;
- the county has global and national sector strengths in advanced manufacturing, digital creative, distribution & logistics and tourism;
- there is a wide range of range of research and development and innovation assets in the county and the wider sub-region; and
- Warwickshire has seen faster than average median earnings growth between 2015-2021 compared to the national picture.

Despite this, evidence shows that:

- although there are above average business start-up rates at a county level, scale-up rates are below average;
- there is significant variation in skill levels across the county – e.g. almost half the residents in Warwick (49.5%) have a degree equivalent qualification, compared to less than a third (31.3%) in Nuneaton & Bedworth;
- there is a high employment rate across the county – close to, if not at, "full employment";
- there is a discrepancy between private and public spend on innovation and research and development – the Warwickshire and Worcestershire region accounts for about 7% of private sector research and development, but received less than 2% of InnovateUK grant funding;
- there is an identified lack of employment land in the county for non-B8 uses (distribution & logistics), and a lack of small business; units/industrial space coming forward; and
- businesses in the county report significant skills shortages and recruitment difficulties.

### Educational attainment

This theme links to the education levelling up mission and also with workstreams focussing on the wider determinants of health, education, infrastructure, and investment:

- Overall, Warwickshire's educational attainment is strong and compares well against national and statistical neighbour performance. However, there are pockets of lower attainment across the county and among specific cohorts of pupils.



- There is a gap between Warwickshire's 'disadvantaged' cohort and their peers, and this is persistently a weaker area of performance for Warwickshire when compared to national figures despite efforts to close the gap. The Group received the latest available closing the gap assessment data and further data on the wider determinants of educational attainment including participation in further education, work readiness and special educational needs.
- The Group consider that, particularly in terms of educational attainment, there is a long-term nature to levelling up and sowing seeds now will not see benefits for several years' time.

### Improving infrastructure, transport and connectivity

This theme has links to the levelling up missions of Transport Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity and further links with workstreams focussing on active travel, the wider determinants of health, employment, and investment.

- Warwickshire has performed strongly in the past with regard to securing external funding and delivering new transport schemes.
- There has been a successful roll-out of superfast broadband, but internet use is doubling every 2 years and mobile data traffic is increasing by circa 43% each year. This requires faster connectivity with more bandwidth. Significantly, there are still areas in Warwickshire with poor or no mobile phone signal and without superfast broadband.
- There has been innovative work on the mapping of land and assets to support private sector investment in digital infrastructure
- There is continued growth and dependence on private car for travel movements across the County.
- There is a considerable challenge to meet county wide net-zero targets by 2050.
- There is a myriad of competitive funding streams for transport infrastructure but a disjointed approach to strategic planning, economic development and transport.

### Regenerating priority communities, planning & meeting future housing need

This theme has links to the levelling up missions of Pride in Place and Housing and further links with workstreams focussing on the Warwickshire Property and Development Group, One Public Estate, Levelling Up and, Sustainable Futures.

- Regeneration, planning and housing are critical in terms of future growth, prosperity, sustainability and levelling up ambitions. Functions around planning, transport, economic development and infrastructure are split across the tiers of Government in Warwickshire, and we should explore opportunities for earlier and more pro-active engagement between these disciplines to develop a more strategic approach to future growth Overall, Warwickshire is relatively

prosperous but there is significant variation in performance and areas of deprivation.

- Housing costs are generally high and increasing – both for purchase and renting with increasing recognition of the impact of poor-quality housing.
- The pandemic has significantly accelerated changes to our town centres, with changes in consumer behaviour and the need to refocus and reinvent our spaces.
- Regeneration activity is often complex, long-term and expensive – and needs to be more holistic than just physical change.
- Place-shaping, pride in place, and local identity are becoming an increasingly important area of focus.

### Improving health and well-being

This theme links to the levelling up missions of Health and Wellbeing, strategies including Health and Wellbeing, Early Help, Tackling Social Inequalities, Safe Accommodation and Suicide Prevention and demonstrates further links with workstreams focussing on active travel, health inequalities, employment, housing, and connectivity.

- Health and wellbeing is a greater focus in terms of levelling up than it is for devolution. However, proposals for devolution in other areas such as transport, housing and employment can have positive consequences for health & wellbeing outcomes
- In 2020/21 65.6% of adults in Warwickshire were classified as obese or overweight
- In 2020/21 22.76% of residents self-reported a high anxiety score
- In 2019/20 21.1% of reception aged children were overweight (including obese)
- In 2020 14.5% of households in Warwickshire were fuel poor
- In 2022 18.6% of school age children claim Free School Meals
- These statistics, as well as those from other themes, evidence the wider determinants of health and how levelling up operates at multiple levels which need to be considered

### Delivering net zero

This theme links to numerous strategies including the Local Plan, Long Term Infrastructure, Sustainable Futures, Energy Strategy, EV Charging Infrastructure, and the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. It also links with workstreams focussing on active travel, the wider determinants of health, employment, investment, and economic growth.

- Housing retrofit addressing significant disparity in energy efficient homes across Warwickshire, recognising areas of fuel poverty and the lower super output areas of highest deprivation. According to the 2021 Census, 6.9% of housing in Warwickshire is socially rented from a local authority and a further 6.8% is rented from elsewhere in the social housing sector. One in six (16.7%) houses are rented privately, with

the remaining 69% either owned outright or with a mortgage. Work is ongoing to identify the energy performance rating by housing tenure to inform future retrofit priorities. The Government's existing Sustainable Warmth Competition awarded £500m to selected housing local authorities with combined delivery funding and homes upgrade funding for 2022/23 schemes.

- The latest data on fuel poverty at the local level suggests that the proportion of households that are classed as 'fuel poor' ranges from 37% in Brunswick, Leamington Spa through to 4% in Horeston Grange, Nuneaton, with a county average of 14.3%. This compares to a regional average of 17.8% and a national average of 13.2%. The Council supports strong practical mitigating action in the community including Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund and Community Powered Warwickshire programme.
- Transport is the largest source of County emissions (44%), but we are leaders in biodiversity net gains.
- There are several high-risk impact events which have been identified as a threat to Warwickshire including heat waves and drought, increasing small fires and wildfires, an increasing incidence of amber heat health alerts, reducing water availability and associated impacts for wildlife and agriculture.

## **4 WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal**

The Cross-Party Member Working Group considered the proposals set out in the West Midlands Combined Authority's Levelling Up Growth Prospectus, published October 2022. This document set out the West Midlands Combined Authority's strategic aspirations for devolution deal negotiations and the

potential ‘asks’ the West Midlands Combined Authority were seeking. The proposals were structured along the following themes:

- Housing & Regeneration
- Transport
- Skills
- Retrofit
- Business Support & Innovation
- Global West Midlands (Trade & Investment)
- Local Area Energy Planning
- Industrial Decarbonisation
- Digital Inclusion
- Homelessness Prevention
- Social Capital
- Health
- Culture
- Crime, Community Safety and Resilience
- Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment

The Cross-Party Member Working Group acknowledged the differences in the strategic priorities of Warwickshire County Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority and discussed which workstreams had the strongest strategic alignment for Warwickshire. The workstreams the Member Working Group considered optimal for further exploration with the West Midlands Combined Authority of the potential benefits for a Warwickshire devolution deal were:

- Retrofit
- Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment
- Housing & Regeneration
- Industrial Decarbonisation
- Culture
- Business Support & Innovation
- Local Area Energy Planning

## 5 Recommendations

After carefully considering the evidence-base and the advantages and disadvantages of the potential ‘asks’ that were shared, the Cross-Party Member Working Group has identified a priority list of draft proposals as set out below. This is intended to provide a starting point for further exploration and formal engagement.

| <b>Common proposals – these proposals have been regularly included in recently published devolution deals</b> |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Proposal</b>   | <b>What this means</b>                    | <b>Potential Benefits</b>                   |
| Single Integrated, multi-year Transport Fund  | Pooling of transport funding into single, | Creates more certainty, enables longer-term |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | flexible transport fund. Allocation over a longer period (e.g., 5 years), with an agreement on key outcomes to be delivered but no allocations to individual projects.  | planning, flexibility to move funding around as circumstances require  |
| Single long-term 'Warwickshire' Investment Fund   | WCC would receive a long-term single investment fund - locally decision-making used for spending. Subject to 5-year gateways that would need to show the investments have supported economic growth of the region and levelling up missions | WCC would be able to invest in initiatives that suited the needs of local communities without having to go through lengthy, costly bidding processes for investment funding. |
| Devolution of the Adult Skills Budget and flexibility of use of the apprenticeship levy | Devolution of the adult skills budget to WCC to enable WCC to commission and manage contracts locally. Flexibility on use of apprenticeship levy to be able to fund salaries as well as training costs                                      | Better alignment with business needs.<br><br>Increased local flexibility to meet changing demand.<br><br>Increased skills and productivity.                                  |
| Relocating at least one Government department/public body to Warwickshire               | Work with Government to commit to relocating at least one Government department/unit/arms-length body to Warwickshire   | Significant new employment and investment within one of our key towns. Increase income and local spend in area.  |
| Local Area Energy Planning and Infrastructure to support a greener economy              | Funding / grant support to improve energy efficiency in industrial Small to Medium Sized enterprises (SME's), education providers   | Support for wider technologies - Anaerobic Digestion (AD), Energy from Waste (EfW), Solar, Wind etc.   |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <p>and county households via environmental and energy education (low carbon, net zero and behavioural changes), and technology and retrofit opportunities. Targeted investment to promote renewable / low energy industry and strengthen local networks (working in conjunction with local industry leaders – battery technology, electric car, electricity grid). Direct funding to identify increased opportunities for using the public estate to generate low carbon energy.</p> | <p>Energy security, cost of living, (heat network reviews have been undertaken by Warwick District Council). Promotes economic growth, local employment markets. Supports rural economies.</p> |
|--|--|--|

**Sustainability**

| <b>Proposal</b>  | <b>What this means</b>   | <b>Potential Benefits</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| Set up a number of Rural Electric Vehicle charging hub pilots        | Partnership between WCC and Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to co-develop and pilot Rural EV Charging Hubs   | Supports rural communities to shift to EV vehicle use. Raises profile of Warwickshire in this space. Stronger relationship with Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles. |
| Scale up housing retrofit in line with sustainable futures ambitions | Powers, funding and capacity to develop and deliver a joined-up approach at scale to influence on a county scale, work with partners (particularly the boroughs and districts), co-produce solutions to housing retrofit, energy | Ability to link with WMCA to develop scaled regional approaches complementing their targets.  |

|  |   |  |
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|  | <p>networks and co-ordinated infrastructure.</p> <p>To enable the capacity and county-wide spread to establish and implement net zero hub based on LAD2 trials, whole street approaches and whole house innovation retrofit.</p>  |  |
| <b>Skills &amp; Education</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Proposal</b>  | <b>What this means</b>  | <b>Potential Benefits</b>  |
| Devolution of Careers Hub funding & powers   | Government provides funding for Careers Hubs across the country to provide support to schools. WCC already invests in this work itself and could lever significant added value if this Careers Hub funding was devolved and aligned with WCC investment. Request some powers to provide increased incentive to schools to undertake careers activities. | Enhanced educational and employment outcomes.<br>Increased aspirations.<br>More efficient use of resources.<br>Improved links between business and education.              |
| Create a skills testbed area for providers to rapidly design and deploy training to match business | Linked to adult skills - a test cell structure would be established where training providers could quickly design and test new training materials and enable rapid deployment   | More dynamic skills system which can quickly adapt to new areas and demands from business.<br>Increased skill levels.<br>Attractive for businesses locating in the county. |
| Powers to establish our own Education Investment Areas in Warwickshire                             | Education Investment Areas (EIAs) are established by central government and are prioritised for extra   | Would allow us to prioritise areas of greatest need and promote certain schools to the government to   |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | funding and support by the government to improve standards. WCC would have the powers to establish our own EIAs in the county to support areas that underperform consistently  | receive additional funding and support  |
| Powers to expand relationship with further education institutions  | Powers to establish formalised working relationships with local colleges to support the achievement of our education strategy and goals  | Working in a closer and formalised way with further education institutions to raise aspirations of school children and help develop clear career pathways |
| <b>Infrastructure &amp; Connectivity</b>   |  |   |
| <b>Proposal</b>  | <b>What this means</b>   | <b>Potential Benefits</b>   |
| Request pilot status to work with Active Travel England to test application of active travel and/or last mile delivery in a shire county     | Request official pilot status to work with Active Travel England to explore how approaches need to be adapted in shire county areas. Pilot” Mini-Holland” style approach in identified communities<br><br>Work with Active Travel England and DfT on quiet lanes and potential utilisation in Warwickshire | Help develop new and more innovative solutions, build relationship with Active Travel England/Govt. departments   |
| Powers to effectively deal with absentee landlords and enable Councils to seek the re-development / re-purposing of identified land/property | Powers that enable LPAs to effectively deal with absentee landlords and enable Councils (or other) to seek the re-development / re-purposing of identified land/property. Enhanced CPO (Compulsory Purchase Orders) powers that  | Facilitates and accelerates strategic land assembly to support regeneration.  |



|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | enable more local determination and faster resolution.  |  |
| Create a 5G testbed in Warwickshire to support mass participation gaming pilots  | Support to create test bed with a mobile phone operator to invest in core 5G and slice a dedicated part of the bandwidth to support mass participation gaming pilots/testing  | Local gaming companies get advanced access to 5G technology to test new products.<br>Mobile phone operators better understand benefits and potential commercial returns on 5G packages for consumers around gaming |
| One-off funding to create a revolving, evergreen fund to forward fund infrastructure which is then paid back by developers | Significant funding (possibly from National Infrastructure Bank) to establish revolving fund which can resource up front the required infrastructure (i.e., road improvements, schools, etc.) which is then paid back over time through developer contributions   | Enables necessary infrastructure to be put in place on Day 1 of a project.<br>Helps accelerate development of sites, would potentially attract more investment.  |
| Powers to work with Fibre & Mobile Network Operators to roll-out of digital infrastructure                                 | Greater freedoms to work with both Fibre and Mobile Network Operators.<br>Stronger control over funding and the ability to negotiate contracts with providers.<br>Authority to construct contracts with providers that puts greater emphasis on contract delivery timescales and improved default payments. | Accelerate roll-out.<br>Greater focus on delivery in priority areas.<br>Enhanced relationships with fibre and mobile network operators.  |
| <b>Community</b>   |   |  |
| <b>Proposal</b>  | <b>What this means</b>  | <b>Potential Benefits</b>  |
| Support devolved budgets at community level to support Health  | WCC would receive full control of certain funds to be spent at a  | Funds would be spent in ways that best suited the needs of local   |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| & Wellbeing prevention and early intervention agendas   | community level to encourage early prevention   | communities across Warwickshire and would prevent a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to prevention and early intervention   |
| Seek devolution of Warwickshire's share of the Dormant Asset Fund to support Levelling Up work  | WCC would use its proportionate share of the national Dormant Asset Fund to reinvest in specific programmes that support Levelling Up primarily, including Sustainable Futures projects     | Additional funding would be used to catalyse innovative, local projects and initiatives that may not be applicable for national grants and funding schemes                                    |
| <b>Financial</b>  |   |   |
| <b>Proposal</b>   | <b>What this means</b>  | <b>Potential Benefits</b>   |
| Enhanced partnership with UK Research & Innovation to encourage innovation funding  | Work with UKRI to increase flow of public sector innovation funding to support business growth.<br><br>Alignment of public and private funding generates efficiencies and increased impact. | Alignment of public and private funding generates efficiencies and increased impact. Further local offer that would support and increase inward investment and business growth in the county. |
| Tax Increment Finance for developments to be able to ring-fence and capture uplift in taxes/income in a defined geography for a significant time period | Ability to ring-fence and capture uplift in taxes/income in a defined geography over a significant period (30 years) to enable repayment of borrowing to enable upfront investment          | Unlocks key sites/development opportunities; accelerates and facilitates investment in key infrastructure at the start to encourage private sector investment.                                |

The Group also identified that some proposals had potential to be progressed outside a formal deal, either through strong partnership working within Warwickshire and/or as specific bilateral deals with Government. These include:

1. Strengthen partnership with external organisations such as Barnardo's to focus on wider determinants of Early Years support
2. Powers to provide wrap around support (e.g. mental health support) for those on out of work benefits with long-term sickness

3. Seed funding to drive system change – focusing on preventative services and influencing the wider determinants of health
4. Adapting to climate change
5. Planning and resources for Sustainable Communities
6. Electric Vehicle car clubs, bike hire (incl. e bikes), e-scooters, public transport and enhanced Demand Responsive Travel

The Group has noted that there are interdependencies between all six devolution themes which can be built into the overall approach.

The Group noted that different areas across the county have unique offerings and recommend that these are captured and built upon in the narrative to Government in order to demonstrate Warwickshire's attractiveness in terms of growth, connectivity and culture and the impact that this will have on the Levelling Up agenda.

Cllr Izzi Seccombe  
Chair of the Member Working Group  
April 2023

## Appendix – Terms of Reference

### Developing a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire Cross Party Member Group Terms of Reference

#### 1. Purpose

The Levelling Up White Paper published in February 2022 set out its commitment to extending, deepening and simplifying devolution across England so that ‘by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement’. The White Paper made reference to ‘inviting local leaders ....to begin negotiations to agree new devolution deals’ and set out a framework for devolution deals providing an indication of the types of powers and functions that will be considered at each devolution level.

At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Cabinet resolved to

- (i) Support and commission the development of a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire
- (ii) Authorise the Chief Executive to develop a Devolution Deal for consideration by Cabinet, engaging with key stakeholders and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to take such other steps as she considers necessary in consultation with the Leader
- (iii) Request that a Cross Party Member Working Group be established to support the development of the Devolution Deal

The cross-party Member Group has been set up in response to Resolution (iii) above.

#### 2. Objectives

The cross-party Member Group will provide support and advice to Cabinet in the development of a devolution deal for Warwickshire. In particular its role will be:

1. To operate as an advisory group on the development of a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire
2. To influence and inform the Council’s overall approach to devolution
3. To contribute to building and shaping the content of a Devolution Deal for Warwickshire
4. To ensure links to connected elements including Levelling up, WCC Council Plan and strategies, Delivery Plan

#### 3. Work Plan

Activity of the Group will be determined by the Chair of the Group in discussion with Group members and with the Chief Executive and/or Strategic Director(s). The Group will provide input to the overall direction of the work on devolution and will build upon the work already undertaken.

It is anticipated that the following areas will be covered:

- 1) Consideration of and input to the emerging devolution themes for Warwickshire, including the relevant Warwickshire data set as it relates to each theme
- 2) Consideration of and input to the potential 'devolution asks' for Warwickshire to support the desired outcomes for Warwickshire and its communities of place and of interest as relevant
- 3) Consideration of the views and insights from partners and key stakeholders in so far as they are available. Note that engagement has already commenced with the five District and Borough Councils and there are plans to engage with other partners and key stakeholders (such as Health, Police, T&PCs, VCS, Universities) through existing forums and individual meetings which will be led by Strategic Directors and/or Assistant Directors.
- 4) An understanding of the Devolution Deals that have been agreed to date by Government and consideration of any emerging content / opportunities to benefit from the Trailblazer Devolution Deal being negotiated by the WMCA
- 5) Making recommendations to Cabinet in respect of objectives and/or outcomes and/or priorities for any Devolution Deal for Warwickshire

#### **4. Membership**

The cross-party Group will comprise 9 members and in line with our custom and practice that Member Groups will follow the political balance of the Council, in so far as is possible, will be constituted as follows;

- 6 x Conservative representatives
- 1 x Labour representative
- 1 x Liberal Democrat representative
- 1 x Green representative

Members of the Group will be as set out below and the Group will be Chaired by the Leader.

- Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair)
- Cllr Jerry Roodhouse
- Cllr John Holland
- Cllr Jonathan Chilvers
- Cllr Jack Kennaugh
- Cllr Martin Watson
- Cllr Chris Mills
- Cllr Yousef Dahmash
- Cllr Pete Gilbert

#### **5. Meetings and Meeting Arrangements**

The Group is not a formal Committee of the Council

The Group is intended to be time limited until such time as recommendations are made to Cabinet. It is intended that the Group will meet every 4-6 weeks, subject to alignment with the overarching timeline (to be determined) for development and negotiation of a Devolution Deal.

The Group will not be open to the public and the Access to Information regime will not be applicable.

## **6. Officer Support**

Deb Moseley, Democratic Services will provide officer support to the Group and make all necessary administrative arrangements. Minutes/action notes will be circulated to members of the Group following each meeting.

Officer advice / support will be provided by the following

- Rob Powell – Strategic Director for Resources
- Mark Ryder – Strategic Director for Communities
- Dave Ayton-Hill - Assistant Director, Communities
- Steve Smith – Assistant Director, CSU
- Sarah Duxbury – Assistant Director, Governance & Policy
- Gereint Stoneman – Corporate Policy & Commissioning Manager
- Spencer Payne – Service Manager BI
- George McVerry – Corporate Policy Officer
- Other officers as relevant to the agenda

## **7. Timeline**

The Group is expected to make its written recommendations to Cabinet in Autumn 2022 to align with the overarching timeline as may be outlined by Government and taking into account the anticipated timeline for the development of the WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The timeframes and/or work of the Group may be subject to change and may be varied or extended with the agreement of the Leader depending on circumstances.