

AGENDA ITEM 4

The Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Devolution Deal:

- Through the Levelling Up White Paper, Government has offered local authorities in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth an opportunity to come together to negotiate a County Deal.
- The County Deal is a new form of devolution in England which allows existing local authority partners to work together through a new body to deliver national funding and powers without the need for an elected mayor.
- The Government is offering local authorities in Devon (Devon County and its 8 Districts), Plymouth and Torbay an opportunity to negotiate local control over activity currently worth around £80m a year, covering key areas like housing, transport, infrastructure, skills and business support.
- Local authorities have welcomed the offer of a negotiation, and are in the process of preparing their list of asks, with work due to begin shortly with key stakeholders from across the public, private, education and third sector.
- Negotiations will be led by Councillor John Hart working closely together with the leaders of Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Mid Devon Council in its rotating role as lead of the Devon district council network. Partners within the Devon County area are also seeking to support Devon's negotiating representatives through joint working as part of Team Devon.
- At the heart of this negotiation will be 8 core areas of interest:
 - **Housing**, increasing the supply of affordable housing for key workers and local families, as well as using housing to drive economic growth in cities and towns.
 - **Skills, Employment and Education**, better supporting young people and adults to learn, and providing the skills that the economy needs.
 - **Transport and Infrastructure**, seeking to addressing the gaps in our public transport offer, and our broader transport, energy and digital infrastructure needs, supporting the area to thrive
 - **Economic Development, Business Support and Innovation**, working with the business community to ensure that we can offer the support our economy needs.
 - **Health and Care**, working together to better align national funding to support the health and care needs of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay's residents.
 - **Climate Change**, working together and aligning national funding and activity to accelerate our progress towards net zero

- **Regeneration and Place**, securing the funding and flexibilities we need to accelerate levelling up, and ensuring that every place in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay can meet its potential.
 - **Governance**, securing a governance approach for the County Deal that meets Government's requirements, but also builds upon our existing strong approach to collaboration and partnership working.
- Whilst the Levelling Up White Paper has set out a menu of options for the local area to bid for, partners within Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are ambitious and will be seeking additional progress in other areas. This will include around crucial topics such as supporting the visitor economy, accelerating sector development in areas such as marine and green industries, and digital funding and inclusion. As part of its negotiations, the area will also be seeking an equitable funding allocation from any post EU funding settlement which reflects its relative opportunities and need when compared with its peers.
 - Though local authorities are in negotiation with Government over a County Deal, no deal is done until it is done, and it will need to be acceptable to all parties. This will include agreement around the funding and powers to be devolved, and around securing any strengthened governance arrangement for their use which work for the people and authorities of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.