

A devolution deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Have YOUR say

- New funding
- Money to build new homes
- New local decision-making powers
- A Directly Elected Mayor and Combined Authority



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Introduction

The Government is talking to councils across the UK about devolution

Devolution is when certain powers and funding are transferred down from Central Government to a local area. It means that local areas would take on responsibilities from Government, not duplicate them.

This could mean that a greater number of important decisions are decided locally instead of by Government, this would also mean new funding. This could include decision-making powers and funding in areas such as housing, transport and major infrastructure schemes, such as road and rail projects.

What's happened so far?

In March the Chancellor published an offer to 22 local authorities and one Local Enterprise Partnership for East Anglia devolution. That deal was to form an East Anglia Combined Authority covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

However, Peterborough city councillors voted to say that the deal offered by Government did not appear to be acceptable. Cambridgeshire county councillors voted to say that deal was unacceptable.

A Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal

Building on the Government's original offer of an East Anglia devolution deal; council and business leaders are now proposing a devolution agreement for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. All have now agreed, through a council vote, to put our devolution proposal out to public consultation.

The proposed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal was published on 17 June 2016.

In order to receive new funding and to make a greater number of decisions locally, Government says that we would need to elect a Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and set up a new organisation called a Combined Authority.

A Combined Authority is a partnership where councils join together to make collective decisions that affect a local area; in this instance that area is Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough proposal would mean forming a Combined Authority that would include the following organisations – Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership.

Peterborough City Council would keep its sovereignty and continue to deliver services for residents as we do currently – even if we are part of a Combined Authority.

The proposed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal includes:

- A new £20million annual fund to improve local infrastructure - such as road and rail projects. This fund would be for the next 30 years (totalling £600m over 30 years)
- A new £100million housing fund to be invested over the next five years to build more homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- A new £70million fund to be used to build more council rented homes in Cambridge over the next five years because house prices are so high in the city
- Transferring other powers and funding that currently sit with Government down to the Combined Authority – in areas such as public transport, apprenticeships and helping people get back into work
- A Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a Directly Elected Mayor

A Directly Elected Mayor and Combined Authority

The Government has been clear that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough would need to have a Directly Elected Mayor before any of the decision-making powers, as well as the new funding, in our devolution proposal are transferred from Government.

The Mayor would chair the Combined Authority and he or she would be elected by the residents of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. If the deal moves forward the first election would take place in May 2017.

The Combined Authority would be made up of a councillor from each of our local councils and a business representative from the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership. Local enterprise partnerships form a link between local councils and businesses.

Why we are consulting

Councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have undertaken a review and published proposals for how a new Combined Authority could work. Our Governance Review and Scheme of Governance can be viewed on our website at www.peterborough.gov.uk/devolution.

We now want to hear what local people, businesses and organisations think about a devolution deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Your feedback will inform the Government and councillors about what people think about the deal that has been proposed.

Councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will need to vote again after the consultation process to decide if they agree to a devolution deal for the area. Any devolution deal would then need agreement from Government.

How we are consulting

Those wanting to comment as part of this consultation can give us their views in the following ways:

- Online at www.peterborough.gov.uk/devolution
- On this paper consultation form - returning it to a member of staff or by post to Devolution Consultation, Communications, Peterborough City Council, Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough PE1 1HG

For more information, and to view all the documents we have published on the proposed devolution deal, visit www.peterborough.gov.uk/devolution

The consultation will close on Tuesday 23 August 2016.

Please now take some time so you can have your say on a devolution deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by completing our consultation survey.

Devolution consultation survey

Principle of devolution

1. Devolution is when certain decision-making powers as well as funding are transferred down from Central Government to a local area; in this instance the area is Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

It means that decisions are taken closer to where they have an effect.

To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the principle of devolution?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

2. Why do you say that?

A new Combined Authority with Directly Elected Mayor

In order to receive new funding and to make more decisions locally, Government says it would need councils to set up a new organisation called a Combined Authority and have an election for a Directly Elected Mayor.

This would lead to the formation of a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority chaired by a Directly Elected Mayor. The Mayor would be elected by the residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Combined Authority would be made up of a councillor from each of our councils and a business representative from the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Combined Authority would receive new funding from Government including an annual £20million fund to improve infrastructure for the next 30 years. There will also be new money to build houses which includes £100million to build homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and £70million to build more council rented homes in Cambridge because house prices are so high in the city; both to be invested over the next five years.

There will be a cost associated with the Mayor and the Combined Authority. Those costs include the Mayor's salary and supporting staff. The Mayor's salary is expected to be similar to that of a Police and Crime Commissioner (around £70,000). It's too early to say how many people the Combined Authority would employ but initially support would be provided by local council staff.

There would not be a new Combined Authority headquarters building as we are committed to using our existing buildings.

Other than some transport and road maintenance funding, the majority of services currently delivered by local councils would not be affected and will continue to be operated by your local council.

3. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the idea of transferring powers and funding down from Government and District, City and County Councils becoming part of a Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

4. A condition of the devolution deal, as advised by the Government, is to establish a Directly Elected Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

A Mayor would need to be elected by residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough before any new local decision-making powers, as well as funding, are transferred down from Central Government to the Combined Authority and the Directly Elected Mayor.

To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the election of a Mayor in order to access the decision-making powers and funding in the proposed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

Decision-making

5. There are proposals for how the Combined Authority and Directly Elected Mayor would take decisions. Each member of the Combined Authority including the Mayor would have a vote.

To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each aspect of how decisions would be made?

- The Directly Elected Mayor cannot make decisions alone and will require the support of a certain number of members of the Combined Authority to progress their proposals, or in certain circumstances the business community.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

- Some decisions, such as the Combined Authority asking the Government for new powers and how much the authority would cost to run would require a majority of members of the Combined Authority to agree. That majority must include the Directly Elected Mayor.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

Accountability

6. Plans will be put in place for how the new Combined Authority and Directly Elected Mayor would be held to account.

The details of how this will work will be produced if the deal goes forward but could include ideas such as scrutiny by members from various political parties.

How important, if at all, is each of these in holding the Combined Authority and Directly Elected Mayor to account?

- An independent scrutiny committee that has the power to ask the Mayor and other members of the Combined Authority to attend a meeting to answer questions. This would be made up of councillors from participating councils who are not members of the Combined Authority itself*

<input type="checkbox"/>					
Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know

- The scrutiny committee having the power to review any of the decisions made by the Combined Authority*

<input type="checkbox"/>					
Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know

- An audit committee which would monitor the Combined Authority's finances*

<input type="checkbox"/>					
Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents being able to directly elect their Mayor – through the ballot box*

<input type="checkbox"/>					
Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know

- The Combined Authority will be open and transparent – where it's expected that most decisions will be made in public*

<input type="checkbox"/>					
Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know

- A Government assessment every five years*

<input type="checkbox"/>					
Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know

New powers, funding and responsibility - principles

7. Government has said it would be willing to transfer, in other words to devolve, some decision-making powers and new funding to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area.

In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the proposed devolution deal with Government includes the creation of a Combined Authority consisting of the five district councils in Cambridgeshire, as well as Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership.

The new Combined Authority would not replace any of these existing councils, or any existing parish councils.

The proposed agreement would also create the role of Mayor who would chair the Combined Authority, and would be elected by the residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

For each of the following, to what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose these decisions being made locally, by the Combined Authority and Mayor just described, rather than by the Government?

- Deciding how to spend funds to build new homes, including affordable homes*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- Deciding how to spend funding on infrastructure projects, such as road and rail improvements*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- Creating a transport plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that helps to coordinate road, rail and bus services*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- Working with councils to develop a new strategy for housing and development in line with existing local plans*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- Deciding how a budget is spent to maintain roads in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- Deciding how funding is spent on apprenticeships in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

New powers, funding and responsibility - principles (continued)

- *Reviewing further education in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to help provide young people aged 16 and over with the skills that local employers need*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- *Deciding how funding is spent on adult education and skills training in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for people aged 19 and over to help produce a workforce with skills that local employers need*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- *Joining up health and social care services (such as elderly care) so that they better support people*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- *Working with local councils to develop a new strategy for housing and development in line with existing local plans*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- *Designing a new service to support those with a health condition or disability and the long-term unemployed back into work*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- *Working with local partners as part of an integrated employment service to ensure residents have better access to the job market*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

- *Reviewing all land and property held by the public sector and creating a list available for development in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

New powers, funding and responsibility – deal specifics

8. Government has said that it will provide Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as part of a Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor, with a new £20million annual fund to improve local infrastructure (totalling £600m over 30 years) as part of a devolution deal.

Examples of schemes that the Combined Authority could choose to fund across the county include:

- Investment in a Peterborough University with degree-awarding powers
- Supporting the delivery of the Wisbech Garden Town and the Wisbech-Cambridge rail connection
- Support for the continued growth and regeneration of Peterborough – including the city centre
- Transport infrastructure improvements such as A14/A142 junction and upgrades to the A10 and the A47 as well as Ely North Junction.
- Supporting development at Wyton and St Neots
- Rail improvements, including a new station at Soham

To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as part of a Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor, deciding on how to spend this infrastructure funding?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

9. Government has said it will provide Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as part of a Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor, and the partner areas included in the deal a new £100million housing fund in order to build more homes across the county. For example this could be more shared ownership schemes. This fund would be for the next five years and would form part of the devolution deal.

To what extent, if it all, do you support or oppose Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as part of a Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor, deciding on how this housing fund is spent?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

10. As part of the devolution deal, Government has said it will provide the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority a £70million fund to be used to build more council rented homes in Cambridge because house prices are so high in the city.

This is in addition to the £100million housing fund mentioned in question 9.

To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose this proposal?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know

Other comments

11. Do you have any other comments on the devolution deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough?

Other comments (continued)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

**Please hand this completed survey to either the reception desks of the
Town Hall or Bayard Place or any city library.**

Alternatively they can be returned by post to: Devolution Consultation, Communications,
Peterborough City Council, Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough PE1 1HG.

