

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Directorate / Service Area		Officer undertaking the assessment	
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Service / Document / Function being assessed		Job Title: Policy and Projects Officer	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal (updated post consultation).		Contact details:	
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Aims and Objectives of Service / Document / Function			
<p>The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal is a proposed agreement between Government, the seven local authorities covering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership to devolve a range of funding, powers and responsibilities. All of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authorities are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty and have complied with the requirements of this Duty in their proposals for this scheme.</p>			
What is changing?			
<p>The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal would devolve a range of functions and funding down from central government to a more local level, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-year transport budgets. - Devolved adult skills budgets and an increased role in 16+ skills provision - Responsibility for a Key Route Network of local roads - A housing fund, land commission, joint assets board and housing and planning powers - A 30 year single investment fund to support growth projects (transport, broadband, infrastructure). - Co-design of the National Work and Health programme - Joint work with UK Trade and Investment on boosting exports and inward investment - Further work towards public service reform, health and social care integration and co-ordination of community safety provision. <p>In order to take on these responsibilities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is proposing to create a new Combined Authority with Directly-Elected Mayor governance system. The Local Authorities involved are committed to ensuring that this Combined Authority will meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty in its operation.</p>			

Who is involved in this impact assessment?

e.g. Council officers, partners, service users and community representatives.

An initial Community Impact Assessment was completed by officers in advance of a full public consultation in which partners, service users and community representatives were invited to participate. This considered the Devolution Deal in relation to the Public Sector Equalities Duty requirements and concluded that while the deal was likely to further the three aims of the equality duty, it was important that this assumption was tested through the consultation, and that where future projects were being decided upon by the Combined Authority, that these were subject to further assessment as to their impact upon people with protected characteristics.

Since then, the Devolution Consultation ran from 8 July to 23 August, and included:

- Business engagement conducted by GCGP LEP across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Meetings and engagement with community, voluntary and local public sector stakeholders.
- An independent telephone survey of over 2,200 residents commissioned and undertaken by MORI.
- An online consultation, generating over 1,500 responses.
- Engagement with public sector and higher education establishments.

This activity was generated through a full range of communications channels and regular promotion activities including press releases and use of social media to further encourage participation in the exercise. The full details of the consultation response, polling data and written responses can be found at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/devolution>

What will the impact be?

Tick to indicate if the impact on each of the following protected characteristics is positive, neutral or negative.

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	X		
Disability	X		
Gender reassignment	X		
Marriage and civil partnership	X		
Pregnancy and maternity	X		
Race	X		

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Religion or belief	X		
Sex	X		
Sexual orientation	X		
The following additional characteristics can be significant in areas of Cambridgeshire			
Rural isolation	X		
Deprivation	X		

For each of the above characteristics where there is a positive, negative and / or neutral impact, please provide details, including evidence for this view. Describe the actions that will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts and how the actions are to be recorded and monitored. Describe any issues that may need to be addressed or opportunities that may arise.

Positive Impact

The Deal will affect everyone in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including people who live, work in and visit the region with protected characteristics. It will provide a combination of powers and funding that will support a range of projects which seek to improve economic prosperity and quality of life across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, in areas such as infrastructure, transport, housing, employment and skills, digital connectivity and housing.

In order to assess whether the devolution deal would have an impact on people with protected characteristics and meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty, a consultation was commissioned that sought to enable all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents and stakeholders to have a say on the devolution proposals, should they wish to do so, with measures to ensure this was inclusive, accessible and engaged with communities.

This included:

- the use of traditional as well as social media and internet channels to promote the consultation and online survey, with coverage in local newspapers.
- hard copies of the online survey made available on request, including in alternative formats/languages, and
- provided at locations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough e.g. Libraries, Community Hubs,

- business centres with responses from these entered into the survey.
- A MORI telephone poll was conducted to give a sample of survey responses that are statistically representative across both the geography and the demographics of the area.
- The views of local community and voluntary sector organisations were sought via direct contact and e-mail. This included over 100 organisations, including Peterborough Disability Forum, Cambridgeshire Pinpoint, Peterborough Youth Council and Cambridgeshire Alliance.
- A number of Local Authorities hosted local community consultation events e.g. Huntingdonshire's Voluntary Sector Forum and Peterborough's Connect Group (Church and Faith Groups).

Based upon this activity, which generated 2,200+ telephone survey responses, 1,500+ online survey responses and a range of written submissions there was strong support for both the principle of devolution, the specific powers and budgets that are seeking to be devolved and good support for the proposed governance changes, with some concerns about possible "extra layers of government, bureaucracy and cost" and the Directly-Elected Mayor.

From the results of the consultation, which took appropriate measures to engage with people with protected characteristics, there is a strong, evidenced view that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal will offer positive benefits under the Public Sector Equality Duty. These include the provision of additional affordable housing, improved local infrastructure in terms of the road and rail network and more tailored and effective skills and employment support services to help improve economic opportunities and quality of life for local residents. It will also offer benefits in terms of a co-ordinated and consistent approach to taking forward the objectives of the Public Sector Equality Duty across the entire Cambridgeshire and Peterborough geography.

Negative Impact

Officers have not identified any expected negative impacts from the Devolution Deal that would differentially impact upon people with protected characteristics. Specific projects that Combined Authority decides to commission will be assessed in relation to their impact upon people with protected characteristics and the Combined Authority's Public Sector Equality Duty requirements.

Neutral Impact

Officers have not identified any expected neutral impacts from the Devolution Deal. The proposals around housing, transport, skills etc. should improve the lives of people with protected characteristics. It will however be critical that the new Combined Authority ensures that meets its commitments under the Public Sector Equality Duty in full.

Issues or Opportunities that may need to be addressed

- 1) The Combined Authority will need to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty, including publishing equality objectives, which its Member Local Authorities are already committed.
- 2) There was a strong response from the consultation that community and voluntary groups and Parish Councils wanted to continue to be engaged and informed about the further development and delivery of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution and it will be important that this activity continues and is strengthened, including considering the need for effective engagement with .
- 3) If the Deal is approved and implemented, equality assessments will need to be undertaken at the design stage of all core regional strategic planning and commissioning activities. It will not always be possible to adopt the course of action that will best promote accessibility and equality for all. However, equality assessments will enable informed decisions to be made, that take into account every possible opportunity to minimise disadvantage.
- 4) In delivering this deal, our organisations will take forward our commitment to the 'Equality Pledge' (set out in annex 1) and its aspiration for Cambridge and the wider region, including Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to be safe, welcoming and inclusive.

Community Cohesion

If it is relevant to your area you should also consider the impact on community cohesion.

Officers have not identified any specific impacts from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal and consultation in relation to community cohesion. The Deal will offer the opportunity for a more consistent, co-ordinated approach to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advancing equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics and fostering good relations between people with protected characteristics and those who do not share them.

Annex 1

The Equality Pledge

The University of Cambridge, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Huntingdonshire District Council, Fenland District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue are all signed up as organisations to the Equality Pledge, which states that:

"We believe in the dignity of all people and their right to respect and equality of opportunity. We value the strength that comes with difference and the positive contribution that diversity brings to our community. Our aspiration is for Cambridge and the wider region to be safe, welcoming and inclusive".

In November 2015 Cambridge hosted the National Showcase for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans History Month 2016. As part of the preparations for this day, local organisers wanted to develop an initiative that would provide a legacy for whole community. The Equality Pledge was the result - a simple pledge that commits signatory organisations to appreciate and value the benefits that different communities contribute to Cambridge and the surrounding region. All organisations, whether from the public, voluntary or private sector, are welcome to sign up to the Equality Pledge.