

# Performance Management Hub

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DATE 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## BRIEFING NOTE

TITLE Local Government Devolution

### Introduction

The Government has set out a long-term agenda for economic and social reform that recognises that devolution is the most effective way to create jobs, build homes, strengthen healthy communities and protect the vulnerable across the country.

Following the agreement of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority plans, local authorities across England have developed or are developing proposals for devolution of powers to groups of local authorities that comprise a 'functional economic area'.

### Devolution in London

London is not included in the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill that is currently going through Parliament, but there is general agreement that although London has an elected Mayor with some devolved powers, there is scope for further devolution both to London as a whole and also to sub-regional groupings of boroughs within London.

### The London Proposition

London Councils and the Mayor of London have been working together on the development of a devolution and public sector reform agreement. The London Proposition which was submitted to Government by the Chancellor's deadline of 4<sup>th</sup> September aims to provide the basis for further discussion and negotiation with Government and to provide a platform upon which authorities and groups of authorities can build in practice. It presents propositions across six themes each of them interrelated: Employment and Complex Dependency; Skills, Enterprise Support; Crime and Justice; Health; Housing.

### Local London

Enfield is a member of the Local London Partnership made up of eight members from the Growth Boroughs and the North East London Strategic Alliance. The only borough in these groupings not involved in the partnership at this stage is Hackney.

The Local London Partnership shares a belief by Whitehall devolving further power through groupings of London boroughs services and resources can be joined up more effectively;

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Version	0.1	Page	1 of 2		

local insight and a strategic overview of the area can be exploited to produce the conditions for greater economic growth, reducing deprivation and increasing prosperity.

The eight boroughs working together across East and North East London make up one of the four sub-regions in the Capital along with the West London Alliance, Central London Forward and the South London Partnership. In order to realise efficiencies and avoid duplicating functions, Government is keen to ensure all boroughs belong to a partnership before agreeing to devolve functions to sub-regions. There are four boroughs in London which have not yet aligned themselves to a grouping seeking devolution: Bexley, Hackney, Haringey, and Lewisham (see below).



The Local London group, in common with other sub-regional partnerships in London, feels that the London Proposition document is not sufficiently ambitious and is developing its own proposals around a number of themes: Business, Education and Skills; Employment; Housing; Health and Social Care; Crime and Justice. Enfield is leading on the housing workstream and is represented on the other working groups. Work is ongoing to ensure that proposals are realistic, costed and will produce better outcomes for residents and businesses.

### What next?

Government is currently considering all the devolution submissions in parallel with the Spending Review timetable. Their initial reactions to the propositions are likely to be included in the Spending Review announcement in late November. However discussions and engagements on a London agreement in different areas are likely to continue beyond these initial announcements. Treasury and DCLG seem willing to hold a roundtable with Local London representatives after the Spending Review announcement.

### Further Information

If you would like more information on devolution, please contact Alison Trew, Head of Performance Management, email: [alison.trew@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:alison.trew@enfield.gov.uk)