

Bolton Council

Report to: Constitutional Panel

Date: 11 January 2015

Report of: Chief Executive

Report No:

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Tele No:

Report Title: **Greater Manchester Devolution – update**

Non Confidential: (***Non-Confidential***) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

Purpose: To update members on the Cities and Devolution Bill and next steps to implementation.

Recommendations: The Constitutional Panel is recommended to:

1. To note the progress of the Bill and next steps required for implementation.
2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to consent to the terms of the Order required to establish the role of GMCA elected Mayor and to provide for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the PCC in relation to the Greater Manchester Police area.
3. To delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council the authority to consent to the terms of orders required to enable GMCA to carry out health related functions from April 2016.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

Signed:

Leader / Executive Cabinet
Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

1. Introduction

The Cities and Devolution Bill went through the report stage in the House of Commons on 7th December. The Bill is going back into the House of Lords on 12th January and it is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent shortly after.

The Bill was discussed at committee and report stages in the House of Commons and amended to take into account Government proposals and respond to amendments made to the Bill in the House of Lords.

2. Cities and Devolution Bill

As confirmed in previous reports the Bill as currently drafted is enabling legislation and the detail of the additional powers to be provided to the Elected Mayor and the Combined Authority will be set out in Orders confirmed by Parliament and any subsequent secondary legislation that may be required. The Bill in its current form does therefore meet the requirements of the GM devolution deals.

3. Next steps

3.1 First Order

Discussions have taken place with DCLG on the timetable for implementation of the Orders required. The first Order is that to create the Greater Manchester Mayor role, and to provide for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Greater Manchester police area. It also provides for the election of the Mayor in May 2017 for an initial three year term and removes the requirement for a Greater Manchester PCC election in May 2016.

It is anticipated that the Order will be laid immediately after Royal Assent to meet the timetable required to stop the PCC election. The Order requires the consent of Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the 10 constituent councils.

3.2 Orders required for April 2016

As members are aware under the devolution deals certain powers will be exercisable by the Mayor alone, some Mayoral decisions require the approval of Combined Authority members and other powers will be exercisable by the Combined Authority as a body – please see Appendix 1 for the powers agreed to date.

GMCA will require the ability to exercise health related functions from April 2016 to enable it to play a full part in health and social care devolution. It is proposed that this will be by way of providing for the GMCA to have the function that all local authorities have under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to take appropriate steps to improve the health of people who live in their area.

Further work is taking place on other additional powers required to implement devolution from April 2016.

3.3 Full implementation

The totality of powers to be granted to the GMCA and Elected Mayor will need to be finalised by November 2016. This process will begin in March 2016 with a 3 month period for drafting, GMCA engagement and Ministerial approval. It is envisaged that the orders will then be laid before

Parliament in May/June 2016. There will be a combination of Orders as there are a number of devolution deals across the country. It is likely that there will be one Order with general applicability for all combined authorities and specific bespoke Orders covering those issues which are not generic to all authorities.

Detailed work is now commencing on the precise requirements of GMCA in relation to those orders which covers financial functions, including borrowing powers; PCC and Fire authority functions; functions to enable the implementation of the Greater Manchester Spatial Development Strategy; and Housing and development functions.

Further reports will be brought back to the Cabinet as this work develops.

Recommendations

The Constitutional Panel is recommended to:

1. Note the progress of the Bill and next steps required for implementation.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to consent to the terms of the Order required to establish the role of GMCA elected Mayor and to provide for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the PCC in relation to the Greater Manchester Police area.
3. Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council the authority to consent to the terms of orders required to enable GMCA to carry out health related functions from April 2016.