



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

OFFICIAL

Government plans for local growth

Wednesday 24 April 2024

SENSITIVITY MARKING

The Institutional Landscape



How has business engagement and economic strategy been delivered in England?

Regular evolution:

- 2000s- Regional Development Agencies across 9 government regions
- 2010-15- replacement of RDAs with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and introduction of non-mayoral combined authorities in city regions
- 2015-19- introduction of mayoral combined authorities (MCAs) including in areas with very significant rural economies (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, North of Tyne)
- 2019-23- introduction of new forms of devolution that work better for more rural economies (to county councils including Norfolk, Suffolk and Cornwall and through combined county authorities in East Midlands, Lancashire and Devon and Torbay)
- 2023-now- dissolution of LEPs and bringing back responsibilities for business engagement, economic strategy and delivery of business related services into local authorities and combined authorities



What will authorities be doing?

Government published guidance in August 2023 saying it expected local authorities/combined authorities to work together, wherever possible over potential devolution deal geographies.

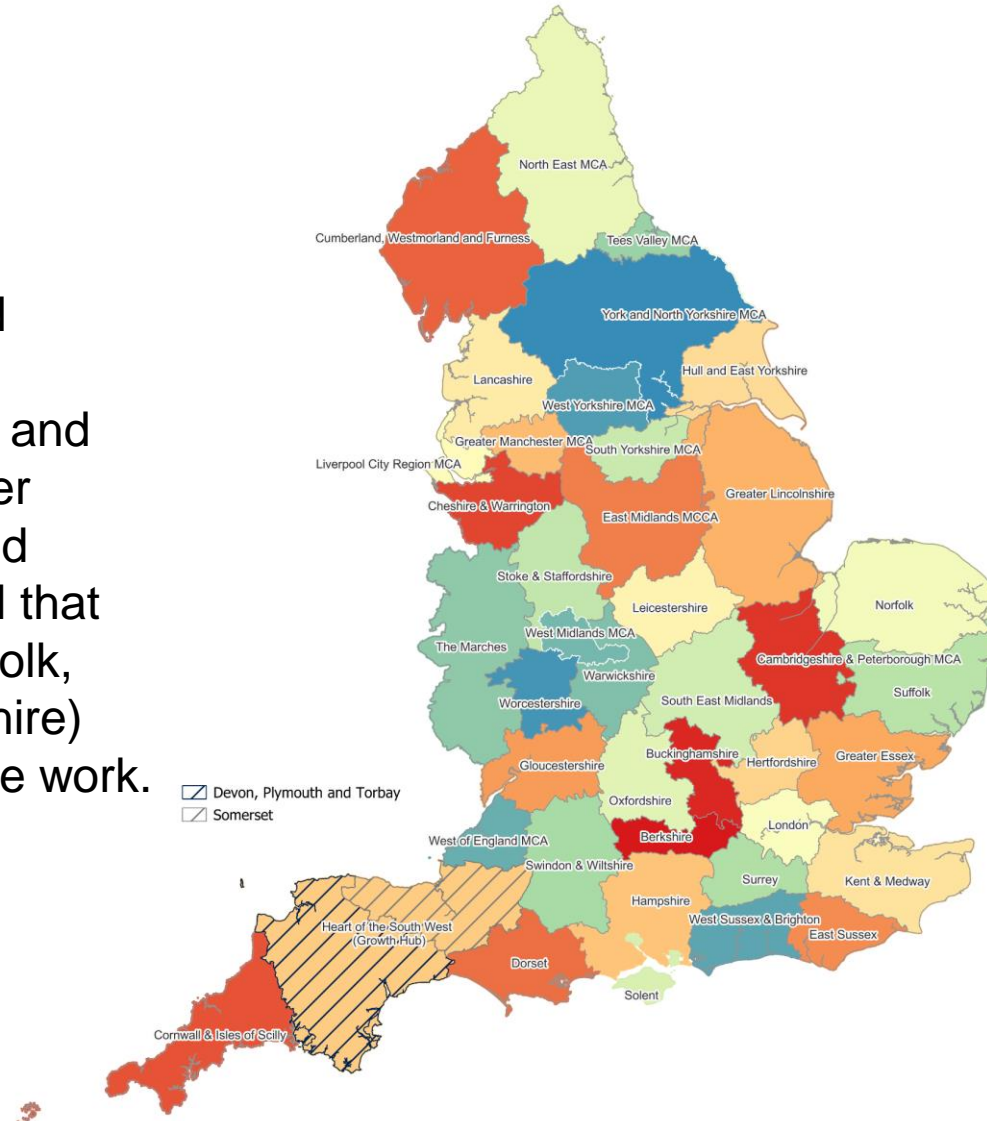
They would be responsible for:

- Embedding a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions.
- Carrying out strategic economic planning in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates their area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths and the actions needed to support priority sectors.
- Delivering particular functions for government including:
 - Growth Hubs- providing tailored local support for businesses
 - Career Hubs- providing support to schools and colleges to develop their careers programmes
 - Universal Support programmes- to help people with complex barriers to work to get sustainable employment



Post LEP geographies

Where there is a combined authority (York and North Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, soon Greater Lincolnshire and Devon and Torbay) or a county council that covers all of the area (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cornwall, Oxfordshire) then they will be leading the work.



Where there isn't that institution it can be messier! But councils are coming together to make plans, engage businesses and deliver services over agreed local geographies.

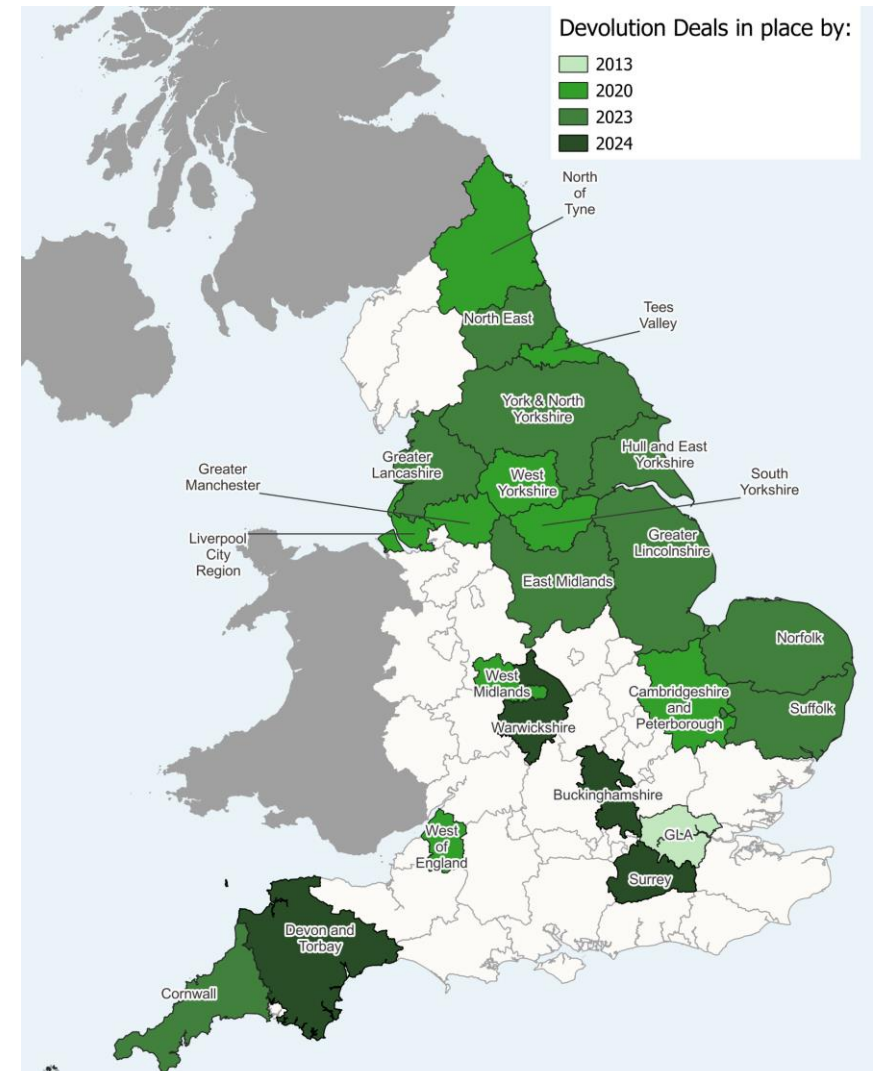


The future- devo everywhere?

Levelling Up Mission: By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

By population, making good progress with 60% of the country covered- but lots more to do, especially in many rural areas.

Opportunity to shape local discussions now on ensuring that the right geographies and governance is in place in areas as further devolution deals are made.



Funding for rural areas



What's our mission for the next 6-12 months?

Current delivery

Keep **delivering** for **this Government**,
making sure **deal commitments** are
kept, CAs are **set up to deliver**, and
we're **extending** and **deepening**
devolution where we can

Future strategy

Look ahead and plan for the future,
making sure we're ready to (i) land a
Spending Review before December, and
(ii) respond to a **new Government's**
ambitions after a General Election