

# Public Document Pack



Friday 3 April 2020

To: Members of the SCR - Mayoral Combined Authority Board and Appropriate Officers

## NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Sheffield City Regional Mayoral Combined Authority to be held **virtually**, on: **Wednesday, 15 April 2020 at 11.00 am** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Smith'.

Dr Dave Smith  
**Chief Executive**

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## Member Distribution

	SCR	Mayoral	Combined
Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE (Chair)		Authority	
Councillor Chris Read (Vice-Chair)		Rotherham MBC	
Councillor Garry Purdy		Derbyshire Dales DC	
Councillor Julie Dore		Sheffield City Council	
Councillor Martin Thacker MBE		NE Derbyshire DC	
Mayor Ros Jones CBE		Doncaster MBC	
Councillor Simon Greaves		Bassetlaw DC	
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE		Barnsley MBC	
Councillor Steve Fritchley		Bolsover DC	
Councillor Tricia Gilby		Chesterfield BC	
James Muir		Chair of LEP Board	

## Agenda

Agenda Ref No	Subject	Lead	Page
1.	Welcome and Apologies		
2.	Announcements		
3.	Urgent Items  To determine whether there are any additional items of business which by reason of special circumstances the Chair is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting; the reason(s) for such urgency to be stated.		
4.	Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press  To identify where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press. (For items marked * the public and press may be excluded from the meeting.)		
5.	Voting Rights for Non-constituent Members  To identify whether there are any items of business that apply only to the South Yorkshire Members of the Mayoral Combined Authority, ie, where it would not be appropriate for non-SY Members to have voting rights.		
6.	Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda  Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda.		
7.	Reports from and questions by members		
8.	Receipt of Petitions		
9.	Public Questions		

10.	Minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2020		5 - 14
11.	Progressing the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal: Summary of the Public Consultation	Dr D Smith	15 - 80
<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> Monday, 1 June 2020 at 11.00 am  <b>At:</b> Sheffield City Region, 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ</p>			

**SCR - MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD****MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:****MONDAY, 27 JANUARY 2020 AT 11.00 AM****SHEFFIELD CITY REGION, 11 BROAD STREET WEST,  
SHEFFIELD S1 2BQ****Present:**

Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE (Chair)	SCR Mayoral Combined Authority
Councillor Chris Read (Vice-Chair)	Rotherham MBC
Councillor Garry Purdy	Derbyshire Dales DC
Councillor Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Councillor Tricia Gilby	Chesterfield BC
Nigel Brewster	Vice-Chair of LEP Board

**Officers in Attendance:**

Sarah Norman	Chief Executive	Barnsley MBC
Damian Allen	Interim Chief Executive, Doncaster MBC	Doncaster BMC
Huw Bowen	Chief Executive of Chesterfield Borough Council	Chesterfield BC
Dan Swaine	Chief Executive of Bolsover District Council/NE Derbyshire District Council	Bolsover DC/NE Derbyshire DC
Neil Taylor	Chief Executive of Bassetlaw District Council	Bassetlaw DC
Sharon Kemp	Chief Executive of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Rotherham MBC
Dr Dave Smith	Chief Executive	SCR Executive Team
Dr Ruth Adams	Deputy Chief Executive	SCR Executive Team
Mike Thomas	Senior Finance Manager/ Deputy S73 Officer	SCR Executive Team
Noel O'Neill	Chief Finance Officer/S73 Officer	Sheffield City Region
Fiona Boden	Policy Adviser - Mayor	SCR Executive Team
Mark Lynam	Director of Programme Commissioning	SCR Executive Team
Stephen Batey	Head of Mayor's Office	SCR Mayor's Office
Eugene Walker	Chief Finance Officer	Sheffield City Council
Tim Taylor	Director of Customer Services	SYPTTE

**In Attendance**

Councillor Chris Furness

Peak District National Park Authority

Craig Tyler (Minute Taker)

**Apologies:**

Councillor Steve Fritchley  
James Muir  
Charlie Adan  
Paul Wilson  
Steve Davenport  
Stephen Edwards

Bolsover DC  
Chair of LEP Board  
Sheffield City Council  
Derbyshire Dales DC  
SCR Executive Team  
SYLTE

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

Members' apologies were noted as above.

**2 Announcements**

Welcoming the Members and public present, the Mayor commented on the significance of the meeting noting this is the first MCA meeting post the General Election and the final MCA meeting before the UK officially leaves the EU.

The Mayor informed the meeting he continues to impress upon the Government the importance of getting the flood response right, citing the amazing work undertaken by the Local Authorities and partner agencies to help those communities affected by flooding. It was asserted that whilst the attention of the media may have gone, these communities will not be forgotten and we will be doing all in our power to make sure we have the resources and partnerships in place to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Mayor commented on the good progress made recently to get the Devolution Deal process moving progress that unlocks opportunities for us now and in the future and ensure we can be even better placed to deliver on priorities that are important to the SCR.

**3 Urgent Items**

None.

**4 Items to be Considered in the Absence of Public and Press**

None.

**5 Voting Rights for Non-constituent Members**

It was agreed that voting rights may not be conferred on non-Constituent Members for item 11: Devolution, item 15: South Yorkshire Transport Revenue Budget 20/21 and item 16: South Yorkshire Transport Capital Programme 20/21 as the matters concern the Constituent area only.

It was agreed there were no further agenda items for which voting right could not be conferred on the non-Constituent Members.

**6           Declarations of Interest by individual Members in relation to any item of business on the agenda**

Mayor Jones declared interest in the matters to be considered at agenda item 18 (LGF Capital Programme Approvals) by virtue of being Leader of the respective sponsoring Authority for the A630 Westmoor Link scheme.

Cllr Houghton declared interest in the matters to be considered at agenda item 18 (LGF Capital Programme Approvals) by virtue of being Leader of their respective sponsoring Authority for the Barnsley College scheme and noting the Council is a partner organisation of the College.

Mayor Jarvis declared an interest in the matters to be considered at item 18 (LGF Capital Programme Approvals) by virtue of being the Constituency MP for the geography the college sits in.

Cllr Dore declared an interest in the matters to be considered at item 17 (LGF Programme Monitoring Update) by virtue of being the Leader of the respective sponsoring authority for the Little Kelham scheme.

**7           Reports from and Questions by Members**

None.

**8           Receipt of Petitions**

None received.

**9           Public Questions**

It was confirmed no new questions had been received.

Members were reminded there were 2 questions received at the previous meeting, the answers for which were held in abeyance due to purdah.

The meeting was reminded the question from Mr Nigel Slack was received as follows:

“With the calling of a General Election for December 12th, many issues around the SCR seem to have been further compromised. From funding bids to scrutiny boards, LEP membership to climate change and not least the finalisation of the devolution deal first struck in 2015, we will presumably see continued delay and disruption. What is the Mayor's perception of the path for the SCR/MCA going forward?”

In response, the Mayor commented on the significant progress that has been made in recent weeks to unlock the Devolution Deal. It was noted consensus has been reached with the Government and Local Authorities in South Yorkshire on a proposed way forward, the details of which are outlined in the paper for discussion today under Agenda item 11.

The Mayor confirmed his priority is to secure additional powers and long-term funding from Government to deliver our vision and ambitions for the inclusive and sustainable growth that South Yorkshire needs and at a scale not seen before. This will be key in tackling the climate emergency that we are facing and which requires urgent action by all of us, working together to rise to the challenge posed, and as we will discuss at item 12.

It was noted further updates would be provided in the coming weeks as we continue apace to secure devolution.

The meeting was reminded the public question from Mr Geoff Cox representing Extinction Rebellion was received as follows:

“People across Sheffield City Region are still bailing flood water out of their homes and salvaging what's left of their belongings. Annie Hall was killed not far away in the river Derwent. The climate crisis is lapping at our doorsteps. Will the SCR MCA radically accelerate and expand the proposals in the paper at item 15 on your agenda today? Will they commit to telling the truth about the climate emergency with a public information campaign, cutting Sheffield City Region's emissions to net-zero by 2025, and involve the public in writing a fair and just plan through a citizens' assembly?”

In response, the Mayor reminded the meeting that in November we declared a climate emergency and noted that today, we will consider a framework for responding to the climate emergency and achieving net zero emissions across South Yorkshire.

It was suggested that engaging with the public is key to addressing the climate challenges we face and the Mayor noted he wants to hear the views and ideas of residents, businesses and partner organisations on how we can work together to reduce and off-set emissions to achieve net zero.

10 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November are agreed to be an accurate record.

11 **Devolution**

A report was received to set out the next steps to progress devolution in South Yorkshire.

It was noted this specifically recommends launching a public consultation on the draft Governance Review and Scheme to unlock the powers, resources and functions set out in its Devolution Deal with Government.

Cllr Read led Members in recording their thanks to everyone involved in bringing this matter forward in a manner that facilitates and recognises the interests of all parties.

RESOLVED, that the MCA:



1. Approves the Governance Review that has been prepared in accordance with section 111 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, as amended, which concludes that the exercise of the power to make an order devolving the proposed functions would be likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in relation to the area of the MCA.
2. Agrees to launch a six-week, public consultation on the proposals in the Scheme, commencing on the 3rd February.
3. Delegates to the Head of Paid Service the management of the public consultation process and the subsequent preparation of a summary of the responses received, for consideration by the MCA.

## 12 **Climate Emergency Response Framework**

A report was received to outline the proposed response framework to the climate emergency, following its declaration at the 18th November 2019 Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) meeting.

The Mayor thanked the officers for the work undertaking in bringing together the proposed response framework and reiterated intentions to move at pace on this matter.

Members were advised of the key points of the Framework and how this will reflect the acknowledgment that climate change must be our number one priority for the SCR going forward, suggesting our ambition to be carbon neutral by 2040 is achievable (whilst considered not challenging enough by some parties) if actions commence now, noting this precedes the government's target by 10 years.

Comment was made on the need for a just transition to ensure measures introduced to remediate climate change do not lead to greater social and economic inequalities.

It was noted the MCA would be asked to accelerate proposals wherever it is considered achievable and beneficial to do so.

It was recognised the SCR can only achieve its climate ambitions through working in partnership with the local universities, businesses, the Local Authorities and through the input and engagement of the SCR's citizens.

Cllr Dore noted all the districts share good ideas and best practice on climate change and considered what added value the SCR is best placed to contribute to that conversation, suggesting this may be in the guise of the SCR LEP and the ability to directly engage the private sector, expanding actions beyond what matters the councils can directly affect.

Cllr Purdy commented on the requirement for the Government to drive matters at a national and international level and provide a wider framework for SCR to engage with. It was noted the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire districts have identified there is a lack of officer resources needed to deliver the climate

change actions and asserted this needs to be appropriately considered by the SCR as actions are developed as part of the outline framework.

Mayor Jones commented on the devastation of the recent floods and what initiatives are in place to continue to support residents and businesses.

Mayor Jarvis reiterated his intentions to press the government on delivering the actions they need to deliver on in support of our region and ensure the right amount of investment is received locally over the forthcoming months and years.

RESOLVED, that the MCA:

1. Notes the proposed response framework to the climate emergency and note the further work that will take place over the coming months to put in place specific interventions to deliver upon the policies set out.
2. Agrees to receive the Energy Strategy; the first component of the framework, at the March MCA meeting.

### 13 **Statement of Common Ground**

A report was received to present a Statement of Common Ground for endorsement by the MCA, following agreement of the Statement by local districts.

It was noted this is part of a wider work programme being pursued collaboratively by local planning authorities in the City Region.

Referring back to the previous agenda item, Cllr Dore commented on the relationship between planning policy and wider ambitions around climate change and the needs to fully understand how actions in one area can have various consequences.

Cllr Houghton referenced the need to be clear about planning related governance and decision-making structures and the need to fully understand and agree to the role and responsibility of the SCR.

RESOLVED, the MCA notes the draft Statement of Common Ground pending additional work to be completed prior to future approval.

### 14 **Period 8 Capital and Revenue Monitoring Report**

A report was received to provide the position as at the end of November 2019 (Period 8) for the revenue and capital programme of the Sheffield City Region (SCR) Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) for the financial year 2019/20.

RESOLVED, that the MCA:

1. Notes the 2019/20 Period 8 position for the Mayoral Combined Authority's and LEPs revenue budget and capital programme

2. Approves the proposed variations to the South Yorkshire Transport capital programme.
3. Approves the acceptance of Sustainable Transport Access Fund grant extension.

## 15 **South Yorkshire Transport Revenue Budget 20/21**

A report was received to seek approval from the MCA for the proposed 2020/21 South Yorkshire Transport Revenue Budget.

Mayor Jones commented on the unacceptable amount of social isolation in the SCR, especially in rural areas and the need to try and address the effects of people not having sufficient access to public transport, acknowledging the need to balance budgets and other funding priorities.

Cllr Dore referenced the other factors that can lead to social isolation, including austerity, cuts to public services and a consequent lack of destinations, suggesting people will only use public transport if there is somewhere to go, which in terms impacts on the viability of the transport network.

The Mayor reminded members the draft findings of the Bus Review were due to be received in the next couple of months.

It was noted the proposal to keep the Levy at the 2019/20 level will generate £1.1m of funding not considered in the budget presented in the report. Members were asked to consider the options available for how this might be utilised and expressed a preference for investment in tendered services noting this area of service is currently under increasing pressure due to inflation and bus operator costs. It was suggested the additional funding could be earmarked to specifically support this area of activity in 2020/21 and the future and that implementing this option would enable protection of the current essential services from potential cessation.

RESOLVED, that the MCA:

1. Notes the contents of the draft 2020/21 South Yorkshire Transport Revenue Budget report
2. Approves the proposal to retain the PTE Levy at 2019/20 levels
3. Approves the option presented at paragraph 3.1.2 for utilising the additional funding generated by keeping the Levy at the 2019/20 level

## 16 **South Yorkshire Transport Capital Programme 20/21**

A report was received to seek approval of the proposed 2020/21 South Yorkshire Transport Capital Programme.

It was noted the South Yorkshire Transport Capital Programme is limited geographically to the area covered by the four constituent member authorities and also funds programme activity undertaken by SYPTE. The programme

largely comprises: Transforming Cities Fund, SYPTÉ's capital programme (covering both small and large scale projects), Highways Capital Maintenance (HCM) (mainly carriageway resurfacing projects carried out by 3 of the 4 constituent member authorities), Integrated Transport Block (ITB) (a range of schemes designed to meet local transport needs and priorities) and ongoing work to develop the Mass Transit scheme beyond outline business case (OBC) stage.

Cllr Dore welcomed the inclusion of the Transforming Cities Fund in the programme and invited the government's confirmation the full amount proposed will be forthcoming. The Mayor noted representations he had made to that effect in parliament and to Ministers.

RESOLVED, that the MCA approves the proposed 2020/21 South Yorkshire Transport Capital Programme report.

## 17 **Local Growth Fund (LGF) Monitoring**

A report was received to provide an update on the 2019/20 LGF current forecast outturn position and an update of the current LGF programme commitments over the life of the LGF programme.

The report asked the MCA to approve one scheme (Little Kelham) to be returned to the pipeline due to significant delays in confirming other sources of funding, and for two further schemes (360 Degrees Media and Foxhill Crescent) approve that they will not be counted towards the over programming position.

The report showed there had been significant fluctuations in year from the predicted spend at the start of the year, and noted action is required to accelerate spending to mitigate the current position where we are currently forecasting a potential underspend.

It was noted the totality of the position for the LGF programme is a significant reduction in the over programming position due to the withdrawal of a number of schemes. Members were informed that further movement on the programme is likely to reduce this and may create additional headroom for schemes to progress.

RESOLVED, that the MCA:

1. Notes the predicted 2019/20 LGF outturn position and any remedial action it would wish to see to mitigate negative impact on the LGF spend in 19/20.
2. Approves the movement of the Little Kelham scheme from approval back into the pipeline, until it can satisfy the conditions of approval.
3. Agrees to discount two schemes 360 Degrees Media and Foxhill Crescent from the over programming position, whilst retaining them in the pipeline for future funding, due to a high probability of not completing business planning and delivery within the life of the LGF window.

## 18 **Local Growth Fund (LGF) Approvals**

A report was received seeking approval of three schemes with a total value over all years of £12.61m Local Growth Fund (LGF) and seeking delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the S73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes.

Regarding the Doncaster Sheffield Airport Passenger Capacity Extension scheme, Members were advised of discussions regarding the airport's sustainable development goals, which include being carbon neutral by 2030, and informed the project would be monitored to ensure that ambition is met.

RESOLVED, that the MCA:

1. Approves the progression of Doncaster Sheffield Airport Passenger Capacity Expansion to full approval and award of £5.02m loan to Doncaster Sheffield Airport Limited subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table
2. Approves the progression of A630: Westmoor Link Road to full approval and award of up to £5m grant to Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table
3. Approves the progression of Digital Innovation Hub to full approval and award of up to £2.59m grant to Barnsley College subject to the conditions set out in the Appraisal Panel Summary Table
4. Agrees delegated authority be given to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the s73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into legal agreements for the schemes above.

## 19 **Arts & Culture**

A report was received to seek the MCA's support for the development of a programme of work to further evolve the arts and cultural sectors in South Yorkshire.

The meeting expressed surprise and concern at the Mayor's report that there had been no South Yorkshire sites of artistic and cultural interest contained within the latest edition of the Lonely Planet list of 500 places to visit in the UK.

Members were presented with proposals for how perceived weaknesses with the county's cultural and artistic offer might be addressed.

Cllr Dore acknowledged the need to differentiate between visitor attractions (attracting visitors from outside the region) and local attractions (which serve the cultural and artistic appetite of local residents) and requested more be done to understand why participation rates are surprisingly low and ensure people are fully enabled to access everything that the county offers.

Members noted support for the general intentions of the strategy as presented and the need to enhance the economic and social opportunities afforded by the local and 'inward destination' arts and cultural offer.

The importance of community level arts, as well as 'big shiny things' was acknowledged, as was the need for all local residents having the ability to access all arts and cultural offers.

RESOLVED, that the MCA:

1. Agrees to support the development of a programme of work to further evolve the arts and cultural sectors in South Yorkshire.
2. Notes the Mayor's intention to explore additional initiatives to consider how the SCR can add value to the work of the Local Authorities.

20 **Contract Award - BSW Provision of Cleaning Services**

A report was received to seek approval to appoint a provider of cleaning services for the Sheffield City Region offices at Broad Street West, Sheffield.

It was confirmed the real living wage will be paid to all employees.

RESOLVED, that delegated authority is given to the Head of Paid Service to approve the award of an up to 4 year contract (3 years plus 1 year extension) in excess of £100,000 for the Provision of Cleaning Services at Sheffield City Region Offices.

21 **Delegated Authority Report**

Provided for information.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

Name .....

Position .....

Date .....

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Progressing the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal: Summary of the Public Consultation**

**Purpose of Report**

This report summarises progress in the implementation of the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal. Focused on summarising the results of the recent public consultation, the report recommends the submission of the outcomes of this process to the Secretary of State, as the next step to unlock the benefits of devolution in the region.

**Thematic Priority**

Cross cutting

**Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972**

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme

**Recommendations**

That the Mayoral Combined Authority:

- Notes the outcome of the consultation undertaken as outlined in Annex A and B.
- Agrees to submit the reports on the consultation at Annexes A, B and C alongside the Governance Review and Scheme to the Secretary of State.
- Delegates to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Mayor and the MCA Members from the four Constituent Authorities, authority to take forward and conclude the legal steps necessary to implement the Devolution Deal including consenting on behalf of the Authority to the enabling Powers Order, provided that such Order corresponds to the proposals contained in the Governance Review and Scheme, agreed by the MCA in January.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** At its meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> January the Sheffield City Region MCA agreed to launch a public consultation on the Scheme and Governance Review as the next step to implement the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal. This is in accordance with the legal requirement that a public consultation is undertaken where additional functions are to be conferred upon the MCA.
- 1.2** Following the conclusion of the consultation, a summary of the responses that were received has been prepared, which is set out at Annex A. This report sets out the main findings from this process and the proposed next steps to unlock the benefits of devolution in South Yorkshire.

## **2. Overview of the Consultation Process**

- 2.1** Commencing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the public consultation ran for six weeks until the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Its ambition was to offer the public and stakeholders the opportunity to share their views on the additional functions that it is proposed be conferred on the SCR MCA, as set out in the scheme, which the authority approved in January. The consultation was designed so that every resident, business and stakeholder could respond if they wished to do so and the purpose was to enable responses to our devolution proposals.
- 2.2** The consultation was led by the SCR Executive and delivered in conjunction with South Yorkshire local authorities and partners. The consultation was conducted primarily through digital channels with consultation feedback gathered via the SCR website from the public and stakeholders. However, respondents were also able to submit responses through a paper-based survey, by letter or email if they wished to do so. Consultation documents and publicity materials were made available at Sheffield City Region offices and in key local authority buildings across South Yorkshire.
- 2.3** As documented in the report at Annex B, the consultation was widely publicised through a variety of mechanisms including:
- pro-active media releases and pro-active engagement of regional and local media throughout the consultation, including advertisements in the South Yorkshire printed press;
  - web content for the SCR website, including a feedback form;
  - similar, but locally adapted content for local authority and partner websites;
  - social media using local authority and SCR MCA and LEP family channels; and
  - staff messaging.
- 2.4** Paid adverts on social media channels ran for six weeks from w/c 3 February across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, reaching a total of 420,615 people with clear information about how to contribute to the consultation, as well as providing a link to the website. Meanwhile, organic social media posts published by the Sheffield City Region and the four South Yorkshire local authorities, across the same four social media channels, had the potential to reach a combined audience of 257,100 followers.
- 2.5** During the consultation period, there were a total of 11,728 page views on the dedicated consultation area of the SCR website, which provided information about the draft scheme and consultation, as well as the call to take part. This was the most-visited page on the website during this period, gaining more views than the main homepage.
- 2.6** To supplement media related promotional activity, the SCR MCA directly contacted more than 40 stakeholders across the region and in neighbouring areas, writing to make them aware of the consultation. Those contacted included public, private and third sector organisations with, wherever possible, a senior named individual being written to. Organisations reached included MPs, business representative organisations, colleges and universities, business leaders, and others.

## **3. Summary of the consultation outcomes**

### **Overview**

- 3.1** A total of 675 responses were received (673 through the online survey and two by email). 653 or 96.7% of the responses received were from the public and 22 or 3.3% were from stakeholders.
- 3.2** The report summarising the results of the consultation is included at Annex A. Please note that due to the timescales, this is a summary report, which will be followed by a full



consultation report by the research analysts, IPSOS MORI. The consultation questions were designed to elicit people's views on the additional powers that the SCR MCA was seeking to transfer through the implementation of its Devolution Deals. These were grouped into themes, with a question per theme. The results to this process are summarised in the table below.

**Table 1: Summary of all responses to policy areas and new powers as identified in the Scheme to progress the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal**

Theme	Support*	Oppose**	Other***
The principle of the devolution of powers from Westminster	590	59	23
Skills and education	560	59	51
Housing	568	59	42
Development and regeneration	530	80	56
Transport	576	60	31
Finance	458	105	107
Constitutional and governance	434	136	98

Notes:

\* Includes strongly support / agree and tend to support / agree responses

\*\* Includes strongly oppose / disagree and tend to oppose / disagree responses

\*\*\* Includes don't know and neither support nor disagree answers

### Overall support for the proposals

**3.3** As the table above indicates, the majority of responses were supportive of the proposals outlined in our Scheme to implement our Devolution Deal. In particular there was very strong support for the general principle of more powers being devolved from Westminster to MCAs and for our proposed transport powers.

**3.4** The positive responses received illustrate the strength of support for:

- Providing local decisions makers with the tools needed to meet local needs and solve local problems;
- Greater local autonomy, power and control in the local area;
- The deal as it will benefit the region and local communities;
- Securing these powers to provide education and skills support that is required locally; and
- The proposals to secure greater powers to improve transport.

**3.5** In tandem with these responses was a general trend from a significant number of respondents that set out negative views of the current political system, including a perceived dominance of the Greater South East London at the expense of the North. Whilst a number of respondents raised this issue, they did not specifically state that the powers proposed through the Devolution Deal would address these issues.

### Areas of concern / objection

**3.6** While a majority of respondents were in favour of the proposals, key concerns identified by the minority of respondents who did not support the proposals are set out below. This is accompanied by a commentary for consideration by the MCA. None of the concerns raised are considered to represent a fundamental impediment to moving forward to the next stage of the process.

**3.7** Issues raised were:

- A perception by some that the governance proposals would lead to greater

bureaucracy and cost – this may be based on the view that this creates another layer of local government, which is not the case given the Combined Authority has now been in existence for six years.

- Uncertainty regarding forthcoming levels of government funding and whether or not this will be sufficient – whilst the additional money to be awarded to South Yorkshire through the Deal is significant, totalling £30m per annum for 30 years, it alone will not be sufficient to deliver the recognised scale of transformation required in the region. Future funding of local government under any model is not guaranteed, but by progressing this Deal the MCA will be eligible to secure further investment from Government, for example, its share of the £4.6bn announced as part of the UK's 2020 Budget in March.
- A potential increased burden and cost on taxpayers through the mayoral precept and a perceived 'mayoral tax' – the use of any powers related to securing additional income from local tax payers by the MCA would need to follow the process set out within the legislation. In other MCAs such additional investment is being used to fund a range of priorities, for example, bus services in Greater Manchester, including free travel on buses for those aged between 16 and 18. As such these powers may provide an opportunity for the MCA in the future, if and only if the MCA chose to utilise these functions. There is no intention to do so at present.
- Powers to be provided to the elected mayor – securing the benefits of the Devolution Deal are dependent on the provision of additional powers to the directly elected and accountable metro mayor. The MCA is aware of the proposals in the Governance Review and Scheme that would ensure there are appropriate checks and balances on the respective powers of the elected mayor and the Combined Authority. It will be important that these aspects are clearly communicated to the public and other stakeholders.

## Summary

- 3.8** In summary, it is considered that the MCA's rationale for progressing with the implementation of the Devolution Deal are supported by the outcomes of the consultation exercise and that the relevant statutory criteria have been met. However, as set out below, whether the consultation has been sufficient and if the statutory tests have been met is ultimately a matter for the determination of the Secretary of State.

## 4. Proposal and justification

- 4.1** The production of this summary of the consultation represents the continued progress to unlock the benefits of the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal. The legislative process to secure the Devolution Deal comprises a number of stages that culminate in Parliament passing a statutory order (setting out the additional functions that will be devolved to the MCA) (Powers Order) into law.
- 4.2** The next step in this process is for the MCA to agree to submit the summary of consultation, with the Governance Review and Scheme agreed in January, to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Additional supportive material including the overview of the mechanisms put in place to publicise the consultation and the equalities impact assessment will also be included in this submission.
- 4.3** Subject to the agreement of the MCA to submit this information to the Secretary of State, the next steps in the legislative process are as follows:

- The Secretary of State considers the material submitted and produces a draft Powers Order, conferring the powers needed to implement the Deal, subject to the statutory tests being met. Mid-April to mid / end May.
- The constituent councils, the Mayoral Combined Authority and the Mayor to consent to the draft Powers Order. By 8th June.
- The Powers Order to be laid in Parliament – following the provision of the necessary consents and to pass into law. Before summer recess.

**4.4** By meeting the above timetable, South Yorkshire has the potential to gain access to the benefits of the Devolution Deal (including release of the gainshare funding) by the summer. Should there be any delays in this process, the legislative process is unlikely to conclude until October, given parliamentary recess periods. However, the current COVID-19 pandemic may impact on the ability to meet this timetable given the evolving situation.

**4.5** In order to maximise the region's ability to complete this process as quickly as possible, it is proposed to delegate to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Mayor, authority to progress and conclude the legal steps required of the Authority necessary to implement the Devolution Deal. This includes consenting on behalf of the MCA to the enabling Powers Order, provided this corresponds with the proposals set out in the SCR MCA's Governance Review and Scheme. The agreement of such delegations is consistent with and complementary to the delegations that in recent weeks have been agreed by all four of the South Yorkshire constituent councils. The Powers Order is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils as well as that of the MCA and the Mayor. No order can be made without all these consents.

### 3. Consideration of alternative approaches

**3.1 Do nothing** – If the Combined Authority decides not to submit the summary of the consultation to Government it will be unable to secure the benefits of the Devolution Deal for South Yorkshire.

**3.2 Agree to submit the summary of consultation responses but not to give delegated authority to consent to the Order** - if these delegations are not put in place the legislative process will be completed over a longer period and require additional urgent, meetings of the SCR MCA. This would in turn generate a delay in the benefits of the Deal being secured for the people and communities of South Yorkshire.

### 4. Implications

#### 4.1 Financial

By implementing the Devolution Deal South Yorkshire will secure an additional £30m per annum of funding for economic development for 30 years. It will also mean that the MCA could benefit from wider borrowing powers for more than just transport schemes as is currently the case; representing a significant opportunity to successfully manage the area's investment profile. In addition, subject to meeting certain criteria, the area will gain control over the 19+ adult education budget, equating to c.£35m per annum.

As evidenced by the £4.6bn announced in the UK's 2020 Budget in March, by progressing with the Devolution Deal, the MCA is best placed to secure further devolved funds and flexibilities from Government. Government has agreed additional funds and powers for other MCAs on a range of issues including housing, homelessness, responding to economic shocks, and employment support. Through the Devolution White Paper, the Government is expected to progress its 'levelling up' agenda, devolving more to MCAs to progress local priorities.

## 4.2 Legal

Following the conclusion of the public consultation, the next stage of the statutory process is for the MCA to submit a summary of the consultation responses to the Secretary of State pursuant to section 113 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (“the 2009 Act”). The Secretary of State will then consider whether the consultation is sufficient before deciding whether the relevant statutory criteria in section 113 of the 2009 Act have been met to enable him to make the statutory order(s) to provide the additional powers and functions to the MCA.

Before making an order, the Secretary of State must consider that to do so is likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in the area or areas to which the order relates. Furthermore, in making the order(s), the Secretary of State must have regard to the need:

- to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
- to secure effective and convenient local government.

## 4.3 Risk Management

By continuing to progress the Devolution Deal the MCA has the opportunity to unlock additional powers and resources in the region to deliver local priorities and the outcomes identified in the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). As such, this seeks to mitigate the risk of SCR’s economic performance falling relatively further behind those areas that do have access to these additional resources.

## 4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

In making the decisions contained in this report, Members are reminded of their legal **duty** under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have *due regard* to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

In having due regard to the need advance the equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not, Members should have due regard to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken, see Annex C, this concluded that there are no adverse impacts on persons with protected characteristics from proceeding with the Devolution Deal. Each individual initiative will be assessed at the appropriate time in the decision-making process to allow Members to have due regard to their Equality Act duties.

It is for Members to determine the weight to be given to the various factors that inform the decision, including the equality impacts and the legal duty under section 149.

## 5. Communications

- 5.1 Building on the work undertaken around the public consultation it will be important to continue to set out the benefits that devolution can bring to people, communities and businesses across South Yorkshire. This includes providing a clear overview of the progress being made in progressing the Order and thus when the benefits will be unlocked.

## 6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 Annex A – Summary of consultation responses  
Annex B - How the consultation was promoted to the public and stakeholders  
Annex C – Equalities Impact Assessment

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references:

**Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority, 27<sup>th</sup> January, [Item 11 Progressing Devolution](#)**

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**3 April 2020**

# **Sheffield City Region MCA Devolution Consultation**

## **Summary report**

Chris Rigby, Grace Jacobs & Holly Day

**Ipsos MORI**







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# Introduction & methodology

## Introduction

In January 2020 the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority agreed to move forward with the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal. Implementation of this Devolution Deal would give the Mayoral Combined Authority greater control over transport, skills, business support and other areas, in addition to securing additional investment to take forward its priorities.

To implement the Deal, however, a public consultation was required on the Scheme and Governance Review agreed by the Mayoral Combined Authority in January 2020<sup>1</sup>, which outline the proposed new powers as well as the changes in how the Mayoral Combined Authority would work together and make decisions.

## Purpose of the report

This report has been designed to summarise responses to the consultation – it will be used to support a meeting of the Mayoral Combined Authority taking place on the 15th April 2020. The report will cover the responses to any closed questions (i.e. those with an answer scale), split out by members of the public, and stakeholder organisations. It will also include a high-level summary of the most common themes being mentioned at any open questions, based on thematic coding undertaken by Ipsos MORI (an explanation of which can be found in Appendix B). Each closed question and subsequent open question will be analysed in turn, with responses to questions 8 and 9 (suggestions and additional comments) incorporated into the relevant policy analysis. Where suggestions or comments did not relate to a specific policy area, these will be covered in the first chapter covering overall attitudes to devolution. This summary will be followed by a full consultation report which analyses the responses in more detail.

## Methodology

A link to the consultation form was included on the Sheffield City Region website, which also included information about the Deal, as well as a link to the Scheme and Governance Review documents.

The consultation opened on Monday 3 February and closed at 11:59pm on Sunday 15 March 2020. There were a number of formal channels through which individuals and stakeholder organisations could give their views on the proposals:

- Online response platform, which could be accessed through Sheffield City Region devolution website;
- Hard copy response form, which mirrored the online response form and was available from Sheffield City Region and Local Authority buildings and on request;
- A written letter, sent via the Freepost address listed on the paper response form; or
- By email, via a dedicated consultation email address.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://moderngov.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/documents/g238/Public%20reports%20pack%2027th-Jan-2020%2011.00%20SCR%20-%20Mayoral%20Combined%20Authority%20Board.pdf?T=10>

## Response rates

Overall, the online consultation form was completed 673 times, along with 2 email responses. No paper copies of the response form or written letters were received by Ipsos MORI.

The table below shows how the response rates broken down by public and stakeholder audiences:

	Public responses	Stakeholder responses	TOTAL
Online response forms	653	20	673
Paper response forms	0	0	0
Email	0	2	2
Letter	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>675</b>

In addition to the responses shown above, 1 additional stakeholder response was received by email after the consultation had closed – this has not been included in the core analysis but will be summarised in the full report.

For participants who provided a postcode<sup>2</sup>, it was possible to identify which local authority area they live in, as detailed in the table below:

	Number received
<b>Barnsley</b>	92
<b>Doncaster</b>	79
<b>Rotherham</b>	58
<b>Sheffield</b>	387
<b>Elsewhere</b>	23

<sup>2</sup> 34 respondents did not provide a valid UK postcode within the online response form at question S2 (see Appendix C). We also do not count the two email submissions within these figures as they did not complete the response form containing this question.

## Interpreting the findings

While a consultation exercise is a valuable way to gather opinions about a wide-ranging topic, there are a number of factors that should be kept in mind when interpreting the responses.

While the consultation was open to everyone, the participants were self-selecting. In consultations there can be a tendency for responses to come from those more likely to consider themselves affected and therefore more motivated to express their views. In previous consultations we have also found that responses tend to be polarised between those who think the proposals will benefit them or their area, and conversely those who think they will have a negative effect. Consultations do not tend to fully capture the views of the ‘silent majority’, who may be less opinionated about the proposals under consideration.

Therefore, it must be understood that the consultation findings, as reflected through this report, can only be used to record the various opinions of the members of the public and stakeholder organisations who have chosen to respond to the proposals contained within the Scheme and Governance Review documents. Due to the self-selecting nature of the method, findings should not be aggregated up to be representative of the population of South Yorkshire. As such any figures presented are done so as numbers and not as percentages.

# Overall attitudes to devolution

## Background

Participants were initially given a broad overview of devolution, including an explanation about:

- where the majority of decisions about funding are made at the moment;
- the principle of devolution, and the types of powers that the Government are willing to devolve at this point;
- the requirement for Metro Mayors to be elected in order to secure these powers.

### Box 1.1

England is one of the most centralised countries in Europe, with the majority of decisions about funding made by the Government in Westminster rather than by locally elected leaders.

The Government has been offering people in some parts of England the chance to have greater responsibility and control on decisions about economic development, transport, skills, new housing and infrastructure planning that affect their local areas. This process of transferring powers and decisions from a national to a more local level is called devolution. To date the transfer of new powers and resources to local areas has also required the election of new directly elected metro Mayors.

There are now elected metro Mayors working in partnership with local council leaders in eight areas of the country, including in Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley and the North of Tyne.

These areas have a greater responsibility and control over:

- How buses are run
- Skills funding for those aged 19 and over
- How business rates are spent - giving local areas the ability to invest in their own priorities.

## Summary of public responses

Participants were asked a closed question about their views on devolution, and whether they supported or opposed the idea *in principle*<sup>3</sup>.

Of the 652 individual members of the public who responded to this question, the vast majority (572) said they supported devolution in principle – 415 of these said they ‘strongly support’ it, while 157 said they ‘tend to support’.

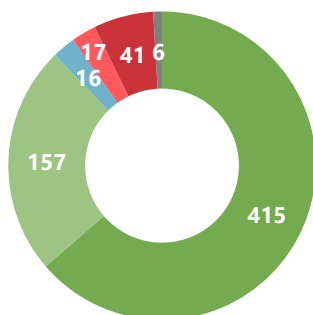
There were 58 participants who said they opposed devolution in principle – of which more said they ‘strongly oppose’ (41) than ‘tend to oppose’ it (17).

<sup>3</sup> Please note that this question was not focused directly on the Mayoral Combined Authority’s proposed Scheme and Governance Review and therefore it should not definitively be taken as an overall measure of support or opposition for the proposals.

### Figure 1.1: Support the principle of transferring more decision-making powers

Q1a. Do you support or oppose the principle of transferring more decision-making powers from the Government in Westminster to locally elected metro Mayors working with a Mayoral Combined Authority of local councils (on local issues such as economic development, skills, transport, new housing and infrastructure planning)?

Strongly support   Tend to support   Neither/nor   Tend to oppose   Strongly oppose   Don't know



Support	572
Oppose	58

Base: Number of public responses (652) : Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020

1



### Summary of stakeholder responses

Of the 20 stakeholders responding to this question, most (18) supported the principle of devolution (14 'strongly support', 4 'tend to support'), with 1 saying they would 'tend to oppose' it. The remaining stakeholder gave a 'don't know' response.

### Analysis of open-ended responses (general comments)

Although the consultation form was designed to address specific aspects of the proposed Scheme and Governance Review in turn, a number of consistent themes were identified from across the nine open questions of the consultation form.

To avoid unnecessary repetition of these themes in every chapter of the report, these responses have been grouped together and are covered here alongside more high-level comments about the principle of devolution.

Please note that within this summary report, the top themes that have been identified span both individual responses and stakeholder responses – for the full report, these will be split out separately and analysed in more detail.

The most common themes that were positive about devolution included the views that it:

- Allows more localised decision-making, with local knowledge being used to meet the needs of the local area (made by 309 participants);
- Provides local autonomy, with greater power and control in the local area (100);
- Benefits the region and local communities (58);
- Provides targeted funding, investment and resources (49);
- Benefits local businesses and the local economy (38); and

- Provides local accountability and transparency (25).

Conversely, the most common themes that were negative about devolution included comments that it:

- Creates unnecessary tiers of government, adding red tape and bureaucracy (made by 67 participants);
- Prompts questions about whether there is sufficient funding available (37); and
- Involves unnecessary costs and is waste of public funding (33).

Other concerns included negativity about the local council or local politicians (30) and a lack of confidence in the Mayor (22).

A number of other themes were identified that do not directly address devolution and as such are not as clear-cut in terms of whether they could be classed as 'positive' or 'negative', in particular around negativity towards the central Government in Westminster, and a sense that:

- It is too remote and lacks understanding of local issues (109);
- It neglects the North, in favour of the South East (73); and
- Lacks flexibility and imposes "one size fits all" solutions (20).

Another prominent theme across the consultation was a lack of information or sufficient detail to make an informed decision (47).

### Analysis of open-ended responses (Q1-specific)

Following on from the closed question about their attitudes towards devolution in principle, participants were asked an open question allowing them to expand on the reasons behind this.

Many of the key themes identified have been covered in the analysis of over-arching consultation themes above (this was the most 'general' of the open questions and therefore many participants addressed one or more of these over-arching themes in their response).

Of the themes that were more specific to this question, supportive comments included a sense that devolution can help reduce inequalities (made by 5 participants), that they have confidence in representatives who are democratically elected locally (3) and that it will help reduce unequal funding between areas (3).

Some gave comments that were classed as 'conditional support' i.e. that they would support the principle of devolution if certain conditions were met – in particular if there were to be joined up thinking and cohesion (27), that it depends who is in charge and has decision-making powers (18), that there is adequate budget available (12) and as long as there is an increase in local autonomy, with greater power and control for the local area (10).

The main negative code specific to this question was a sense that devolution doesn't work and that the idea should be scrapped (3).

## Summary of suggestions

Many participants used the open questions to make suggestions about how the current proposals could be improved – these suggestions came from across the consultation, although there was a specific question at the end (Q8) that asked whether people had any alternative or better suggestions about how local councils could grow their local economy and work better together across South Yorkshire.

Looking at some of the more general suggestions, the most common included a sense that the Mayoral Combined Authority should consult and listen to local communities (63), a view that it should include all of Yorkshire – with some references to the ‘One Yorkshire’ model (39), that it should be run for people rather than profit (35) and that it should be regulated or monitored to ensure transparency and accountability (30).

Other suggestions included a view that those in charge should be elected (24), that there needs to be cohesion and joined-up thinking (21) and that it should encourage sustainability or environmentally friendly measures (17).



# Education & skills

## Background

Before answering this question, participants were provided with the following information regarding the proposed devolution of powers related to skills and education:

### Box 2.2- Skills and education

One of the central priorities of the Mayoral Combined Authority is to create a more integrated education and skills system that reflects the needs and opportunities of our economy. We want to improve educational attainment and increase the number of people moving into work and progressing in their careers.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers and duties are devolved to the Mayoral Combined Authority:

- To promote the effective participation in education and training of those aged 16 and 17.
- To promote high standards, fair access to opportunity for education and training and the fulfilment of learning potential, for those aged between 16 and 18 and over 19 years of age.
- To make appropriate arrangements to assist people to train for, obtain and stay in suitable employment.
- To secure the provision of facilities for apprenticeship training for people aged between 16 and 18 and for those between 19 and 24 years of age.

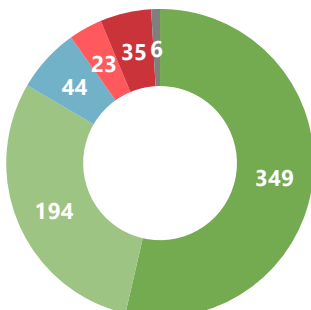
## Summary of public responses

Of the 651 general public participants responding to this question, the vast majority agreed with the proposal to devolve these education and skills powers. Overall, 349 members of the public stated that they 'strongly agree', and a further 194 stated that they 'tend to agree'. On the other hand, 23 members of the public stated that they 'tend to disagree' with the proposal to devolve education and skills powers, while 35 indicated that they 'strongly disagree'. A further 44 members of the public stated that they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the proposal.

## Figure 1.2: Agreement with the proposal to devolve these education and skills powers

Q2a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these education and skills powers?

Strongly agree Tend to agree Neither/nor Tend to disagree Strongly disagree Don't know



Agree	543
Disagree	58

Base: Number of public responses (651) : Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020

2



### Summary of stakeholder responses

Of the 20 stakeholders responding to this question again the vast majority agreed with the proposal to devolve these education and skills powers. 13 stated that they ‘strongly agree,’ and a further 4 stated that they ‘tend to agree’. Only 1 stakeholder stated that they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the proposal, and 1 stakeholder answered that they ‘tend to disagree’ with the proposal – no stakeholders ‘strongly disagreed’. A single stakeholder responded ‘don’t know’ to this question.

### Analysis of open-ended responses

Again, participants were given the opportunity to explain their response about whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to devolve powers around education and skills. Many of the top themes echo those mentioned elsewhere across the consultation (including more localised decision-making) – these have been discussed in the ‘Overall attitudes to devolution’ section of this report.

Of the 128 participants who gave supportive responses, the most common reasons for agreeing with the proposal were because they felt it will provide the education and skills needed locally (60), and because it would provide opportunities for children and young people (26). A number of participants expressed that they would agree with the proposal to devolve education and skills powers on the condition that there was an adequate budget or funding allocated (13), and/or that it is part of a joined up national approach (12).

Of the 37 participants who gave negative comments, the main reason for disagreeing was the feeling that education and skills powers should be controlled nationally and follow national standards (14).

### Summary of suggestions

Other suggestions that were made about the devolution of education and skills powers included improving access to education for adults (21), improving access to vocational education (14) and improving partnerships with local businesses / industries (13).

# Housing

## Background

Before answering this question, participants were provided with the following information regarding the proposed devolution of powers related to housing:

### Box 3.1- Housing

Improving the quality and availability of housing is a key priority across South Yorkshire. The Mayoral Combined Authority will support the accelerated delivery of new homes.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers and duties are devolved to the Mayoral Combined Authority:

- To improve the supply and quality of housing.
- To secure the regeneration or development of land or infrastructure.
- To support in other ways the creation, regeneration and development of strong communities.
- To contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and good design.

These powers would be devolved from Homes England (a national Government agency) and held jointly with the Mayoral Combined Authority. They would have no impact on the existing housing powers of South Yorkshire’s local authorities.

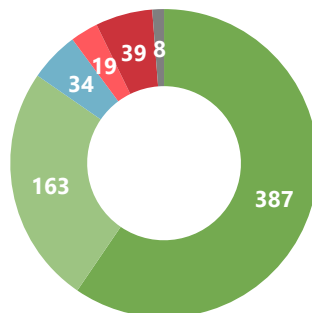
## Summary of public responses

Of the 650 general public participants responding to this question, the majority agreed with the proposal to devolve these housing powers. There were 387 members of the public who indicated that they ‘strongly agree,’ whilst a further 163 stated that they ‘tend to agree’. On the other hand, 19 members of the public stated that they ‘tend to disagree’ with the proposal to devolve these housing powers whilst 39 members of the public responded that they ‘strongly disagree’. A further 34 participants stated that they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ whilst there were a small number who stated that they ‘don’t know’ (8).

**Figure 1.3: Agreement with the proposal to devolve these housing powers**

Q3a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these housing powers?

Strongly agree   Tend to agree   Neither/nor   Tend to disagree   Strongly disagree   Don't know



Agree	550
Disagree	58

Base: Number of public responses (650) : Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020

## Summary of stakeholder responses

Of the 19 stakeholder responses to this question, again the vast majority agreed with the proposal to devolve these housing powers with 13 stakeholders in strong agreement and a further 5 tending to agree. Only 1 stakeholder stated that they ‘tend to disagree’ with the proposal.

## Analysis of open-ended responses

Participants were given the opportunity to explain their views. Many of the most common themes which were mentioned echo those seen across other parts of the consultation (including localised decision-making) – these are covered in the ‘Overall attitudes to devolution’ section of the report.

There were a number of other positive comments regarding the proposals to devolve these housing powers (71), most commonly because they believed it would improve the quality and standard of housing (15), provide generally improved housing (10) and improve the supply of housing (10).

Of the 32 participants who gave negative comments, the main reason for disagreeing was the feeling that there would be a lack of environmental protection, with houses built on greenfield or greenbelt sites (9).

## Summary of suggestions

Other suggestions that were made about the devolution of housing powers included a desire to prioritise affordable housing (34), prioritise social housing (23) and ensure housing is sustainable and environmentally friendly (21).

# Development, regeneration & spatial planning

## Background

Before answering this question, participants were provided with the following information regarding the proposed devolution of powers related to development, regeneration and spatial planning. Participants were also prompted to provide any comment on the general power of competence:

### Box 4.1- Development and Regeneration- Spatial Planning

We want to help make our communities better places to live and work.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers and duties are devolved to the Mayor:

- To develop a plan for where new jobs and homes are located in South Yorkshire, to be called the South Yorkshire Spatial Framework. This will be a non-statutory document that will need to be agreed by all members of the Mayoral Combined Authority.
- The ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations, which have powers to acquire, develop, hold, and dispose of land and property to bring forward the regeneration of a defined area.

We are also proposing that the Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayor are provided with the ‘general power of competence’ to act in the best interests of their communities, to deliver economic improvements, unless specifically prohibited. The Mayor will use this power to develop the non-statutory, South Yorkshire Spatial Framework, a commitment in the Devolution Deal. The general power of competence will only be used to support the economic role of the Mayoral Combined Authority.

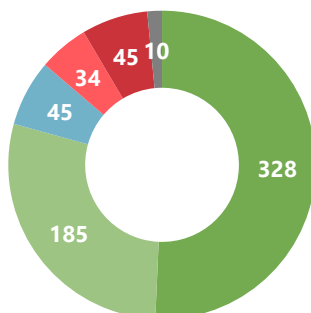
## Summary of public responses

Of the 647 general public participants responding to this question, the majority agreed (513) with the proposal to devolve these development and regeneration powers. 328 stated that they ‘strongly agree,’ and a further 185 stated that they ‘tend to agree’. Amongst the general public responses, 45 stated that they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the proposal to devolve these powers – 34 stated that they ‘tend to disagree’ whilst 45 said they ‘strongly disagree’.

### Figure 1.4: Agreement with the proposal to devolve these development and regeneration powers

Q4a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these development and regeneration powers?

Strongly agree   Tend to agree   Neither/nor   Tend to disagree   Strongly disagree   Don't know



Agree	513
Disagree	79

Base: Number of public responses (647) : Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020



### Summary of stakeholder responses

Of the 19 responses from stakeholders to this question, the vast majority agreed with the proposal to devolve these development and regeneration powers. 11 stated that they ‘strongly agree,’ and a further 6 stated that they ‘tend to agree’. Only 1 stakeholder stated that ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the proposal, and only 1 answered ‘tend to disagree’.

### Analysis of open-ended responses

Of the 47 participants who made supportive comments about the proposals to devolve these powers, the most common reasons were the feeling that it would create jobs and employment (8) and would secure regeneration (6). More felt that they could agree with the proposal on the condition that there would be cohesion and joined up thinking (17).

Of those who left more negative comments (24), top reasons included concerns around the lack of environmental protection of greenfield sites (5) and concerns around local government and politicians having vested interests (4).

A small number of comments specifically addressed the general power of competence (8), including 3 participants who felt it was essential within the devolution of powers around development and regeneration. One participant said they agreed with the general power of competence as long as economic development is supported, while another suggested it should be applied across all areas of the Mayoral Combined Authority’s work. Conversely, 4 participants disagreed with the general power of competence as set out in the proposal, citing a lack of confidence in how it would be used.

### Summary of suggestions

Suggestions regarding the devolution of development and regeneration powers included prioritising sustainability and the environment (17), ensuring that the Mayoral Combined Authority is regulated, accountable and transparent (14) and that it will be balanced and impartial (9).

# Transport

## Background

Before answering this question, participants were provided with the following information regarding the proposed devolution of powers related to transport:

### Box 5.1- Transport

The Mayoral Combined Authority already has some powers and responsibilities for public transport and makes significant investment in transport infrastructure and services. To help create an integrated transport network fit for the twenty-first century additional powers and funding are proposed through the Devolution Deal.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers are devolved to the Mayor:

- The power to provide funding to highway authorities to improve and maintain roads; to reach agreements with other bodies, such as Highways England, about the management of the highway network; and the ability to make decisions on different approaches to running bus services in South Yorkshire.

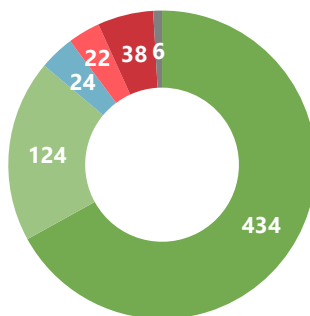
## Summary of public responses

Of the 648 responses from the general public responding to this question, the vast majority (558) agreed with the proposal to devolve these transport powers. 434 stated that they ‘strongly agree,’ and a further 124 stated that they ‘tend to agree’. Fewer (24) stated that they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the proposal. In terms of disagreement, 22 stated that they ‘tend to disagree’ with the proposal to devolve these transport powers whilst 38 said they ‘strongly disagree’.

**Figure 1.5: Agreement with the proposal to devolve these transport powers**

Q5a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these transport powers?

■ Strongly agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Neither/nor ■ Tend to disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know



Agree	558
Disagree	60

Base: Number of public responses (648) ; Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020

5



## Summary of stakeholder responses

Of the 19 responses from stakeholders to this question, the vast majority agreed with the proposal to devolve these transport powers. 9 stated that they ‘strongly agree,’ and a further 9 stated that they ‘tend to agree’. Only 1 stakeholder stated that ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the proposal; none disagreed.

## Analysis of open-ended responses

86 participants made positive comments about the proposals to devolve these transport powers. The top reasons given included the feeling that this is long overdue and should happen as soon as possible (21), and that it will improve transport generally (20). A number of participants felt they would agree with the proposal to devolve transport powers on the condition that there is an adequate budget and funding allocated (18).

Of those who disagreed with the proposal (42), the top reason for disagreeing was an opposition to HS2 (11).

## Summary of suggestions

Suggestions regarding the devolution of transport powers included a feeling that transport policy should include an integrated public transport network (56), and a feeling that public transport should be sustainable and environmentally friendly (40). Additionally, there were suggestions that public transport should be encouraged with the use of private vehicles discouraged (37), bus services should be prioritised (36) or that the public transport network should be prioritised more generally (35).



# Funding

## Background

Before answering this question, participants were provided with the following information regarding the proposed devolution of powers related to future funding arrangements:

### Box 6.1- How will the Mayoral Combined Authority be funded in the future

If the changes proposed in this consultation are agreed then the Mayoral Combined Authority will be funded from a variety of sources, including new funding from central Government (£30m per annum) and devolved Government funding for areas such as skills, infrastructure and business support.

Currently in South Yorkshire, a proportion of funding for public transport is raised by the Mayoral Combined Authority levying a charge on the four existing councils (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield). Other funding to grow the economy has been made available from Government.

Additionally, under existing legislation, the Mayor could introduce a precept to fund Mayoral functions. Should the Mayor wish to precept in the future, they would be required to consult the Mayoral Combined Authority on the use of a precept, which it may reject if two-thirds of the members agree to do so.

Additionally, we are proposing the following powers are granted:

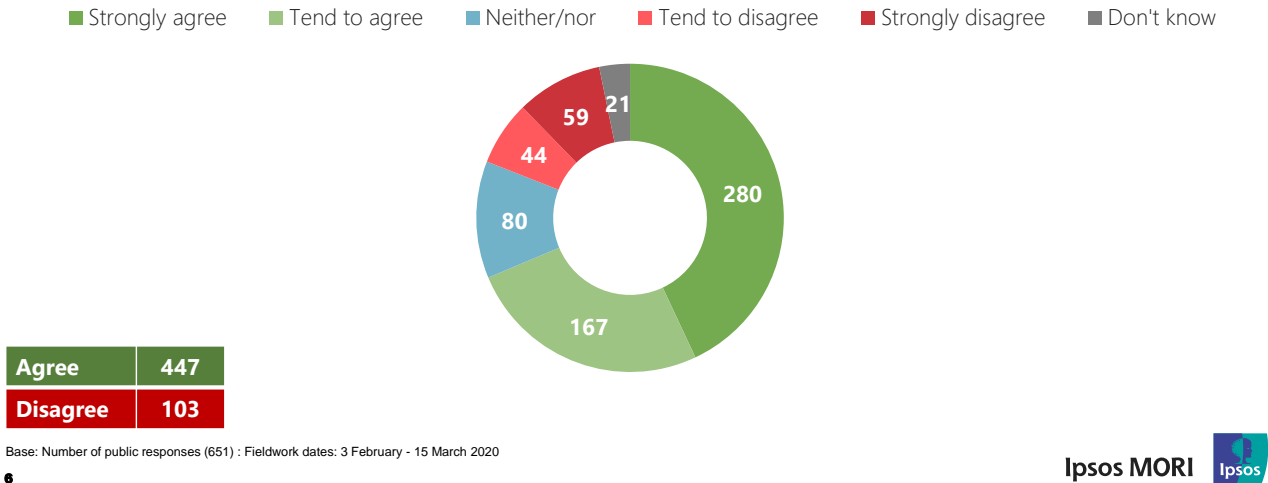
- That the existing borrowing powers of the Mayoral Combined Authority are expanded to reflect its responsibilities, as at present the Authority can only borrow in relation to transport.

## Summary of public responses

Of the 651 responses from the general public to this question, the majority (447) agreed with the proposal to secure more powers around how the Mayoral Combined Authority is funded in the future. 280 stated that they 'strongly agree,' and a further 167 stated that they 'tend to agree'. 80 stated that they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the proposal. Of the 651, 44 stated that they 'tend to disagree' with the proposal to secure more powers around how the Mayoral Combined Authority is funded in the future, whilst 59 'strongly disagree'. A further 21 members of the public responded that they don't know.

### Figure 1.6: Agreement with the proposal to secure more powers around how the Mayoral Combined Authority is funded in the future

Q6a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to secure more powers around how the Mayoral Combined Authority is funded in the future?



### Summary of stakeholder responses

Of the 19 responses from stakeholders responding to this question, the majority agreed with the proposal to secure more powers around how the Mayoral Combined Authority is funded in the future; 8 stated that they ‘strongly agree,’ and a further 3 stated that they ‘tend to agree’. In addition, 5 stakeholders stated that they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the proposal, whilst 2 answered that they ‘tend to disagree.’ The remaining stakeholder gave a ‘don’t know’ response.

### Analysis of open-ended responses

Of the 76 participants who made supportive comments about the proposals to secure more funding powers, the top reasons for agreeing included the feeling that funding is needed for a strong and powerful Mayoral Combined Authority (27), and that funding is needed for devolution to work (11).

Others said they would agree with the proposals as long as the budget is allocated proportionately (5), and that the Mayoral Combined Authority is regulated to provide transparency and accountability (3).

Of those who gave negative comments (76), the top reasons for disagreeing included the view that there would be an increase in council tax (37) and an expansion in borrowing powers leading to an increase in debt (21).

### Summary of suggestions

Suggestions regarding the proposal to secure more powers around how the Mayoral Combined Authority is funded in the future included the view that funding should be provided by central Government or Westminster (18) and that funding streams should be regulated, transparent and accountable (10).

# Collaboration & decision-making

## Background

Before answering this question, participants were provided with the following information regarding the proposed devolution of powers related to collaboration and decision-making:

### **Box 7.1- How councils and the Mayor work together in the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority**

To implement the Devolution Deal we are proposing a number of changes to the way in which the four South Yorkshire councils and the Mayor work together in the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority.

The Sheffield City Region Mayor currently chairs the Mayoral Combined Authority. It's proposed that this arrangement continues, but the members of the Mayoral Combined Authority begin to serve as the Mayor's Cabinet.

It's important that the decision-making process on the proposed powers being devolved is clear, transparent and accountable. Some of the powers are given directly to the Mayor, and others to the Combined Authority working with the Mayor.

While we are not proposing any changes to the way decisions are made on the Authority's existing functions i.e. a simple majority on issues such as public transport; for decisions that use the powers and resources included as part of the Deal it is proposed that:

1. Mayoral Combined Authority decisions will be made by a simple majority. The Sheffield City Region Mayor and each constituent member of the Combined Authority will have one vote on all decisions. For a decision to be approved, the Sheffield City Region Mayor must be part of the majority.
2. The only decision that will require unanimous approval from all members of the Mayoral Combined Authority, including the Sheffield City Region Mayor, will be the approval of a Spatial Framework for the region.
3. The Mayor will have decision-making powers for the transport and planning powers granted directly to them.
4. The Sheffield City Region Mayor will be required to consult the Mayoral Combined Authority on their spending plans or strategies, which it may reject if two-thirds of the members agree to do so.

In addition, to implement the Deal, we are proposing:

- To be able to pay a salary to the Mayor and their Deputy.
- To enable the Mayor to appoint an advisor to support the delivery of their objectives.

## Summary of public responses

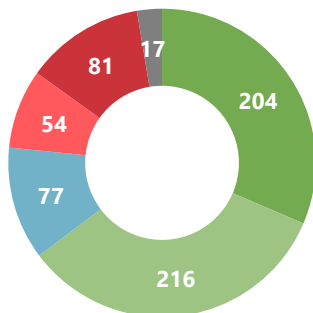
Of the 649 members of the public responding to this question, around two in three agreed with the proposals (420), including 204 who said they 'strongly agree', and 216 who 'tend to agree'.

Conversely 135 disagreed, including 81 participants who said they 'strongly disagree' and 54 who said they 'tend to disagree'.

### Figure 1.7: Agreement with the proposal approach to how the councils and Mayor work together in the Mayoral Combined Authority

Q7a. On balance, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to how the councils and Mayor work together in the Mayoral Combined Authority?

Strongly agree Tend to agree Neither/nor Tend to disagree Strongly disagree Don't know



Agree	420
Disagree	135

Base: Number of public responses (649) : Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020

7



### Summary of stakeholder responses

Of the 19 stakeholders who responded to this question, 14 agreed with the proposals, including 5 who said they ‘strongly agree’ and 9 who said they ‘tend to agree’. In addition, 4 stakeholders said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’, while 1 stated that they ‘tend to disagree’.

### Analysis of open-ended responses

Those who made supportive comments (72) tended to mention how the proposed approach to collaboration would support the Mayor’s decision-making powers (10), that they are long overdue and necessary (9) as well as more specific comments that they would support paying a salary to the Mayor (9) and the appointment of a paid Deputy Mayor (5).

Reasons for disagreement included concerns about the Mayor’s powers to make direct decisions and have the deciding vote (24), concerns about the Mayor’s powers more generally (23), and concerns about the current Mayor holding two roles – MP and Mayor – with two salaries, and how this could potentially cause a conflict of interest (23). Other comments included a sense that the proposals lacked balance with some authorities better represented than others (16), or opposition towards the idea of paying the Mayor a salary (16).

### Summary of suggestions

A number of suggestions related to how the Mayor and local authorities should work together, including the need for regulation and monitoring to ensure accountability (21), that decisions should be approved by a majority regardless of the Mayor’s vote (14), and that local communities should be consulted and listened to (12).

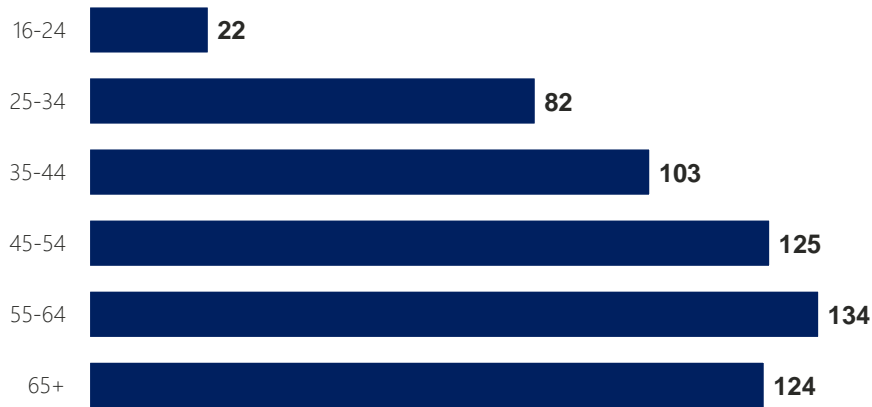
Other themes included the suggestion that the salaries paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be fair and reasonable (9) and that the current Mayor should only be paid a salary if he resigns from his other position as an MP (8).

# Appendix A: Participant profile

## Age breakdown

Figure 1.8: Demographics 1

Q12. What is your age?



Base: Number of public responses (590) : Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020

8



## Ethnicity breakdown

Figure 1.9: Demographics 2

Q13. What is your ethnic group?



Base: Number of public responses (595) : Fieldwork dates: 3 February - 15 March 2020

9



# Appendix B: Technical note on coding

## Receipt and handling of responses

The handling of responses was subject to a rigorous process of checking, logging and confirmation in order to support a full audit trail. All original electronic and hard copy responses remain securely filed within Ipsos MORI, catalogued and serial numbered for future reference.

## Development of initial code frame

Coding is the process by which free-text comments, answers and responses are matched against standard codes from a coding frame Ipsos MORI compiled to allow systematic statistical and tabular analysis. The codes within the coding frame represent an amalgam of responses raised by those registering their view and are comprehensive in representing the range of opinions and themes given.

The Ipsos MORI coding team drew up an initial code frame for each open-ended free-text question using the first thirty to forty response form responses. An initial set of codes was created by drawing out the common themes and points raised across all response channels by refinement. Each code thus represents a discrete view raised. The draft coding frame was then reviewed before the coding process continued. The code frame was continually updated throughout the analysis period to ensure that newly emerging themes within each refinement were captured.

## Coding using the Ascribe package

Ipsos MORI used the web-based Ascribe coding system to code all open-ended free-text responses found within completed response forms and from the free-form responses (i.e. those that were letters and emails etc.). Ascribe is a proven system which has been used on numerous large-scale projects. Responses were uploaded into the Ascribe system, where the coding team worked systematically through the verbatim comments and applied a code to each relevant part(s) of the verbatim comment.

The Ascribe software has the following key features:

- Accurate monitoring of coding progress across the whole process, from scanned image to the coding of responses.
- An “organic” coding frame that can be continually updated and refreshed; not restricting coding and analysis to initial response issues or “themes” which may change as the consultation progresses.
- Resource management features, allowing comparison across coders and question/issue areas. This is of particular importance in maintaining high quality coding across the whole coding team and allows early identification of areas where additional training may be required.
- A full audit trail – from verbatim response, to codes applied to that response.

Coders were provided with an electronic file of responses to code within Ascribe. Their screen was divided, with the left side showing the response along with the unique identifier, while the right side

of the screen showed the full code frame. The coder attached the relevant code or codes to these as appropriate and, where necessary, alerted the supervisor if they believed an additional code might be required.

If there was other information that the coder wished to add they could do so in the “notes” box on the screen. If a response was difficult to decipher, the coder would get a second opinion from their supervisor or a member of the project management team. As a last resort, any comment that was illegible was coded as such and reviewed by the Coding Manager.

### **Briefing the coding team and quality checking**

A small, core team of coders worked on the project, all of whom were fully briefed and were conversant with the Ascribe package. This team also worked closely with the project management team during the set-up and early stages of code frame development.

The core coding team took a supervisory role throughout and undertook the quality checking of all coding. Using a reliable core team in this way minimises coding variability and thus retains data quality.

To ensure consistent and informed coding of the verbatim comments, all coders were fully briefed prior to working on this project. The Coding Manager undertook full briefings and training with each coding team member. All coding was carefully monitored to ensure data consistency and to ensure that all coders were sufficiently competent to work on the project.

The coder briefing included background information and presentations covering the questions, the consultation process and the issues involved, and discussion of the initial coding frames. The briefing was carried out by Ipsos MORI’s executive team.

All those attending the briefings were instructed to read, in advance, the consultation document and go through the response form. Examples of a dummy coding exercise relating to this consultation were carefully selected and used to provide a cross-section of comments across a wide range of issues that may emerge.

Coders worked in close teams, with a more senior coder working alongside the more junior members, which allowed open discussion to decide how to code any particular open-ended free-text comment. In this way, the coding management team could quickly identify if further training was required or raise any issues with the project management team.

The Ascribe package also afforded an effective project management tool, with the coding manager reviewing the work of each individual coder, having discussions with them where there was variance between the codes entered and those expected by the coding manager.

To check and ensure consistency of coding, at least 10% of coded responses were validated by the coding supervisor team and the executive team, who checked that the correct codes had been applied and made changes where necessary.

### **Updating the code frame**

An important feature of the Ascribe system is the ability to extend the code frame “organically” direct from actual verbatim responses throughout the coding period.

The coding teams raised any new codes during the coding process when it was felt that new issues were being registered. In order to ensure that no detail was lost, coders were briefed to raise codes that reflected the exact sentiment of a response, and these were then collapsed into a smaller number of key themes at the analysis stage. During the initial stages of the coding process, meetings were held between the coding team and Ipsos MORI executive team to ensure that a consistent approach was taken to raising new codes and that all extra codes were appropriate and correctly assigned. In particular, the coding frame sought to capture precise nuances of participants' comments in such a way as to be comprehensive.

A second key benefit of the Ascribe system is that it provides the functionality of combining codes, revising old codes and amending existing ones as appropriate. Thus, the coding frame grew organically throughout the coding process to ensure it captured all of the important "themes".



# Appendix C: Response form

## South Yorkshire Devolution Consultation

**Have Your Say**

Please get involved and tell us your views on the proposals to implement the South Yorkshire devolution deal before the consultation closes on Sunday 15 March 2020.

To help us develop our ideas we have undertaken a detailed review. These are set out in detail in our Governance Review and Scheme. These documents can be viewed online at [www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution](http://www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution), where you can also respond to the consultation online.

We want to know what you think about these proposed new powers and changes to the way we work.

Responses will be reviewed by Ipsos MORI, and a report on the public consultation process will form part of Sheffield City Region's submission to the government.

If you have any questions on the consultation, or if you need these documents in another format, please contact the Ipsos MORI team at [SYdevolution@ipsos.com](mailto:SYdevolution@ipsos.com)

This questionnaire contains a mixture of closed and open questions. At the end of the survey, you will be able to provide any other comments that you may have.

Please tick the boxes as appropriate and write your responses clearly in black ink within the appropriate sections. If your response is too large to fit into the boxes, please attach on additional sheets, making sure it's clear what question it relates to.

Send your completed questionnaire to the Freepost address below (you don't need a stamp):

*Freepost, South Yorkshire Devolution Consultation*

We cannot accept responsibility for responses that are sent to any address other than the one stated above.

Please note, **participation in this consultation is completely voluntary**. By completing and returning this response form, you give consent to take part in the consultation – see p15 for more information about confidentiality and data protection.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views on devolution and the proposed new powers and changes to the way we work.

**Why are we consulting?**

Devolution is about transferring money and powers from central government; so that more decisions are made locally, which would otherwise be made nationally. Securing extra powers means that more decisions about your place will be made by the locally-elected Mayor and the Mayoral Combined Authority (including your council Leaders).

In 2015 a Devolution Deal was negotiated between local council leaders and central Government. The Deal offered new powers relating to economic development and an additional £30m of funding a year for the benefit of South Yorkshire, to improve infrastructure, transport, skills and housing.

Taking forward the South Yorkshire Deal requires some changes to the way the Mayoral Combined Authority already works. We want to know your views on the devolution of these powers and resources in South Yorkshire.

### What is a Mayoral Combined Authority?

In May 2018, a new Mayor was elected for South Yorkshire. The Mayor is the chair of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, which includes **Barnsley** Metropolitan Borough Council, **Doncaster** Metropolitan Borough Council, **Rotherham** Metropolitan Borough Council and **Sheffield** City Council. Residents in these four areas vote for the Mayor on a four-yearly cycle. The Mayoral Combined Authority works on issues like skills, transport and regeneration.

### The Future

Subject to the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal being completed, the Government has agreed to progress discussions on the role and functions of a Committee of Leaders from across Yorkshire. All South Yorkshire councils, subject to the completion of a parliamentary process, will have the opportunity to join any wider Yorkshire devolution arrangement if they choose to do so.

All members of the Mayoral Combined Authority support the devolution of more powers and resources to benefit people across South Yorkshire and support the right of each individual council to the achievement of their individual devolution ambitions.

More information on the respective devolution positions of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield councils is available below:

#### ***Barnsley Council***

Statement from Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council:

*“Getting the right devolution deal for the people of Barnsley has always been a priority for the council.*

*The residents and businesses of Barnsley have clearly stated that they want the broadest possible Yorkshire footprint for devolution. We’ve worked tirelessly with other Yorkshire Leaders, local people and businesses to make Government understand the positive impact that a wider Yorkshire deal could bring to our region and the country.*

*Earlier this month, Yorkshire Leaders recognised that a stepped approach may be required to achieve this through the establishment of a Yorkshire Committee (as proposed by the Prime Minister). This committee would provide strategic co-ordination across the region, supported by a number of interim funding arrangements at the sub regional level.*

*It’s positive news that the Government will continue work with Yorkshire councils to establish a Yorkshire Committee on the basis that the South Yorkshire devolution deal is brought to a positive conclusion, with Barnsley and Doncaster having the opportunity to join any full Yorkshire devolution at a future date. We plan to continue to be part of the South Yorkshire devolution deal on an interim basis, allowing us to progress with unlocking significant opportunities and investment for Barnsley, and South Yorkshire.*

*Our goal is to be part of a wider Yorkshire devolution deal in the future, and we’re committed to making the Yorkshire Committee a success.”*

### **Doncaster Council**

Statement from Mayor Ros Jones, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council:

*“In 2017 Doncaster residents voted overwhelmingly in favour of a wider Yorkshire devolution deal (85%). Pursuing a Yorkshire wide deal is still very much our intention.*

*The letter from the Secretary of State Robert Jenrick allows us to continue to progress with our One Yorkshire devolution ambitions whilst also accessing the funds, resources and powers that were originally promised through the SCR deal, unlocking significant opportunities and investment for Doncaster and South Yorkshire. The funding will be for the four South Yorkshire Authorities rather than the original nine and will continue until the wider devolution arrangements are agreed.”*

### **Rotherham Council**

Statement from Cllr Chris Read, Leader of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council:

*“Rotherham Council has supported the devolution of powers from national government to local areas and has consistently pushed for the implementation of the devolution deal for South Yorkshire, on the basis that this will secure funding to create jobs and opportunities for our communities.*

*Rotherham is one of the fastest growing economies in Yorkshire and devolution will accelerate that growth, putting us alongside many other similar parts of the country which are already benefiting from devolution settlements.*

*The council has stated that, once the deal has been completed, it would consider any future devolution deal that may be negotiated.”*

### **Sheffield Council**

Statement from Cllr Julie Dore, Leader of Sheffield City Council:

*“At its heart, devolution is about people and getting greater local control over more of the things that impact on our lives – such as buses and transport, jobs, skills and training – so that we can make them work better for our places and our communities.*

*Sheffield has worked hard alongside the other authorities in South Yorkshire to secure new money and powers from Government, which will give more of a local say over things that matter to people living and working in our city, towns and neighbourhoods.*

*The Devolution Deal is the best opportunity we have to get the investment we need in our economy, our transport network and in vital skills and training so that people in our communities can use their talents to get good jobs in our local economy.*

*Sheffield is, and always has been, fully committed to the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal as it remains the best and only deal we have available to us. It is in the interests of Sheffield and across South Yorkshire.”*

## Ipsos MORI

### About you

The following questions will help us to understand the range of people and organisations who have responded to this consultation and to identify local issues. The information you provide will not be used for any purpose other than assessing responses to this consultation.

**S1.** Name

**S2.** Postcode

**S3.** Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group? This is a public consultation, and therefore anyone can have their say and all valid responses will be taken into account.

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

- Providing my own response
- Providing a response on behalf of an organisation or group

#### BOX 1.1.

England is one of the most centralised countries in Europe, with the majority of decisions about funding made by the Government in Westminster rather than by locally elected leaders.

The Government has been offering people in some parts of England the chance to have greater responsibility and control on decisions about economic development, transport, skills, new housing and infrastructure planning that affect their local areas. This process of transferring powers and decisions from a national to a more local level is called devolution. To date the transfer of new powers and resources to local areas has also required the election of new directly elected metro Mayors.

There are now elected metro Mayors working in partnership with local council leaders in eight areas of the country, including in Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley and the North of Tyne.

These areas have a greater responsibility and control over:

- How buses are run
- Skills funding for those aged 19 and over
- How business rates are spent - giving local areas the ability to invest in their own priorities.



**Q1a.** Do you support or oppose the principle of transferring more decision-making powers from the Government in Westminster to locally elected metro Mayors working with a Mayoral Combined Authority of local councils (on local issues such as economic development, skills, transport, new housing and infrastructure planning)?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly support

Tend to support

Neither support nor oppose

Tend to oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

**Q1b.** Why do you say this?

**PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW**

**BOX 2.1**

**What does the South Yorkshire Deal propose?**

The South Yorkshire Deal proposes that the directly elected metro Mayor and the Mayoral Combined Authority be given new powers and resources to support the growth of the economy.

The Deal includes giving the Mayor and Mayoral Combined Authority control over some of the funding that supports our further education colleges and training providers. The Deal helps us work more effectively on how we improve and manage our major road network and enables the Mayor to find new ways to fund improvements in digital, road, rail and other important infrastructure. It also helps us coordinate planning about where new homes, employment sites and businesses are located.

The Deal is made up of a number of key themes including: skills and education; housing and regeneration; planning; transport; finance and the constitution.

Box 2.2

Skills and education

One of the central priorities of the Mayoral Combined Authority is to create a more integrated education and skills system that reflects the needs and opportunities of our economy. We want to improve educational attainment and increase the number of people moving into work and progressing in their careers.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers and duties are devolved to the Mayoral Combined Authority:

- To promote the effective participation in education and training of those aged 16 and 17.
• To promote high standards, fair access to opportunity for education and training and the fulfilment of learning potential, for those aged between 16 and 18 and over 19 years of age.
• To make appropriate arrangements to assist people to train for, obtain and stay in suitable employment.
• To secure the provision of facilities for apprenticeship training for people aged between 16 and 18 and for those between 19 and 24 years of age.

READ THE INFORMATION IN BOX 2.2 THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW

Q2a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these education and skills powers?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree

[ ]

Tend to agree

[ ]

Neither agree nor disagree

[ ]

Tend to disagree

[ ]

Strongly disagree

[ ]

Don't know

[ ]

Q2b. Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

[Empty box for handwritten response]

**Box 3.1**

**Housing**

Improving the quality and availability of housing is a key priority across South Yorkshire. The Mayoral Combined Authority will support the accelerated delivery of new homes.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers and duties are devolved to the Mayoral Combined Authority:

- To improve the supply and quality of housing.
- To secure the regeneration or development of land or infrastructure.
- To support in other ways the creation, regeneration and development of strong communities.
- To contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and good design.

These powers would be devolved from Homes England (a national government agency) and held jointly with the Mayoral Combined Authority. They would have no impact on the existing housing powers of South Yorkshire’s local authorities.

**READ THE INFORMATION IN BOX 3.1 THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW**

**Q3a.** To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these housing powers?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

**Q3b.** Why do you say this?

**PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW**



**Box 4.1****Development and Regeneration - Spatial Planning**

We want to help make our communities better places to live and work.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers and duties are devolved to the Mayor:

- To develop a plan for where new jobs and homes are located in South Yorkshire, to be called the South Yorkshire Spatial Framework. This will be a non-statutory document that will need to be agreed by all members of the Mayoral Combined Authority.
- The ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations, which have powers to acquire, develop, hold, and dispose of land and property to bring forward the regeneration of a defined area.

We are also proposing that the Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayor are provided with the ‘general power of competence’ to act in the best interests of their communities, to deliver economic improvements, unless specifically prohibited. The Mayor will use this power to develop the non-statutory, South Yorkshire Spatial Framework, a commitment in the Devolution Deal. The general power of competence will only be used to support the economic role of the Mayoral Combined Authority.

**READ THE INFORMATION IN BOX 4.1 THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW**

**Q4a.** To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these development and regeneration powers?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

**Q4b.** Why do you say this? Please also use this space to provide any further comments you wish to make about the ‘general power of competence’ (as explained in Box 4.1).

**PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW**

Box 5.1

Transport

The Mayoral Combined Authority already has some powers and responsibilities for public transport and makes significant investment in transport infrastructure and services. To help create an integrated transport network fit for the twenty-first century additional powers and funding are proposed through the Devolution Deal.

To support this, we are proposing the following powers are devolved to the Mayor:

- The power to provide funding to highway authorities to improve and maintain roads; to reach agreements with other bodies, such as Highways England, about the management of the highway network; and the ability to make decisions on different approaches to running bus services in South Yorkshire.

READ THE INFORMATION IN BOX 5.1 THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW

Q5a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to devolve these transport powers?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Q5b. Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

[Large empty box for writing answers to Q5b]

Box 6.1

How will the Mayoral Combined Authority be funded in the future?

If the changes proposed in this consultation are agreed then the Mayoral Combined Authority will be funded from a variety of sources, including new funding from central Government (£30m per annum) and devolved Government funding for areas such as skills, infrastructure and business support.

Currently in South Yorkshire, a proportion of funding for public transport is raised by the Mayoral Combined Authority levying a charge on the four existing councils (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield). Other funding to grow the economy has been made available from Government.

Additionally, under existing legislation, the Mayor could introduce a precept to fund Mayoral functions. Should the Mayor wish to precept in the future, they would be required to consult the Mayoral Combined Authority on the use of a precept, which it may reject if two-thirds of the members agree to do so.

Additionally, we are proposing the following powers are granted:

- That the existing borrowing powers of the Mayoral Combined Authority are expanded to reflect its responsibilities, as at present the Authority can only borrow in relation to transport.

READ THE INFORMATION IN BOX 6.1 THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW

Q6a. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposal to secure more powers around how the Mayoral Combined Authority is funded in the future?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Q6b. Why do you say this?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Empty box for writing answers to Q6b.

**BOX 7.1**

**How councils and the Mayor work together in the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority**

To implement the Devolution Deal we are proposing a number of changes to the way in which the four South Yorkshire councils and the Mayor work together in the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority.

The Sheffield City Region Mayor currently chairs the Mayoral Combined Authority. It’s proposed that this arrangement continues, but the members of the Mayoral Combined Authority begin to serve as the Mayor’s Cabinet.

It’s important that the decision-making process on the proposed powers being devolved is clear, transparent and accountable. Some of the powers are given directly to the Mayor, and others to the Combined Authority working with the Mayor.

While we are not proposing any changes to the way decisions are made on the Authority’s existing functions i.e. a simple majority on issues such as public transport; for decisions that use the powers and resources included as part of the Deal it is proposed that:

1. Mayoral Combined Authority decisions will be made by a simple majority. The Sheffield City Region Mayor and each constituent member of the Combined Authority will have one vote on all decisions. For a decision to be approved, the Sheffield City Region Mayor must be part of the majority.
2. The only decision that will require unanimous approval from all members of the Mayoral Combined Authority, including the Sheffield City Region Mayor, will be the approval of a Spatial Framework for the region.
3. The Mayor will have decision-making powers for the transport and planning powers granted directly to them.
4. The Sheffield City Region Mayor will be required to consult the Mayoral Combined Authority on their spending plans or strategies, which it may reject if two-thirds of the members agree to do so.

In addition, to implement the Deal, we are proposing:

- To be able to pay a salary to the Mayor and their Deputy.
- To enable the Mayor to appoint an advisor to support the delivery of their objectives.

**READ THE INFORMATION IN BOX 7.1 THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW**

**Q7a.** On balance, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the proposed approach to how the councils and Mayor work together in the Mayoral Combined Authority?

**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

**Q7b.** Why do you say this?  
**PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW**

**Q8.** The main objective of the proposal set out in the Devolution Deal is to improve how local councils can grow their local economy and work better together across South Yorkshire. Are there any alternative or better ways to achieve this?  
**PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW**

Q9. Finally, are there any comments you would like to make about the proposals set out in the Devolution Deal or any other matter raised in this consultation?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

[Large empty text box for Q9 response]

If at Question S3 you told us that you were responding on behalf of an organisation or group, please complete questions Q10 and Q11 only. If you are answering as an individual, please go to Q12.

More about you

Q10. Position in the organisation

[Text box for Q10 position]

Name of the group or organisation

[Text box for Q10 name]

Q11. Please use the space below to provide further detail about your role or organisation. PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

[Large empty text box for Q11 response]

## Ipsos MORI

*If you are answering as an individual, please answer questions Q12 and Q13.*

### Equality and Diversity

To help ensure that we are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 we would be grateful if you could fill in the following diversity survey. Completing the survey is voluntary and is not a requirement for your response to be accepted. The survey will not be linked to the information you have provided in your response, and we will not share the information with anyone else. We will use the survey results to provide a summary of the types of people and organisations who responded to this consultation. It will not identify individuals.

**Q12.** What is your age?  
**PLEASE WRITE IN**  **Years**

**Q13.** What is your ethnic group?  
**PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY**

#### White

- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/  
British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish traveller
- Any other White background

#### Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic  
background

#### Other ethnic group

- Arab

#### Asian/Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

#### Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean  
background

- Other ethnic group

**Thank you for responding to the consultation.**



## Confidentiality and data protection

Sheffield City Region are the data controller for this consultation.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Please note that any queries or complaints submitted via this process cannot be counted as part of the formal consultation.

Please be aware that, under the FOIA and the EIR, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with, amongst other things, obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on Sheffield City Region. As it is not possible for us to check whether the substance of responses contains other personal data, you should not include information in your response that could identify you unless you are happy for it to be made public.

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential please tick the box below.

I wish my responses to be treated as confidential

Please use the box below to explain why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

Sheffield City Region has commissioned the independent research organisation Ipsos MORI to receive and analyse responses to the consultation, and to prepare a report of the findings. Both Sheffield City Region and Ipsos MORI will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and in accordance with GDPR.

If you change your mind about us using your personal information during the analysis stage, you have a right to have the relevant information deleted. If this is the case, please email [SYdevolution@ipsos.com](mailto:SYdevolution@ipsos.com) by the end of the consultation period, on Sunday 15 March 2020.



# Appendix D: Ipsos MORI's standards and accreditations

Ipsos MORI's standards and accreditations provide our clients with the peace of mind that they can always depend on us to deliver reliable, sustainable findings. Our focus on quality and continuous improvement means we have embedded a 'right first time' approach throughout our organisation.



## ISO 20252

This is the international market research specific standard that supersedes BS 7911/MRQSA and incorporates IQCS (Interviewer Quality Control Scheme). It covers the five stages of a Market Research project. Ipsos MORI was the first company in the world to gain this accreditation.



## ISO 27001

This is the international standard for information security designed to ensure the selection of adequate and proportionate security controls. Ipsos MORI was the first research company in the UK to be awarded this in August 2008.



## ISO 9001

This is the international general company standard with a focus on continual improvement through quality management systems. In 1994, we became one of the early adopters of the ISO 9001 business standard.



## Market Research Society (MRS) Company Partnership

By being an MRS Company Partner, Ipsos MORI endorses and supports the core MRS brand values of professionalism, research excellence and business effectiveness, and commits to comply with the MRS Code of Conduct throughout the organisation.

## Data Protection Act 2018

Ipsos MORI is required to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018. It covers the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy.

# For more information

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[www.ipsos-mori.com](http://www.ipsos-mori.com)  
<http://twitter.com/IpsosMORI>

## About Ipsos MORI Public Affairs

Ipsos MORI Public Affairs works closely with national governments, local public services and the not-for-profit sector. Its c.200 research staff focus on public service and policy issues. Each has expertise in a particular part of the public sector, ensuring we have a detailed understanding of specific sectors and policy challenges. Combined with our methods and communications expertise, this helps ensure that our research makes a difference for decision makers and communities.

Ipsos MORI



## **Annex B: How the consultation was promoted to the public and stakeholders**

### **1. Overview**

A communications strategy for the devolution consultation was designed with the aim of engaging members of the public across South Yorkshire and gaining at least 500 responses to the consultation. Whilst the consultation was open to anyone who wished to respond, promotional activity was targeted at people, businesses and communities across South Yorkshire, as the focus of the additional powers that are proposed.

The consultation was widely publicised through a variety of mechanisms including:

- pro-active media releases and pro-active engagement of regional and local media throughout the consultation, including advertisements in the South Yorkshire printed press;
- web content for the SCR website, including a feedback form;
- similar, but locally adapted content for local authority and partner websites;
- social media using local authority and SCR MCA and LEP family channels; and
- staff messaging.

In addition, the SCR directly contacted more than 40 stakeholders from across the region including MPs, business representative organisations, colleges and universities, business leaders, and others.

### **2. Our approach**

To develop and subsequently implement our approach to the consultation a working group was established with Communications leads from the Sheffield City Region Executive and the four local authorities in South Yorkshire, who together agreed key messages, tactics and the design of the campaign materials. Collectively, this formed a common toolkit that was deployed by all throughout the period that the consultation was live.

This suite of campaign materials, featuring images from across the whole South Yorkshire geography, were designed and delivered across all communications channels, with the aim of providing a consistent and coherent message for the campaign.

The working group took part in weekly meetings before, during and after the consultation period, to update each other on communications delivery, share successes and learning points, and ensure the campaign was on track at all stages of the delivery process.

### **3. Traditional media**

A media advisory notice was sent out from the Sheffield City Region on Monday 3 February, to announce the launch of the public consultation. This was issued to 163 media outlets locally, regionally and nationally, across print, broadcast and digital media. Barnsley Council also issued a press release announcing the launch of the consultation, which was sent to local and regional media as well as being published on the local authority's website.

Coverage of the consultation launch was published across titles including the Sheffield Star, the Rotherham Advertiser, the Barnsley Chronicle, the Doncaster Free Press and nationally

in Public Sector Executive magazine, as well as being featured on BBC Radio Sheffield. In interviews given with the media during the consultation period, Mayor Dan Jarvis also encouraged members of the public to take part in the consultation.

Advertisements were also placed in the local media in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield (*see example below*). Each advert used different images to tailored to the four different places within South Yorkshire.



#### 4. Digital media

A dedicated consultation webpage was created on the Sheffield City Region website, at [www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution](http://www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution)

This page provided information about the consultation and also acted as the portal for members of the public to fill in the online questionnaire.

This website was linked to from all social media posts, and the link was featured in all campaign materials. A total of 11,858 people have visited the webpage since it went live, making it the fifth most-visited page on the Sheffield City Region website since the site was launched in 2018.

Information was also displayed prominently on the websites of all four local authorities in South Yorkshire (*as per example below from Barnsley Council*):

Home > News > Have your say on powers and resources in South Yorkshire

## Have your say on powers and resources in South Yorkshire

04 February 2020

People are being asked to give their views on the South Yorkshire devolution deal, which would see tens of millions of pounds in additional funding, as well as additional powers, pumped into our economy.

Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of Barnsley Council, said: "Getting the right devolution deal for the people of Barnsley has always been our priority.

"In 2017, our residents and businesses voted in favour of wider Yorkshire devolution deal and we're still very much pursuing this.

"The Government have confirmed that they will work with Yorkshire councils to establish a Yorkshire Committee on the basis that the South Yorkshire devolution deal is brought to a positive conclusion.

"We plan to continue to be part of the South Yorkshire devolution deal on an interim basis. I encourage everyone to take part in this consultation, which will help us to unlock significant opportunities and investment for Barnsley, and South Yorkshire."

The consultation will run from Monday 3 February to Sunday 15 March. To take part in the consultation, visit the Sheffield City Region website: [sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution](http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution)

How would you rate your online experience?



### 5. Social media

Organic (*ie – not paid-for*) social media updates were posted throughout the six-week consultation period, across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. Posts were issued on the Sheffield City Region accounts, as well as by the local authorities in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, all using the various campaign imagery and with a link to the online consultation (*example of Facebook posts below*).

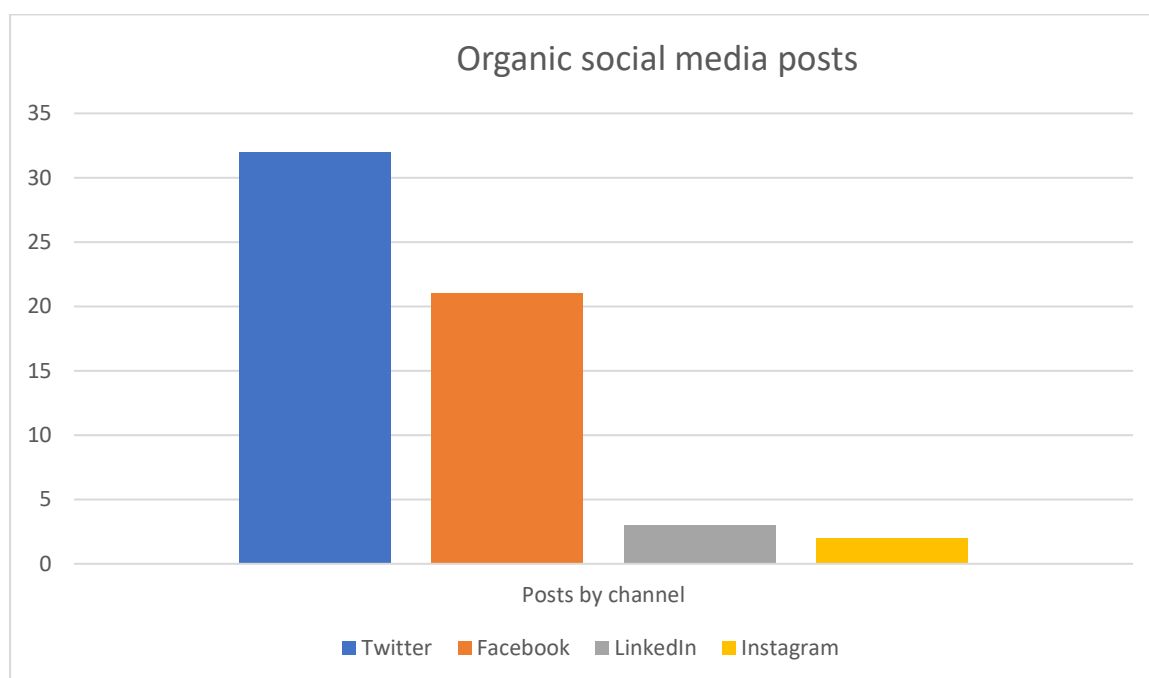


These posts had the potential to reach 257,100 followers across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn; broken down by channel and organisation as below:

### Numbers of followers, on social media channels used during the consultation

Channel	Barnsley Council	Doncaster Council	Rotherham Council	Sheffield City Council	Sheffield City Region
Twitter	16,200	23,200	13,300	105,700	13,000
Facebook	20,924	28,831	5,992	13,843	967
Instagram	2,948	Did not use	Did not use	Did not use	1,273
LinkedIn	Did not use	Did not use	4,237	Did not use	6,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,072</b>	<b>52,031</b>	<b>23,529</b>	<b>119,543</b>	<b>21,925</b>

During the course of the consultation period, a total of 58 posts were issued across these channels, averaging almost 10 posts across social media per week of the consultation. The below chart indicates the breakdown of posts by social media platform:



Paid-for social media posts were also issued from the Sheffield City Region corporate accounts across Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. These posts were specifically targeted to people living in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, and included a button to click through to the online consultation.

A total of £2434.37 was spent on promoting the consultation on social media during the course of the six-week consultation. Broken down by channel, this included a £1549.99 spend on Facebook and Instagram, £556.88 on LinkedIn and £327.44 on Twitter.

Interim results from the consultation were monitored throughout the delivery process, and the online adverts were re-targeted in response to this. For example, two weeks into the consultation period, it became clear that increased numbers of respondents stated they were from Sheffield, in comparison to in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. In response to this, the social media adverts were re-targeted, so more people outside of Sheffield were reached, in a bid to gain a more even spread of responses across the full South Yorkshire geography

During the course of the consultation, paid-for social media posts received the following number of impressions across each channel:

Channel	Impressions ( <i>number of times the posts were viewed</i> )
Facebook and Instagram	315,197
Twitter	75,863
LinkedIn	29,555
	<b>Total impressions: 420,615</b>

## 6. Stakeholder engagement

Emails were sent directly to a more than 40 stakeholders from the following groups, directing them to online information about the devolution consultation, inviting them to take part, and also inviting them to share the information with their own networks. Stakeholders engaged with in this way included representatives from:

- Confederation of British Industry
- Education and Skills Funding Agency
- English Heritage
- Federation of Small Businesses
- South Yorkshire's Chambers of Commerce
- Government departments, including MHCLG and BEIS
- Institute of Directors
- Job Centre Plus
- Local Authorities, including South Yorkshire's constituent and non-constituent councils
- Local Enterprise Partnership members in the Sheffield City Region, D2N2 and Leeds City Region
- Members of Parliament for South Yorkshire constituencies
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Trade Union Congress
- SYPTE
- Universities and colleges in South Yorkshire

- Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust

## 7. Direct mail

Information about the devolution consultation was also sent to a number of mailing lists, where people had proactively opted-in to receive information. These included a mailing list comprising some 36,000 people who signed up for GovDelivery alerts from Sheffield City Council; and a mailing list of 653 businesses who receive updates from the Sheffield City Region Growth Hub (*see example from Growth Hub newsletter below*).

# News in Brief

## *Devolution for South Yorkshire*

Last week, consultation for the Sheffield City Region Devolution deal was opened. Devolution is about transferring money and powers from central government; so that more decisions are made locally, which would otherwise be made nationally. Securing extra powers means that more decisions about your place will be made by the locally-elected Mayor and the Mayoral Combined Authority (including your council Leaders).

[Make sure you have your say](#)

## 8. Internal staff engagement

Posts were issued on the intranets of the Sheffield City Region, Sheffield City Council and Rotherham Council, in order to engage with employees and encourage them to fill in the online consultation.

Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield councils also issued an e-bulletin to all staff, making them aware of the consultation and providing a link to the online questionnaire. Below is an extract from Barnsley Council's "Straight Talk" bulletin, as an example of the internal communications delivered.



## Have your say on powers and resources in South Yorkshire

We're asking you to give your views on the South Yorkshire devolution deal, which would see tens of millions of pounds in additional funding, as well as additional powers, pumped into our economy.

Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of Barnsley Council, said: "Getting the right devolution deal for the people of Barnsley has always been our priority.

"In 2017, our residents and businesses voted in favour of wider Yorkshire devolution deal, and we're still very much pursuing this.

"The Government have confirmed that they will work with Yorkshire councils to establish a Yorkshire Committee on the basis that the South Yorkshire devolution deal is brought to a positive conclusion.

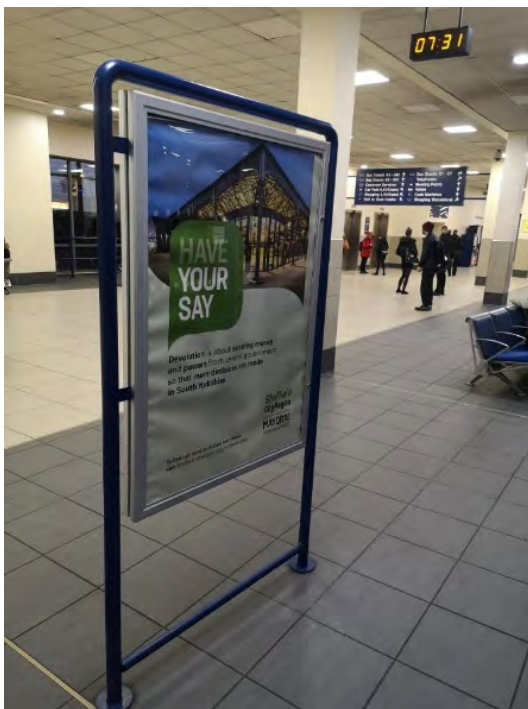
"We plan to continue to be part of the South Yorkshire devolution deal on an interim basis. I encourage everyone to take part in this consultation, which will help us to unlock significant opportunities and investment for Barnsley and South Yorkshire."

The consultation will finish on **Sunday 15 March**. To take part in the consultation, visit the Sheffield City Region website: [sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution](http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/devolution).

## 9. Collateral

Posters advertising the consultation were displayed in public buildings including transport interchanges, council offices and some libraries across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. (*Example below shows a poster on display at Doncaster Interchange*).

Two hundred paper copies of the consultation document were also printed and made available to collect from council offices, and also from the Sheffield City Region head office at Broad Street West.



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## Equality Impact Assessment Form (EIA)

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is an evidence-based approach designed to help organisations ensure that their policies, practices, events and decision-making processes are fair and do not present barriers to participation or disadvantage any protected groups from participation. This covers both strategic and operational activities.

The term 'policy', as used throughout this document, covers the range of functions, activities and decisions for which Sheffield City Region is responsible, including for example, strategic decision-making, arranging strategy & funding panels and meetings.

The EIA will help to ensure that:

- We understand the potential effects of the policy by assessing the impacts on different groups, both external and internal.
- Any adverse impacts are identified, and actions are planned to remove or mitigate them as far as is practicable.
- Decisions are transparent and based on evidence with clear reasoning.

# Section 1 – Initial Screening

a	<b>Name proposal.</b> <i>If a policy, list any associated policies</i>	South Yorkshire Devolution Deal
b	<b>Type of proposal:</b>	Existing/Revision
c	<b>Name of department:</b>	Choose an item. Cross cutting
d	<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Fiona Boden
e	<b>Date of EIA:</b>	30/03/20
f	<b>Names of those involved in the EIA (Should include at least two people):</b>	Steve Davenport

## g. Summary of the aims and objectives of the proposal – if this is an existing policy please state the current aims and objectives.

The Sheffield City Region (SCR) Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) has agreed to proceed with the implementation of the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal. Focused on unlocking more powers and resources to benefit people, businesses and communities across the region, the key elements of this Deal include:

- Control of a new, **flexible single pot of funding** for economic growth, which incorporates an **additional £30 million annual allocation** over the next 30 years
- Full devolution of **the Adult Education Budget (c£35m p.a.)** for college and training providers
- **Devolved transport powers and funding** – including powers to rebrand the bus network
- A collaboratively managed **key route network**
- An improved approach and greater accountability to SCR of national **inward investment and trade support**
- Better use of **publicly owned assets**, with the mayor chairing the Joint Assets Board
- **Increased planning capacity and powers** to deliver the housing and economic growth needed in the right locations across South Yorkshire

The process to establish the legislation necessary to make the Deal a reality, requires the successful completion of a number of steps. Most recently having agreed its Governance Review and Scheme document in January, the MCA has just completed a six-week public consultation on its proposals to implement the Deal.

An initial summary of the results of this consultation has been produced and will be considered by the MCA, who will take a decision on whether to submit this information to the Secretary of State.

## h. What are the proposed changes (if an existing policy/funding activity/event)?

An impact assessment of the Devolution Deal was undertaken in 2017, when the proposals also included the expansion of the MCA's geography to include Bassetlaw and Chesterfield as constituent councils. At this point in time, the assessment concluded that *"the proposals in the Scheme will have **no detrimental impact** in terms of the 9 protected characteristics of the Equality Act."*

Whilst the Devolution Deal itself remains unchanged in the intervening period; the MCA is no longer also pursuing the expansion of its geography.

Therefore, this screening has been undertaken to reflect this revised geographic focus, that the South Yorkshire Deal is now being progressed and that the public consultation has recently been undertaken.

**i. Why is this being proposed (eg, policy, deliverables, changes to systems/processes)?**

By implementing the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal, the region will have access to a significant increase in funding and powers. This will provide the region with a broader range of tools and resources to deliver its emerging Strategic Economic Plan, delivering a step change in terms of sustainable and inclusive growth.

Given the breadth of powers and resources on offer the implementation of the Deal will have organisational wide impacts both in terms of the deliverables that need to be produced and the systems and processes by which we operate. These include:

- Changes to decision making processes to be set out in the Assurance Framework and MCA's Constitution;
- To establish a robust approach to monitoring and evaluation, to understand the impact of the investments made, to be able to make the case for further devolution and to meet the requirements surrounding the national gateway process for the gainshare funds;
- Changes in thematic areas to reflect the broader range of powers held by the MCA, namely:
  - Housing and regeneration – functions to be exercised concurrently with Homes England to improve the supply and quality of housing;
  - Spatial planning – the power to establish mayoral development corporations and create a non-statutory spatial framework for South Yorkshire;
  - Skills – conferring local authority and central government training and skills functions to the MCA, to be exercised concurrently with constituent local authorities and the Secretary of State; and
  - Transport – the central government power to provide grants to highways authorities, power to reach agreements with other bodies about the management of the strategic highway network, and bus operating powers.

**j. What equality information is available? Include any engagement undertaken and identify any information gaps you are aware of.**

The impact assessment in 2017 concluded that “the proposals in the Scheme will have no detrimental impact in terms of the 9 protected characteristics of the Equality Act.” It made this conclusion following a systematic review of all of the powers set out in the Scheme in relation to the protected characteristics, which found that:

- For the vast majority of proposals there was no evidence to suggest any differential or direct impact according to protected or other characteristics of communities and people across South Yorkshire.

- For a number of proposals, some potential impacts were identified that would need to be considered in the design of individual detailed policies, although there was no evidence to suggest any differential or direct impact according to protected or other characteristics. These included:
  - **Gainshare funding:** such significant amounts of additional funding could enable the CA to either enhance or maintain some benefits targeted to individuals or groups such as older people or disabled people. This is particularly relevant when considering the public transport elements of the Scheme proposal.
  - **Precepts:** That if the introduction of a mayoral precept was being considered, it would need to take into account the ability of residents to make a financial contribution to any precept. It highlighted that disabled people, for example, are less likely to be in employment and therefore may be less able to meet the costs of any precept.
  - **Education and skills:** these powers would enable the MCA to support education initiatives within the CA area. This would have a differential, positive impact on young people. More speculatively, with these powers and additional funding, the CA may be able to support initiatives targeted at vulnerable or other groups e.g. disabled young people.
  - **Bus Act powers:** should these powers be utilised, they would have a disproportionate, positive impact on younger people, older people and disabled people who are more likely to use public transport and access concessions schemes. As with any transition of this nature, there are also potential risks i.e. that there may be a deterioration in service quality (however, that is very much not the intention of the SCR). These potential negative impacts could disproportionately affect younger people, older people and disabled people who are more likely to use public transport and access concessions schemes.

Through the consultation undertaken in February and March 2020 on these proposals we sought to collect minimal personal information from respondents, in accordance with the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation. However, this did include (on a voluntary basis) information on age and ethnic origin. These results are currently being analysed to determine if there are any additional potential impacts that need to be considered.

#### k. What are the arrangements for monitoring and reviewing the actual impact of the proposal?

Whilst this assessment has been undertaken to cover the breadth of potential impacts across the Deal as a whole, individual detailed assessments will be undertaken for each key policy area, as appropriate. This will provide the opportunity to ensure that all potential impacts are understood, and that appropriate actions and mitigation measures are put in place, as required. For example, in developing the approach to the devolution

of the Adult Education Budget to the region these impacts are already being considered in the initial design of the programme.

**I. Will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics and, if so, in which group?**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Impact Level</b>	<b>State any evidence you have, and explain what you feel the impact may be</b>
Age	None	None at this point in time pending further analysis of the results of the consultation by IPSOS MORI.
Disability	None	There is no evidence to suggest any differential impact according to this protected characteristic.
Gender reassignment	None	There is no evidence to suggest any differential impact according to this protected characteristic.
Marriage/Civil Partnership	None	There is no evidence to suggest any differential impact according to this protected characteristic
Pregnancy/Maternity	None	There is no evidence to suggest any differential impact according to this protected characteristic
Race	None	None at this point in time pending further analysis of the results of the consultation by IPSOS MORI.
Religion/Belief	None	There is no evidence to suggest any differential impact according to this protected characteristic
Sex	None	There is no evidence to suggest any differential impact according to this protected characteristic

Sexual Orientation	None	There is no evidence to suggest any differential impact according to this protected characteristic
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<b>m. Is a full EIA required?</b>	No - there are no foreseen negative impacts - GO TO SECTION 4
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**EIA Summary – please provide a summary of the outcome here:**

Based on an analysis of the evidence, at this point in time, there are no adverse impacts on persons with protected characteristics from proceeding with the South Yorkshire Devolution Deal. Each individual policy area will be assessed at the appropriate time in the decision-making process to ensure the Authority has due regard to its Equality Act duties.

<b>Level of negative impact (please tick one):</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low
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**Lead Officer Name:** Fiona Boden

**Lead Office Signature:** Fiona Boden

**Date:** 31/03/20