

Here, forming my report this month, is the administration's view of the Combined County Authority deal. I'm not a fan, but herein is some information and the website, for those of you who wish to, to find out more.

## Proposed transfer of powers and funding to local government

The Minister for Levelling Up, Jacob Young, was at the EPIC Centre in Torbay last week to sign a ground-breaking deal that could transfer significant decision-making powers and funding, from Whitehall to local government in Devon and Torbay.

The proposed Deal could mean that more decisions can be taken locally by people who know their areas best, and on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Mr Young was joined by the Leaders of Devon County Council and Torbay Council, two local MPs, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

But before the proposal can be confirmed, it first needs to be supported by the two councils, followed by a six-week public consultation.

*he proposed deal could create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030*

## So what is the Devolution Deal?

The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to public consultation.

The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education.

Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (hereafter CCA), that will not require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.

*The proposals would create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people*

## What would the Deal allow the local councils to do?

It would allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Here's a summary of the highlights:

- under the proposals, the CCA would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030

- it would create a stronger relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities to provide the skilled workforce the local economy needs for the future
- it would see the Government transfer over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy
- there would be a stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people, and reduce homelessness
- it would lead to even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport
- Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025
- there would be a significant boost to high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital



For more information on the Devolution Deal, there is a website:

[www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk](http://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk)

Best,  
Dan