


Notice of Meeting

Cabinet – Supplementary Agenda



<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Web:</u>
Wednesday, 8 January 2025 2.30 pm	Council Chamber, Surrey County Council, Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 8EF	Huma Younis or Sarah Quinn huma.younis@surreycc.gov.uk or sarah.quinn@surreycc.gov.uk	Council and democracy Surreycc.gov.uk  @SCCdemocracy

Committee Members:

Natalie Bramhall, Clare Curran, Kevin Deanus, Matt Furniss, Marisa Heath, David Lewis, Sinead Mooney, Mark Nuti, Tim Oliver and Denise Turner-Stewart
Maureen Attewell, Steve Bax; Paul Deach; Jonathan Hulley

If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached papers in another format, e.g. large print or braille, or another language, please email Huma Younis or Sarah Quinn on huma.younis@surreycc.gov.uk or sarah.quinn@surreycc.gov.uk.

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If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please email Huma Younis or Sarah Quinn on huma.younis@surreycc.gov.uk or sarah.quinn@surreycc.gov.uk. Please note that public seating is limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter:

- (i) Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- (ii) Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

NOTES:

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

3 RESPONSE TO THE ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER

(Pages
1 - 24)

This report outlines the opportunities arising from the [English Devolution White Paper](#) published on 16 December 2024, and the requirements on Surrey County Council set out in a letter sent to the Leader of the Council from the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution on the same day (see Annex 1).

[In accordance with Standing Order 56.1 (Special Urgency), the Chairman of the Resources and Performance Select Committee has agreed that the decisions on this item cannot reasonably be deferred and therefore it is not subject to call in.]

4 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

PART TWO - IN PRIVATE

5 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS

To consider whether the item considered under Part 2 of the agenda should be made available to the Press and public.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive
Published: 31 December 2024

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

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Thank you for your co-operation.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Cabinet and most committees will consider questions by elected Surrey County Council Members and questions and petitions from members of the public who are electors in the Surrey County Council area.

Please note the following regarding questions from the public:

1. Members of the public can submit one written question to a meeting by the deadline stated in the agenda. Questions should relate to general policy and not to detail. Questions are asked and answered in public and cannot relate to “confidential” or “exempt” matters (for example, personal or financial details of an individual); for further advice please contact the committee manager listed on the front page of an agenda.
2. The number of public questions which can be asked at a meeting may not exceed six. Questions which are received after the first six will be held over to the following meeting or dealt with in writing at the Chairman’s discretion.
3. Questions will be taken in the order in which they are received.
4. Questions will be asked and answered without discussion. The Chairman or Cabinet members may decline to answer a question, provide a written reply or nominate another Member to answer the question.
5. Following the initial reply, one supplementary question may be asked by the questioner. The Chairman or Cabinet members may decline to answer a supplementary question.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2025****REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****LEAD OFFICER: TERENCE HERBERT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE****SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER****ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND / GROWING A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY SO EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT / HIGH PERFORMING COUNCIL****Purpose of the Report:**

This report outlines the opportunities arising from the [English Devolution White Paper](#) published on 16 December 2024, and the requirements on Surrey County Council set out in a letter sent to the Leader of the Council from the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution on the same day (see Annex 1).

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. agree that the Leader should respond to the government as outlined in the letter in Annex 2.

Reason for Recommendations:

The English Devolution White Paper presents an important opportunity for Surrey County Council to bring more expansive and flexible devolved powers and funding into the county for the benefit of residents. As such it is recommended that Cabinet agrees to respond to the Minister's letter (Annex 1) requesting the postponement of the 2025 county elections to allow the Surrey County Council Leader time to work with district and borough Leaders to develop a proposal for local government reform that will unlock the benefits of further devolution for Surrey.

The function of deciding whether and how to respond to the Minister's letter of 16 December 2024 is an executive function as set out in the Surrey Constitution under Responsibility for Executive Functions (part 3), the Cabinet has the power to provide formal response to any government White Paper "...likely to lead to policy changes or have impact upon service not otherwise delegated to officers" (Scheme of delegation 8.2 (L)).

Executive Summary:

Context

1. Surrey County Council has long advocated for devolution of powers and funding from central government to the county to ensure more decisions are made locally to deliver greater benefits for residents. In March 2024, the council agreed a non-Mayoral, foundational (Level 2) [Devolution Deal](#) with government and has progressed work with government departments to implement the devolved functions and funding.
2. On 16 December 2024, the government published the [English Devolution White Paper](#), setting out an ambitious vision for deepening and widening devolution across England. The White Paper details criteria for devolution, an approach to progressing local government reorganisation (LGR) to unlock further devolution and a move to a system of local government that prioritises high quality, sustainable public services.

Strategic Authorities and Devolution

3. The White Paper establishes a new tier of local government: Strategic Authorities (SAs). There are three categories - Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA), Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) and Established Mayoral Strategic Authority (ESA).
4. Details are set out in the White Paper of the types of responsibilities and funding that will be available to these SAs (Annex 3). The initial proposed list includes, transport and local infrastructure, skills and employment support, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, environment and climate change, health, wellbeing and public service reform, and public safety.
5. SAs will also have funding devolved to them. FSAs will receive a dedicated local growth allocation. MSAs will have consolidated funding pots across local growth, place, housing and regeneration, non-apprenticeship adult skills and transport. ESAs are eligible for an Integrated Settlement which will allow established Mayors to set their own funding priorities based on local need and context.

Governance

6. The paper sets out a clear preference for mayoral authorities, with the formation of MSAs prioritised in order to bring in visible leadership and greater accountability across England. As such, MSAs and ESAs benefit from the most extensive and flexible devolution.
7. Beyond access to further devolved powers and funding, MSAs and ESAs will be invited to participate in the Council of Regions and Nations, chaired by the Prime Minister, and the Mayoral Council, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. These forums will allow Mayors to collaborate with other devolved authorities and central government on national and local policy coordination and delivery.

8. Government is discontinuing the individual local authority mayoral devolution model, stressing the importance of having a Mayor and Council Leaders with distinct and separate roles in place.

Geography

9. A SA must cover a sensible economic area, be contiguous across its constituent councils' boundaries, not create any devolution islands, be able to deliver key functions and delivery plans, and be an identifiable area for residents to engage with.
10. In addition, the geography of a SA should have a comparable scale to other existing institutions. The government's assumption is a population of 1.5 million or above, but notes that in some places smaller authorities may be necessary. At present the county has a population of just over 1.2 million, however with more than £50 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) delivered every year, it ranks favourably with existing Combined Authority footprints for local economic output (see Annex 4). The council's existing devolution deal was also agreed on the Surrey footprint.
11. Government has set out its ambition to realign public authority boundaries, ensuring that over time public services are delivered on the same footprint as SA boundaries. The county of Surrey is currently the footprint for the police, fire and rescue, and the majority of the health service, as well as many voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, in addition to county council functions. Furthermore, a number of countywide strategies and plans are already in place covering many of the devolved responsibilities that SAs will assume.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

12. The White Paper announces that government will facilitate a programme of reorganisation for two-tier local government areas. The programme delivery will be phased, considering where LGR can unlock devolution and where areas want to proceed at pace. New unitaries are to be delivered in April 2027 and 2028, with shadow elections taking place earlier.
13. The white paper sets out government's priorities for LGR. Amongst these is the criteria that unitary councils should be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks, which government has indicated is an authority covering a population of 500,000 or more, though there is recognition that there may be exceptions.
14. In addition, local unitary proposals should be in the interest of the whole area and government has set the expectation that all councils in an area should work together on a joint proposal to government. Discussions with district and borough Leaders and Chief Executives have started, and will continue through a representative working group, as proposals are shaped further.

Responding to the English Devolution White Paper

15. On 16 December 2024, following the release of the White Paper, the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution wrote to all council leaders in two-tier areas. The letter to the Leader of Surrey County Council (Annex 1) invites upper-tier areas to express an interest in pursuing a joint programme of devolution and local government reorganisation and recognised that two-tier areas which wish to receive further devolution may need to engage in LGR to meet the government's devolution criteria.
16. The Minister stated that he is minded-to lay secondary legislation to postpone local council elections from May 2025 to May 2026 where this will help an area to deliver both reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframe. The Minister set out two scenarios where he would be willing to postpone elections:
- Areas who are minded-to join the Devolution Priority Programme, where they will be invited to submit reorganisation proposals to government by Autumn 2025.
 - Areas who need reorganisation to unlock devolution, where they will be invited to submit reorganisation proposals to government by May 2025.
17. For the Minister to lay the relevant legislation to postpone elections, a clear commitment to devolution and reorganisation alongside a request for election postponement is required from upper-tier councils to be submitted to the Minister by 10 January 2025.
18. LGR in Surrey would provide an opportunity for more streamlined and cost-effective services, enabling the achievement of efficiencies and better outcomes for communities. It will also build on the current proactive approach the council is taking to strong community partnership engagement around the towns and villages footprint. A postponement of the county council elections, which are due to take place in May 2025, will enable proposals for local government reform that will unlock further devolution for Surrey to be developed (see Annex 2).

Likely Timeline for LGR and Further Devolution

19. Based on information provided by government to date, the anticipated likely timeline for the development and delivery of proposals for Surrey would be:

10 January 2025	Letter submitted to Minister of State requesting election postponement
Before March 2025	Minister's response to letter received
March 2025	Interim LGR proposal submitted to government
May 2025	Full LGR proposal submitted to government
May – June 2025	Government evaluates proposal(s) received for LGR and makes a decision on whether to proceed on a single proposal, or to consult further on one or more proposals
July 2025	Government consultation with affected bodies on LGR proposal(s)
Autumn 2025	Government decision on LGR anticipated, which begins statutory process to establish new council(s)

January 2026	Parliamentary process begins to lay Statutory Instruments
May 2026	Elections to shadow unitary authority/ies
Spring 2027	New unitary/ies 'go live'
Spring 2027 or 2028	Mayoral elections and Mayoral Strategic Authority 'go live', with the preparations for the establishment of the MSA taking place throughout 2026/27, or Surrey joins MSA with neighbours

Consultation:

20. On 7 January a discussion is taking place at the Surrey Leaders and Chief Executives meeting about the implications and opportunities presented by the White Paper.

21. An Extraordinary Council meeting has been set for the 8 January 2025, enabling Members of the Council to review the contents of the White Paper and the subsequent correspondence from the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution. The Council is asked to note that the decision to respond to the letter of 16 December 2024 is an Executive function, and to support the Leader's response to the Minister.

Risk Management and Implications:

22. Risk implications will be considered as part of the development of the interim and full LGR proposals and subsequent devolution opportunities (business case/s) and reviewed as work progresses.

Financial and Value for Money Implications:

23. Devolution and LGR is likely to entail one-off costs, as well as ongoing financial benefits. A business case will set out further detail of the estimated costs and benefits of any LGR and/or devolution proposals.

Section 151 Officer Commentary:

24. The council continues to operate in a very challenging financial environment. Local authorities across the country are experiencing significant budgetary pressures. Surrey County Council has made significant progress in recent years to improve the Council's financial resilience and whilst this has built a stronger financial base from which to deliver our services, the cost of service delivery, increasing demand, financial uncertainty and government policy changes mean we continue to face challenges to our financial position. This requires an increased focus on financial management to protect service delivery, a continuation of the need to deliver financial efficiencies and reduce spending in order to achieve a balanced budget position each year.

25. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2025/26 remains uncertain. With no clarity on central government funding in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will

continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade, and with likely redistribution of government funding to urban/metropolitan areas. This places an onus on the council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority, in order to ensure the stable provision of services in the medium term.

26. In agreeing that the Leader should respond to the government as outlined in the letter in Annex 2, Cabinet's decision is aligned to maximising all opportunities for efficiencies and sustainability of funding for Surrey as a whole.

27. A significant financial implication and risk, which is unique to the local government landscape of Surrey, is the current level of debt held across the Surrey local government footprint. Any business case proposal for LGR will need to adequately consider and deal with the underlying debt position. The underlying debt that remains to be financed, together with the onset of reforms to local government funding, with anticipated redistribution of funds away from Surrey and reliance on council tax, poses a real and present threat to the sustainable operation of any new entity without ongoing exceptional financial support from government or a level of write off.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer:

28. The function of deciding whether and how to respond to the Minister's letter of 16 December 2024 is an executive function as set out in the Constitution under Responsibility for Executive Functions (part 3). The report complies with the Local Government Act 2000 ("the LGA 2000") and the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations ("the Functions Regulations").

29. The power to make an order postponing (or, more strictly, changing the year of) elections under s 87 of the LGA 2000 is a power of the Secretary of State. There is no statutory provision which requires an affected authority to have requested the change, or which otherwise provides for the making of a request.

Equalities and Diversity:

30. There are no direct equality implications arising from this report, although any impact on groups with protected characteristics will be considered through development of specific proposals and business cases for devolution and local government reorganisation.

Other Implications:

31. There are no direct other implications arising from this report, although any impact on council services will be considered through development of the business case.

What Happens Next:

32. Following the decision by the Cabinet, a letter will be sent by the Leader of the Council to the Minister for Devolution and Local Government (Annex 2), setting out the intention to pursue a joint programme of devolution and local government reorganisation in Surrey and requesting the postponement of the 2025 council elections to allow for a local proposal to deliver both to be developed.

33. Discussions with district and borough Leaders and Chief Executives will continue, and a working group made up of representatives of Leaders, Chief Executives and MPs will be convened to support the development of proposals and implementation planning.

34. Further reports will be brought to Cabinet as needed throughout the process.

Report Author: Nicola Kilvington, Director of Corporate Strategy and Policy, nicola.kilvington@surreycc.gov.uk

Consulted:

- District and borough Chief Executives and Leaders
- Council, Cabinet and Corporate Leadership Team

Annexes:

Annex 1: Letter to Leaders of all two-tier councils and neighbouring unitary authorities from the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, dated 16 December 2024

Annex 2: Draft letter from the Leader of the Council to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution

Annex 3: Devolution Framework Summary Table

Annex 4: Surrey's relative economic performance against existing and planned combined authorities

Sources/background papers:

[English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Jim McMahon OBE MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
English Devolution*
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

To: Leaders of all two-tier councils and
neighbouring unitary authorities

16 December 2024

Dear Leaders

The English Devolution White Paper published today sets out how the Government plans to deliver on our manifesto pledge to transfer power out of Westminster through devolution and to fix the foundations of local government. You will receive under separate cover a letter outlining the ambition and key elements of the White Paper, but I also wanted to write to areas which might be in scope for a joint programme of devolution and local government reorganisation, to set out a clear process and key milestones.

The Government's long-term vision is for simpler structures which make it much clearer for residents who they should look to on local issues, with fewer politicians able to focus on delivering. Local government reorganisation, alongside devolution over a large strategic geography, can drive economic growth whilst delivering optimal public services. To help deliver these aims, we will facilitate local government reorganisation in England for two-tier areas and for unitary councils where there is evidence of failure, or where their size or boundaries may be hindering an ability to deliver sustainable, high-quality public services.

Given how much interest there has been, and will continue to be in this programme, I am writing now to all councils in two-tier areas, and to neighbouring smaller unitary authorities, to give you further detail and to set out our plans to work with you over the coming months.

Local government reorganisation

My intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas, and small neighbouring unitary councils. In this invitation, I will set out further detail on the criteria I will consider when taking decisions on the proposals that are submitted to Government. I intend to ask for interim plans by March 2025.

As set out in the White Paper, new unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas, this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including on devolution. Final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will ask you to work with other councils in your area to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.

Devolution

We are clear that reorganisation should not delay devolution. Plans should be complementary, with devolution remaining the overarching priority. In January, we will therefore also set out which areas will be included in our Devolution Priority Programme, aimed at places ready to come together under the sensible geography criteria set out in the White Paper and wishing to progress to an accelerated timescale. This will be with a view to inaugural mayoral elections in May 2026. This is an exciting programme and there has already been significant interest even before the White Paper was published.

I am aware that different places will be in different stages of their devolution journey. While some will already have an existing strategic authority, others may be in the process of establishing one, and others still may need reorganisation to take place before they can fully benefit from devolution.

I also understand that delivering these ambitious plans for devolution and for local government reorganisation will be a significant change. It will be essential for councils to work with local partners, including MPs, to develop plans for sustainable unitary structures capable of delivering the high-quality public services that residents need and deserve.

Transition and implementation

We are under no illusion about the scale of issues facing local government. It is in all our interests to make sure we are avoiding unnecessary spend at a time when budgets are already tight, so we will be working with sector partners to avoid use of expensive consultants wherever possible.

My department will be working closely with the Local Government Association, District Councils Network, County Councils Network and others, to develop a shared understanding of how reorganisation can deliver the best outcomes for local residents and businesses. We have a collective responsibility to ensure councils are better supported throughout reorganisation. This will include preparing robust proposals with evidence, standing up new unitary councils ready for vesting day and work to deliver the significant opportunities that are possible by creating suitably sized unitary structures. We will take a phased approach and expect to deliver new unitary authorities in April 2027 and 2028.

Timelines and next steps

I have heard from some areas that the timing of elections affects their planning for devolution, particularly alongside reorganisation. To help manage these demands, alongside our objectives on devolution, and subject to meeting the timetable outlined in this letter, I am minded to lay secondary legislation to postpone local council elections from May 2025 to May 2026.

However, I will only do this where this will help the area to deliver both reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframe – either through the Devolution Priority Programme or where reorganisation is necessary to unlock devolution or open up new devolution options. There will be two scenarios in which I will be willing to postpone elections;

- Areas who are minded to join the Devolution Priority Programme, where they will be invited to submit reorganisation proposals to Government by Autumn 2025.
- Areas who need reorganisation to unlock devolution, where they will be invited to submit reorganisation proposals to Government by May 2025.

For any area in which elections are postponed, we will work with areas to move to elections to new 'shadow' unitary councils as soon as possible as is the usual arrangement in the process of local government reorganisation.

For all other areas elections will take place as scheduled in May 2025, and I will invite in January proposals for reorganisation to be submitted to Government by Autumn 2025.

To lay the relevant legislation to postpone elections, I will need a clear commitment to devolution and reorganisation aims from upper-tier councils in an area, including a request from the council/s whose election is to be postponed, on or before Friday 10 January. This request must set out how postponing the election would enable the council to make progress with reorganisation and devolution in parallel on the Devolution Priority Programme, or would speed up reorganisation and enable the area to benefit from devolution as quickly as possible once new unitary structures are in place.

I am working together with my colleague and fellow Minister, Baroness Taylor, who will host a webinar with leaders and chief executives of councils to discuss the next steps I have outlined in this letter. I hope you will be able to attend that discussion.

I welcome your views on any matters raised in this letter. As set out above, I will require a clear commitment to delivering both reorganisation and devolution to the most ambitious timeframe, with any request to delay council elections by Friday 10 January. Please respond or direct any queries to EnglishDevolutionLGENquiries@communities.gov.uk.

I look forward to working with you to build empowered, simplified, resilient and sustainable structures for local government. I am copying this letter to council Chief Executives, and where relevant to Best Value Commissioners. I am also copying this letter to local Members of Parliament, and where relevant to Mayors of combined (county) authorities, and Police (Fire) and Crime Commissioners.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim McMahon." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

JIM MCMAHON OBE MP
Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution

Dear Minister,

RE: Devolution and Local Government Reform for Surrey

I welcome the clarification contained in the English Devolution White Paper of the Government's commitment to transfer power closer to communities, helping all places in England to realise their full potential. I share the Paper's ambitions for boosting the country's economic prospects and reforms to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of our public services.

In March 2024, Surrey County Council agreed a Level 2 Devolution Framework Agreement and implementation is well underway. It is clear to me that reforming the structure of local government is an enabler to unlocking the full benefits of further devolution for the county. This was recognised at meetings of our Council and Cabinet on 8 January. The Leaders of all councils in Surrey also met on 7 January to discuss how we can collectively harness the opportunities presented through the White Paper.

The current two-tier structure of local government in Surrey, comprising 12 sovereign local authorities, is fragmented and in a number of areas inefficient which inevitably diverts resources away from delivering the services that residents rightly expect. I believe reorganisation would provide more streamlined and cost-effective services for Surrey, enabling us to achieve further efficiencies and deliver better outcomes for our residents and communities.

Local government reorganisation is a crucial stepping stone to further devolution for Surrey, to enable our communities to take more control of their own destinies. This county already has a very strong track record for growth, delivering over £50 billion of Gross Value Added every year, but further and deeper devolution could lead to even better returns to support this Government's Plan for Change to kickstart economic growth.

I am therefore writing to ask you to exercise your Ministerial powers to lay the necessary legislation to postpone the county council elections in Surrey, which are due to take place in May 2025. This will give us the time to work with the Leaders of Surrey's district and borough councils to put together proposals for local government reform that are necessary to unlock further devolution for Surrey. Our current two tier structure will require reorganisation to enable the development of a Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) for Surrey. New unitary elections could then take place in 2026 and a Mayoral election in 2027. However, mindful of the White Paper's reference to MSAs usually covering places with populations larger than 1.5 million it would also make sense to engage concurrently with neighbouring authorities to explore the benefits of forming, or joining, an MSA over a larger footprint.

DRAFT Letter to Minister of State for Local Government and Devolution
To be sent on 10 January 2025

A postponement of the county elections will also allow time to give consideration in any business case to how we can best manage the unique, significant financial risk of the level of debt currently held across the Surrey local government footprint. Any proposals for local government reorganisation will need to adequately consider how to ensure the sustainable operation of any new authority/ies in the absence of exceptional financial support from Government or a level of write off.

In addition to working with district and borough councils, I will also work with MPs, town and parish councils, businesses, the police and health authorities, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and our residents, to build on our ambition of a more integrated set of public services across the county.

I look forward to starting the conversation with you on the future of Surrey. I am copying this letter to all Surrey MPs as well as district and borough Leaders.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Oliver OBE

Leader of the Council

Annex 3 – Devolution Framework Summary Table

Key:

(**) refers to functions for which funding will be included in Integrated Settlements for Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities

(^) refers to functions which apply to Combined and Combined County Authorities only

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Funding and investment			
Access to a multi-departmental, long-term integrated funding settlement**			X
Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation		X	X
Removal of gateway review from investment fund, after Gateway One complete			X
Ability to introduce mayoral precepting on council tax^		X	X
Consolidation of local growth and place funding in a single pot**	X	X	X
Strategic leadership			
A statutory duty to produce Local Growth Plans		X	X
Membership of the Council of Nations and Regions		X	X
Membership of the Mayoral Data Council		X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Transport and local infrastructure			
Local Transport Authority and public transport functions, including bus franchising and responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan	X	X	X
Simplification and consolidation of local transport funding**	X	X	X
Removal of certain Secretary of State consents, e.g. on lane rental schemes		X	X
Duty to establish a Key Route Network on the most important local roads^		X	X
Mayoral Power of Direction over use of constituent authority powers on the Key Route Network^		X	X
Priority for strategic rail engagement (including mayoral partnerships) with Great British Railways	X	X	X
Statutory role in governing, managing, planning, and developing the rail network		X	X
An option for greater control over local rail stations		X	X
A 'right to request' further rail devolution			X
Priority for support to deliver multi-modal ticketing			X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
A clear, strategic role in the decarbonisation of the local bus fleet	X	X	X
Active Travel England support for constituent authority capability^	X	X	X
Formal partnership with National Highways		X	X
Skills and employment support			
Joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan model, with Employer Representative Bodies	X	X	X
Devolution of the core Adult Skills Fund	X		
Devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills functions through a consolidated skills funding pot**		X	X
Central convening of youth careers provision including greater flexibility for Careers hubs		X	X
A clear role in relation to 16-19 education and training		X	X
Responsibility for developing local Get Britain Working Plans	X	X	X
Devolution of supported employment funding**	X	X	X
Co-design of future employment support that is additional to core Jobcentre Plus provision		X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Delegated delivery or commissioning of employment support that is additional to core Jobcentre Plus provision			X
Alignment of Jobcentre Plus boundaries with Strategic Authorities			X
Housing and strategic planning			
A duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy	X	X	X
Strategic development management powers (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)		X	X
Ability to raise a Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy to fund strategic infrastructure (once the Spatial Development Strategy is in place)		X	X
Ability to make Mayoral Development Orders		X	X
Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations		X	X
Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)	X	X	X
Devolution of wider grant funding to support regeneration and housing delivery**		X	X
Ability to set the strategic direction of any future programme to support affordable housing provision in their area			X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England		X	X
Support to establish a public sector land commission			X
Economic development and regeneration			
Partnership working with Department for Science, Industry and Technology and UK Research and Innovation to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening local research and innovation capacity	X	X	X
Develop joint innovation action plans with Innovate UK to shape long-term strategies and investments		X	X
Embed UK Research and Innovation lead points of contact for enhanced collaborative working on innovation with Mayoral Strategic Authorities that are committed to work collaboratively on innovation		X	X
Responsibility as the accountable body for the delivery of Growth Hubs	X	X	X
Devolution of Growth Hubs funding**			X
A Strategic Partnership with the Department for Business and Trade focused on domestic growth, exports, investment, and delivery of local growth priorities.		X	X
Partnership working with Department for Culture, Media and Sport Arm's Length Bodies	X	X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
to maximise culture, heritage, and sport spending in place			
Environment and climate change			
Devolution of retrofit funding this parliament subject to a successful transition period (see 3.7)**			X
Heat network zoning coordination role	X	X	X
Coordinating local energy planning to support development of regional network energy infrastructure	X	X	X
Green jobs and skills coordination role	X	X	X
A strategic role on net zero in collaboration with government, including on Great British Energy's Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan	X	X	X
Responsibility for coordinating delivery and monitoring of Local Nature Recovery Strategies^	X	X	X
Health, wellbeing and public service reform			
A bespoke statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty^	X	X	X
Mayors engaged during the Integrated Care Boards chair appointment process		X	X
Mayors as members of local Integrated Care Partnerships, and consideration for position of chair or co-chair		X	X

Detail	Foundation	Mayoral	Established
A role in convening partners and driving cross-cutting public service reform, including looking at areas such as multiple disadvantage	X	X	X
Public safety			
Mayors accountable for the exercise of Police and Crime Commissioner functions where police force and mayoral boundaries align^		X	X
Mayors accountable for the exercise of Fire and Rescue Authority functions where fire and rescue service and mayoral boundaries align		X	X
A clear and defined role in local resilience, working with the Local Resilience Forum to embed resilience into broader policy and delivery^	X	X	X

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Annex 4 – Surrey’s relative economic performance against existing and planned combined authorities

Authority name	Gross Value Added (GVA) (2022 £ Billion)	GVA rank
Greater Manchester	£89.515	1
West Midlands	£76.333	2
West Yorkshire	£66.728	3
East Midlands	£56.294	4
Cambridge and Peterborough	£54.875	5
Surrey	£51.307	6
North-East	£47.381	7
Lancashire	£39.602	8
Liverpool City Region	£39.588	9
West of England	£39.393	10
South Yorkshire	£32.158	11
Greater Lincolnshire	£28.983	12
York and North Yorkshire	£25.721	13
Devon and Torbay	£24.457	14
Hull and East Yorkshire	£15.865	15
Tees Valley	£15.727	16

Source:

ONS <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/datasets/regionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedbyindustrylocalauthoritiesbyitl1region>

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