

English Devolution White Paper Published 16 December 2024

The paper outlines the move from for two-tier areas to Unitary Authority as Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

This government is committed to resetting the relationship with local and regional government, empowering local leaders and Mayors to make the right decisions for their communities, and working together to grow an inclusive economy, reform public services and secure better outcomes.

Mayors will have strong new powers over housing, planning, transport, energy, skills, employment support and more, backed up with integrated and consolidated funding.

Proposed list of areas of competence:

1. Transport and local infrastructure
2. Skills and employment support
3. Housing and strategic planning
4. Economic development and regeneration
5. Environment and climate change
6. Health, wellbeing and public service reform
7. Public safety

Key dates:

- WSCC Cabinet is asked to consider the report and its recommendations to determine the County Council's position in relation to the recent White Paper published by the Government at their meeting 9th January 2025
- WSCC decision to be submitted to Government 10th January 2025.
- Local Elections in 2025 will be delayed by 1 year.
- Mayors Elections will take place 2026.
- Proposed delivery date 2028.