

Torbay and Devon Devolution Consultation

PART ONE: YOUR INFORMATION

1. How are you responding to this consultation?

- I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual
- I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation

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PART TWO: THE PROPOSAL

What is the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority?

On 25 January 2024 the Government announced the potential for a devolution deal for Devon and Torbay. Devon County Council and Torbay Council have produced a draft proposal (the 'Proposal') and have agreed to consult on the Proposal to create a new entity called the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA). The proposed CCA is a legal requirement to oversee new powers and funding devolved from Government for a range of local priorities including housing, jobs and training, and transport.

If the Proposal is implemented, existing funding and powers will move from central government to Devon and Torbay, with further powers also being available to the CCA. This will enable local voices to play a greater role in decision-making in the area to secure more investment and deliver better outcomes for local communities.

The Proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for public services in their area. Funding to establish the CCA would be provided by the Government.

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What do you think?

Please read the frequently asked questions (FAQ) and Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk (opens in new tab) before responding to this survey.

This consultation asks for your views on the different priorities proposed for the Devon and Torbay CCA. At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to provide comments on the Proposal more generally.

The survey is split up into several sections and should take around 20 minutes to complete. You will have the option to save your responses and return to complete later.

There will also be an option to sign up to Connect Me (Devon County Council e-newsletter) or One Torbay (Torbay Council e-newsletter) to receive progress updates on Devon and Torbay's devolution journey and other news.

The results of the consultation will be considered during the Spring of 2024 before Devon County Council and Torbay Council are asked to consider whether to submit their final Proposal to the Government as drafted, make amendments before submission to the Government or not to submit the Proposal.

If the Proposal (whether in its current form or amended) is submitted to the Government, it will be considered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and if they are content that the Proposal meets the relevant requirements in law, the devolution process will then be progressed, and legislation creating the proposed Devon and Torbay CCA will be laid subject to the councils consenting to the draft legislation.

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Maximising our economic potential

We will make sure we have the skilled workforce our local economy needs for the future. We'll work to secure new investment to help create additional high value jobs.

- The Deal would devolve the budget for adult education to the Devon and Torbay CCA. The CCA would be responsible for making funding allocations to adult education providers meaning we would have the flexibility to tailor provision to local needs and priorities.
- Funding for Free Courses for Jobs will also be devolved and ring-fenced.
- The CCA will work with the Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce providing input to and supporting the development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan for the area. The Plan will help build a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and further education providers.
- The Department for Education will continue to work with Devon and Torbay to commission a local programme of Skills Bootcamps.
- We want to ensure that we retain a shared focus on careers education and advice for young people. The Government will work with the CCA and other partners to continue the work within the Careers Hub.
- The Department for Work and Pensions, through the Job Centre Plus and the Partnership teams, will work with the CCA on shared strategic priorities recognising the crucial link between local skills, education, health and workforce development.
- The CCA will take on the relevant functions and roles of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in line with published guidance. We will work together so that the business voice is represented with Devon and Torbay.
- The Government will work closely with the CCA to make it easier for businesses to access the information, advice and support they

need. This will draw on the Department for Business and Trade's global and sector offer.

- With the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and UK Research and Innovation we will explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration to strengthen Devon and Torbay's research and innovation capacity.
- We will look to make the most of the opportunities for further joint working around farming, fishing and coastal matters, building upon local good practice and programmes around farm resilience, aquaculture and renewable energy policy and practice.
- Exploratory conversations will be held between the CCA and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and its Arms Length Bodies on the region's appetite and capacity for partnership working across the culture, heritage, sport, communities and visitor economy as applicable.
- We will have regular engagement with the Government on the digital connectivity delivery plans for the region, particularly where they involve hard to reach rural and coastal areas.

Please find further details on the Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to maximise our economic potential through the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority?

(If you have any comments you would like to make around the proposal to maximise our economic potential, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.)

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

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Addressing our housing pressures

In partnership, we will deliver additional investment in affordable housing schemes for local people, reducing homelessness. Greater Community Land Trust-led delivery will support rural and coastal affordable housing delivery.

- The CCA will work with Homes England, with the support of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to combine our skills and capacity to reduce the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth. We will develop a shared development pipeline which will be underpinned by a clear action plan.
- There will be potential investment through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Homes Programme and Brownfield, Infrastructure and Land Fund.
- The CCA will explore, collectively with Homes England and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how wider measures, such as facilitating greater Community Land Trust-led delivery, could better support our plans to increase much needed rural and coastal affordable housing delivery, especially across small sites.
- Part of the Government's capital commitment to the CCA will be available to support the development of a small sites Green Homes investment programme.
- The Government has recognised the differentiated nature of local housing markets across Devon and Torbay and work that is underway by the Devon Housing Commission.
- The CCA will have access to additional land assembly powers for housing, regeneration and economic purposes. It will work in partnership with the Government on additional solutions for individuals

who are homeless and on the challenges around second homes and holiday lets.

Please find further details on the Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk (opens in new tab).

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to address our housing pressures through the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority?

(If you have any comments you would like to make around the proposal to address our housing pressures, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.)

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

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Improving local transport

We will strengthen our joined-up approach as equal partners, helping to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. Shared responsibility for strategic transport will support economic growth.

- The CCA will become the Local Transport Authority for Devon and Torbay taking on the strategic coordination role and accountability for the associated responsibilities and local public transport powers
- As the Local Transport Authority, the CCA will develop an area-wide Local Transport Plan. The Department for Transport will use this Plan as a basis for future local transport investment
- The CCA will design and deliver a pipeline of transport interventions which align with Devon and Torbay's wider priorities including local growth, improving transport user experience, decarbonisation and reducing environmental impact.
- The CCA will be accountable for the receipt and allocation of Government local transport funding to Devon County Council and Torbay Council, whilst highways funding will go directly to those councils as highways authorities. The operational responsibility for highways will remain with constituent councils.
- Peninsula Transport Sub-National Transport Body (STB) will develop its Regional Centre of Excellence, which will offer bespoke capability and tools to support to all LTAs in the STB area.
- As the Local Transport Authority, the CCA will be responsible for:
 1. Bus Service Improvement Plans
 2. Enhanced Partnerships
 3. Subsidised bus services
 4. Concessionary fare schemes

- Where practical, the CCA will work towards streamlining Devon and Torbay's engagement with commercial bus operators and coordinate existing separate arrangements into a single Enhanced Partnership. If the CCA considers that bus franchising is likely to deliver better outcomes, Government will consider conferring franchising powers to the CCA.

Please find further details on the Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk (opens in new tab).

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to improve local transport through the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority? *(If you have any comments you would like to make around the proposal to improve local transport, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.)*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

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Meeting our net zero ambitions

We will unlock Devon and Torbay's huge green economic potential, with more investment in green business growth and attracting inward investment to the area. Our transition to a net-zero economy will be accelerated, capitalising on our area's world-leading expertise in green science and technology.

- Part of the Government's capital commitment to the CCA will be available to support business to invest in green business transition activity. This will offer Devon and Torbay's business community an opportunity to both modernise and decarbonise activity at a faster rate.
- The capital commitment will also enable the CCA to support the development of green skills capacity building within the further and higher education sector.
- The CCA will work with Government on planning our future energy system for net zero.
- The CCA will become the heat network Zoning Co-ordinator, playing a key role in the delivery of heat decarbonisation infrastructure. The Government will support the CCA to take forward heat network zoning in collaboration with the private sector to utilise all available low carbon heat sources.
- The CCA will work with the Government to explore the benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures.
- We will be provided with opportunities to work with the South West Net Zero Hub to explore sources of funding for projects within our area.
- The CCA will work with Government on local environment policies to support the delivery of England's new Environmental Improvement Plan. Devon and Torbay will be considered as a test-bed geography for

future policies such as new carbon codes for soils and the restoration of marine habitats.

Please find further details on the Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk (opens in new tab).

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to meet our net zero ambitions through the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority? *(If you have any comments you would like to make around the proposal to meet our net zero ambitions, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.)*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

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Delivering investment in Devon and Torbay

There will be local democratic accountability for big investment decision in the local economy. Business and skills representatives will have a strong voice and a direct route to locally-elected decision-makers.

- From 2025/2026, the CCA could have delivery responsibility for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (or its successor). In doing so, the CCA will engage with constituent councils, district councils and other local partners to make sure that the needs of residents can be effectively addressed.
- £16 million of capital funding will be provided to the CCA from the Government to support local priorities. This will accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy. It will help us to capitalise on our expertise in environmental science and technology, with a focus on new green jobs, homes, skills and business growth. Alongside this we will seek to attract additional private sector investment into these areas.
- The CCA would have direct control over £11 million per year of funding for adult education until 2030. This will enable us to create up to 50,000 new training and re-training opportunities.
- There will be democratic control of Local Enterprise Partnership assets and funding.

Please find further details on the Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk (opens in new tab).

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to deliver investment in Devon and Torbay through the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority?

(If you have any comments you would like to make around the proposal to deliver

investment in Devon and Torbay, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.)

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

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Creating a strong and sustainable local economy

We will support high growth business sectors such as marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital, as well as our traditional strengths of tourism, agritech and food production. Through creating a strong and sustainable local economy, we can increase productivity and pay across Devon and Torbay.

- Part of the Government's capital commitment to the CCA will be made available to enable the development of crucial coastal and marine energy infrastructure to allow for the transition to low carbon shipping. This will complement existing planned Levelling Up investment in Northern Devon and Torbay.
- The CCA and VisitEngland will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy, harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend and encouraging visits throughout the year.
- The Government and the CCA will seek to maximise the impact of our core sectors through:
 1. Aligning activity around our High Growth Opportunities including marine manufacturing, specialist innovation assets and the photonics sector;
 2. Maximising opportunities linked to Floating Offshore Wind development;
 3. Fully realising opportunities within the Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing sector;
 4. Working closely with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs around the agritech and fishing sectors;
 5. Exploring the potential of the small but nationally significant health and life sciences cluster

Please find further details on the Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk (opens in new tab).

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that it will support industries that are important to Devon and Torbay?
(If you have any comments you would like to make around the proposal to create a strong and sustainable local economy, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.)

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

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Delivering Our Ambitions

We will implement streamlined management and decision-making arrangements with a strong business and skills voice to address the big opportunities and challenges for Devon and Torbay. These arrangements will need to accord with the provisions of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.

In order that powers and funding are available, suitable management and decision-making arrangements must be put in place. These arrangements provide the Government with assurance that funding will be spent appropriately, and statutory functions will be delivered effectively and efficiently.

To achieve this, our proposals include the integration of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (insofar as they relate to Devon and Torbay) with wider structures and the formation of a new Devon and Torbay Growth Board. There will also be a Skills and Employment Board created. This will help ensure there continues to be strong and independent local business and skills voices that inform local decision-making and strategic economic planning.

The governance model proposed would build upon existing structures and recognises the significant role for the eight district councils (who would be able to nominate two representatives to the proposed CCA alongside the creation of a Team Devon Joint Committee to further strengthen local partnership working arrangements).

Please find further details on the Proposal at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk (opens in new tab).

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed delivery arrangements for the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority?
(If you have any comments you would like to make around the delivery proposal, you will have the opportunity at the end of the questionnaire.)

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

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Your comments

9. If you have any comments you would like to make about the proposals for the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, please tell us using the space below.

Enter your answer

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ABOUT YOU

So that we can ensure we capture a diverse range of views through this consultation, it would be helpful if you could provide some information about yourself. This information is not compulsory, so please complete the questions where you feel comfortable.

The personal information you provide will only be used in the manner described in the privacy notice, which is included at the start of this questionnaire.

10. Which of the following options best describes how you think of your gender identity:

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

11. Which of the following age groups applies to you?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34

- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

12. Do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

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Submitting your response

Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Your feedback is important to us.

Please press "submit response" if you wish for your response to be included. If you wish to make any changes before submitting your response, please use the back button to go back to the question or questions you wish to amend.

Please ensure you have submitted your response before 11.59pm on 24 March 2024.

13. If you would like a copy of the consultation report, please leave your email address below:

Enter your answer

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