

Meeting:	Joint Committee on Strategic Planning and Transport
Date:	11 March 2022
From:	Joint Officer Steering Group

Levelling Up White Paper

1 Summary

- 1.1 The Government published the Levelling Up White Paper on 2nd February 2022. The White Paper seeks to address regional disparities and contains a number of focus areas including living standards, transport infrastructure, education and skills, housing and local leadership.

2 Background

- 1.2 The White Paper can be found [here](#), and it includes matters of relevance to the Joint Committee.
- 1.2 As part of proposals for extending devolution in England, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are included in a list of authorities invited to start formal negotiations to agree new County Deals. Existing devolution deals have included greater local influence over employment support and some strategic planning and regeneration powers. The content of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire proposals are currently being developed, with a view to presenting them to Government.
- 1.3 In respect of planning, the White Paper makes a number of references including:
- **Local communities will continue to have “a meaningful say on individual planning applications”.**
 - **Local plans “will be made simpler and shorter”.**
 - **The government will “look to pilot greater empowerment of communities to shape regeneration and development plans”.**
 - **The government is to develop plans for improving and “further greening the green belt”.**
 - **The government will be “encouraging more accessible hybrid models for planning committees in England”.**
 - **The government is to set “a more positive approach to employment land in national policy to support the provision of jobs.**
 - **The government will “enhance compulsory purchase powers to support town centre regeneration”.**
 - **The paper reiterates that the government is looking at some form of land value capture as part of its proposed new “infrastructure levy”.**
 - **The government will support “transformational developments” in the 20 areas of the country taking part in its “regeneration programme”.**
 - **Funding for housing delivery to be focused on brownfield sites and away from London and the wider south east.**
 - **Devolution deals are promised for every part of England that wants one.**
- 1.4 The White Paper states that the Government will undertake engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and will “introduce legislation to Parliament to underpin in statute

the changes fundamental to levelling up, alongside wider planning measures.” It states that more details on the reforms will be published in ‘due course’.

- 1.5 Further announcements on Planning Reform are anticipated in the Spring of 2022, and these are expected to build upon the proposals contained in Levelling Up white paper. It is also intended that the white paper will link closely to other changes to the planning system, such as changes being introduced through the Environment Act, which includes the requirement for new development to implement Biodiversity Net Gain, and the requirement to prepare Nature Recovery Strategies.

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee note the contents of this report.

4 Background papers referred to in compiling this report

- 4.1 Levelling Up White Paper, February 2022

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