

Housing and City Development Scrutiny Committee

19 February 2024

Preparedness for the East Midlands Combined County Authority

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the Council's preparations to maximise the outcomes for Nottingham as part of the new East Midlands Combined County Authority (CCA).

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1) to review the Council's preparedness for the commencement of the East Midlands CCA and return any comments or feedback; and
- 2) to consider whether any further scrutiny of the issue is required (and, if so, to identify the focus and timescales).

3 Background information

- 3.1 This issue falls within the remits of the Portfolio Holders for Strategic Regeneration and Communications; Housing; Skills, Growth, Economic Development and Property; and Highways, Transport and Planning.
- 3.2 Following the Government's publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022, the Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire County, Derby City, and Derbyshire County Councils agreed to cooperate on the creation of a new devolution deal. This has been a longstanding ambition to seek to address the impacts of relative under-funding in the area, improve living standards and deliver better opportunities and outcomes for residents, businesses and communities. Alongside this, the establishment of the CCA will bring governance that sits at the national level currently down to the local area, so that decision-making will be much closer to the communities and businesses that it affects.
- 3.3 As a result of joint collaboration, a devolution deal was agreed between the four constituent Councils and the Government on 30 August 2022. The deal envisaged a significant uplift in the powers and funding available locally to develop the area's full economic potential, with a vision to achieve better health, greater prosperity and an increased sense of wellbeing for the 2.2 million people who live and work there. The investment package for the deal is worth more than £4 billion, including a £1.14 billion investment fund and a new City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement of £1.5 billion.

- 3.4 The inaugural Mayoral election is planned for 2 May 2024. The new Mayor will need to work in partnership with the CCA and its constituent Councils, other public service providers and the District and Borough Councils in the area to deliver on local priorities and provide greater local accountability and decision-making power. The Mayor and the CCA will be focused on the strategic issues that affect the whole region, including transport, carbon net-zero and housing. Longer-term aspirations are to seek further powers from the Government to place more decisions at local level, as devolution has done in other areas such as the West Midlands and Greater Manchester.
- 3.5 In preparation for the CCA coming into effect, the key priority areas developed by the Council relate to housing and land, skills, transport infrastructure and the carbon net zero ambition, and the work being done to realise these is set out in the attached report. An evidence base has been developed for both strategic and delivery workstreams, and there is activity underway to develop a regional investment strategy for the CCA. Successful and timely recruitment to ensure that the Council has the capacity required to carry out this work effectively is a key priority across several themes, though there are potential risks arising from the Council's current budget position that need to be considered.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Report: Preparedness for the East Midlands Combined County Authority

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Report to, and minutes of, the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on [7 December 2023](#) (Consent to the East Midlands Combined County Authority Regulations 2023)
- 6.2 [East Midlands Devolution](#)
- 6.3 [Devolution to the East Midlands](#) (21 November 2023)
- 6.4 [East Midlands devolution deal](#) (30 August 2022)

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

- 8.1 Adrian Mann, Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer
adrian.mann@nottinghamcity.gov.uk