

FAQs

What is devolution?

In England, devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government.

Why are we having a conversation with government about devolution?

Devolution is important because it can help to ensure that decisions are made closer to the local people, communities and businesses they affect.

Extra powers often come with extra money to make change happen.

The current government wants to give more devolved powers to help to grow the economy and improve living standards. They have asked for councils to let them know if they want to explore these opportunities.

What will devolution mean for people across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent?

In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent there are ten councils – the county council, city council and eight district and borough councils.

The Leaders of all these councils are part of the Staffordshire Leaders Board. Together with their Chief Executives and the teams working behind the scenes, they have started to explore how a devolution agreement with the government could benefit people who live and work here.

This could include wide-ranging new local powers around issues such as economic development and skills, housing, transport, the environment, regeneration and planning.

It's about creating more jobs and opportunities, better transport, breathing new life into our cities, towns and villages and ensuring good homes are available for people who need them.

What does devolution mean for our council?

We don't really know what this will mean in detail at this stage.

There is a lot more detail to come from Government around the new devolution framework and what this means for us in practice, but we're ready to work with them to explore how it could support our ambitions.

It's important to say though, that in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, devolution is not about local government reorganisation – we want to keep our county council, city council and district and borough councils.

Does devolution mean we'll have a new mayor?

Leaders across all ten councils in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent agree that whilst there are benefits to elected mayors for some areas, that this wouldn't work for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

We already have democratically elected representatives at the different levels of local government in the area and believe that adding an elected mayor could lead to confusion and lack of clarity of responsibilities rather than any additional value for our residents and communities

What happens next when it comes to devolution?

There is a lot more detail to come from Government around a new devolution framework and what this means for us in practice.

We're expecting them to publish a White Paper on it, and at some point, the English Devolution Bill will go through Parliament so that the extra powers for local areas are set out in law.

For now, we've committed to start the conversation with Government about how devolution might benefit Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and we'll keep you up to date on any developments.