



Terms of Reference

Devolution: Making it Real

Districts and Public Engagement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Lead Member:	Cllr Lisa Trickett
Inquiry Members:	All Members of the Districts and Public Engagement O&S Committee: Councillors: Gurdial Singh Atwal, Mick Brown, Jerry Evans, Tim Evans, Ziaul Islam, Bruce Lines, David Pears, Rob Pocock and Sybil Spence
Officer Support:	Benita Wishart, Overview and Scrutiny Manager Amanda Simcox, Policy and Research Officer Ruth Mugabe, Committee Manager Fiona Hughes, Service Integration Head. Homes and Neighbourhoods

Context	<p>The constitution sets out a new role for district and ward committees. This new agenda for localisation and devolution has the potential to drive forward the social cohesion agenda: reducing disadvantage, tackling deprivation and increasing opportunities and citizen empowerment. This inquiry intends to capture the views of a wide range of stakeholders to ensure there is a shared vision about the benefits of devolution and clarity about how success will be measured.</p> <p>Much work will be required in this transitional year and this inquiry will help in identifying the actions and priorities. It will seek to identify the key actions, timescales and priorities for members, officers and citizens. It will provide a framework for the delivery of devolution and the required cultural change</p> <p>It will track the evolution of devolution as a policy priority in the city and explore the current context, including the cuts the council is required to make. Scrutiny has examined devolution previously and this inquiry would build on the work carried out previously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Devolution and Localisation</i> (2006); – <i>Localisation. Response to the Consultation on The Future Shape of Localisation</i> (2010); – <i>Resourcing Devolution</i> (2011);
----------------	--



	<p>Given the current and potential services now within the responsibility of districts other previous scrutiny work may also prove relevant.</p>
<p>Key question:</p>	<p>What is the purpose of devolution, how do we measure success and what actions are required to achieve that success?</p> <p>In practical terms this means addressing the following questions regarding devolution for the City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are we with devolution? • How have we got here? • What's going well and why? • What's not going well and why? • Where do we need to get to? • What do we need to do to get there? • What needs to change? • What's got to happen and when? • How will we know when we've succeeded?
<p>Key lines of enquiry:</p>	<p>1) Contextual Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reconfirm the long term purpose of the devolution programme to ensure that members, officers and the public have a common vision and a shared understanding of it; • To reconnect the devolution programme to the policy objectives of the new administration on giving people greater control of local services and greater influence over their local quality of life; • To determine how success will be measured – testing policy and practice against the key tests of efficiency, effectiveness, efficacy, empowerment and contribution to citizen well-being. <p>2) Systems Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish what the key components are for a system that's conducive to devolution and ascertain what actions are required in the short, medium and long term; • To identify the opportunities for strengthening citizen engagement in locality working in order to obtain improved local services. <p>3) Leadership of Place Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the role of localities in place-shaping and the role of varied stakeholders in this; • To identify the related development needs for members and officers in achieving cultural change. <p>4) Reviewing the Districts and Public Engagement Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish the future work programme. <p>Indicative topic areas for these lines of enquiry can be seen in Appendix 1.</p>



Key witnesses to include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive and Council officers from Birmingham City Council; • Community Organisers, Community Based Organisations and the Third Sector; • Business Improvement Districts (BIDs); • Trade Unions. 	
Inquiry Plan:	<p>July July August September</p> <p>October</p> <p>November</p> <p>December January</p>	<p>Inquiry agreed Launch Call for Evidence</p> <p>Call for Evidence ends Collation and Analysis of Evidence Evidence and background information to Members Evidence gathering (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th September) Key issues summary [Possible reporting for first annual district conventions]</p> <p>Evidence gathering (11th, 18th October) including round table event Visits</p> <p>Interim report on the purpose of devolution drafted Member deliberation Report drafted Report agreed 8 day rule start – consultation with Executive</p> <p>Finalise report and send to print Report to City Council – 8/1/13</p> <p>More detailed indicative work programme will follow.</p> <p>It is anticipated that most evidence gathering will be carried out in formal committee. In order to undertake additional research and to provide support with producing the outputs it is recommended that a small review group is appointed with cross-party representation.</p> <p>Social media will be used to communicate progress and ensure broader views are considered. This will include:</p> <p>Twitter: http://es.twitter.com/bhamscrutiny Blog: http://bhamdistrictscrutiny.wordpress.com/ BCC web site: http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/scrutiny</p>

Anticipated outcomes:	<p>The anticipated outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a statement on the purpose of devolution; • To report to Council; • To develop a future work programme for the Districts and Public Engagement O&S Committee's role in supporting, championing and challenging the devolution agenda.
------------------------------	---



Appendix 1: Indicative Topic Areas for Key Lines of Enquiry

Key topic areas:	
<p>1) Contextual Review</p> <p>Developing and communicating the vision:</p>	<p>Indicative issues may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recapping on the Localisation and Devolution journey so far; • Ascertaining the role of districts in developing “place”; • Defining the vision for devolution (and values and drivers); • Defining success - efficiency, effectiveness, efficacy, empowerment and contribution to citizen well-being; • Understanding the current context (financial and national policy) – opportunities and risks.
<p>2) Systems Review</p> <p>Budgets</p> <p>Services</p>	<p>Indicative issues may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying tools for constructing a baseline of local needs based on available evidence and developing an understanding of social capital and local knowledge; • Take forward the learning from the CLG Neighbourhood Community Budget pilots in achieving better services with fewer resources; • Determining the short-term and medium-term needs and actions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Service reviews and budget cuts; – Financial monitoring; • Developing further approaches in the strategic use of community chest; • Considering ways of accounting for the social value of locality working; • Examining opportunities to streamline services locally – a case study of rubbish; • Pinpointing good practice which exists in districts which could be shared more widely across the city? • Establishing the further strategic support that districts will require – development of city-wide strategy, policy and core standards; • Identifying risks and opportunities relating to management of new services – e.g. youth services and adult education; to include a case study of housing management; • Identifying further areas of work required to achieve the benefits of local working – developing, delivering and integrating services, co-location, and multi-disciplinary teams; • Identifying opportunities for partnership working and mainstreaming of neighbourhood management (including working with businesses and lessons from constituency strategic partnerships);



<p>Developing the broader remit of districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring opportunities for strengthening partnership working, including with the voluntary and community sectors; • Exploring opportunities for districts to use citizen engagement to shape local services, including the links with ward committees; • Ascertaining what steps are being taken to ensure existing and developing SLAs can be controlled more effectively by Districts; • Identifying the commissioning role of localities; • Considering the role of asset based community development; • Determining how developing a social inclusion approach can benefit districts and exploring the creation of local charters of civic rights”; • Supporting the development of a Birmingham response to the Localism Act and identify the impacts for and needs of districts; • Identifying the broader issues which districts can be involved in, the benefits; and the tools required. e.g. local economic development; • Identifying the roles of districts in building more resilient communities and institutions.
<p>3) Leadership of Place Review</p>	<p>Indicative issues may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining the impact of devolution on leadership skills and members’ roles and any additional support / training required; • Establishing the capacity of officers to manage this change and the implications for staff of these changes; • Determining how the cultural change of devolution can best be supported.
<p>4) Reviewing the Scrutiny Role</p> <p>Building on and building up a scrutiny programme</p>	<p>Indicative issues may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying other key lines of enquiry for future scrutiny work, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identifying issues for a subsequent inquiry relating to citizen engagement and local democratic control within localities in order to create locally responsive services and develop approaches to co-production; • Reviewing the Local Services and Community Safety O&S Committee Report on <i>Resourcing Devolution</i> and agree the areas which require further work, follow up or “tracking” and the way in which that should be done; • Reviewing the Local Services and Community Safety O&S Committee <i>Neighbourhood Management</i> report and agree the areas which require “tracking” and the way in which that should be done; • Reviewing the Children and Education O&S Committee report on <i>Youth Services</i> and agree the areas which require further work or “tracking” by this committee and the way in which that should be done.