

# Appendix 2: The Devolution Framework

## The Devolution Framework, as of November 2023

As part of the publication of the levelling up white paper (LUWP) the government released a ‘devolution framework’. This detailed the types of powers and functions that would be considered as part of a devolution deal. Some powers may only be available to certain authorities or geographies. The framework continues to be designed to be dynamic so that it can evolve and be informed by devolution deal discussions over the coming years. The updated version, alongside Level 4 powers and functions, can be found below.

**Level 4** – Deeper devolution for an established single institution or county council with a directly elected leader (DEL) in post who can meet specific eligibility and accountability criteria.

**Level 3** – A single institution or county council with a DEL, across a Functional Economic Area (FEA) or whole county area.

**Level 2** – A single institution or county council without a DEL, across a FEA or whole county area.

**Level 1** – Local authorities working together across a FEA or whole county area, for example through a joint committee.

## Strategic role in delivering services

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
Host for government functions best delivered at a strategic level involving more than one local authority e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategies.	X	X	X	X
Opportunity to pool services at a strategic level.	X	X	X	X
Opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change.	X	X	X	X
A strategic role on net zero in collaboration with government.		X	X	X
Opportunity for devolution of retrofit funding subject to the outcome of the existing pilots in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.				X

## Supporting local businesses

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
LEP functions including hosting strategic business voice.	X	X	X	X
Opportunity to access a Strategic Productivity Partnership to support local business growth.				X
Opportunity to articulate research and development priorities.^				X

(^) refers to functions which are only applicable to mayoral combined authorities.

## Transport

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
Become the strategic transport body for the area and take on all associated Local Transport Authority and public transport functions. This includes responsibility for an area-wide local transport plan, bus Enhanced Partnerships, support for public transport services, and concessionary fares.*		X	X	X
Defined and coordinated, Key Route Network, with a mayoral power of direction over the exercise of local highway and traffic authority powers on the Key Route Network.*			X	X
Priority for new rail partnerships with Great British Railways – influencing local rail offer, e.g. services and stations.			X	X
Have automatic access to franchising powers to independently introduce bus franchising in line with current guidance.*			X	X
Consolidation of local transport funding settlement in line with the principles set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and Funding Simplification Doctrine. The quantum of funding and the number/remit of individual funding lines will be agreed through the next Spending Review Process.			X	
Single local transport funding settlement in line with the principles set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and Funding Simplification Doctrine. The quantum of funding and the number/remit of individual funding lines will be agreed through the next Spending Review Process.				X
Responsibility for administering payment of Bus Service Operators Grant.			X	X
Leadership in improving consistency and efficiency in taxi and private hire vehicle licensing.				X
Government commitment, subject to delivery of the Pay As You Go rail ticketing pilots in Greater Manchester and West Midlands, to build on these pilots to inform and support regional ambitions for integrated multi-modal ticketing.				X

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
Leadership in developing a consistent approach to pavement parking in the area.				X

(\*) refers to functions which are only applicable to combined authorities as opposed to county councils.

### Investment spending

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
UKSPF planning and delivery at a strategic level		X	X	X
Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation.			X	X
Consolidation and simplification of local growth & place and housing & regeneration funding, including a pathway to a single department-style financial settlement.				X
Removal of gateway review, subject to meeting certain criteria.				X

### Giving adults the skills for the labour market

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
Devolution of Adult Education functions and the core Adult Education Budget.		X	X	X
Providing support and refinement for Local Skills Improvement Plans.		X	X	X
Role in designing and delivering future contracted employment programmes.			X	X
Ringfenced funding for Free Courses for Jobs.		X	X	X
Ability to work with DfE to commission a local programme of Skills Bootcamps, to be informed by future spending agreements.	X	X	X	X

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
Work with local stakeholders to align careers provision with devolved AEB activities.		X	X	X
Full devolution of Free Courses for Jobs funding.				X
Full flexibility over Skills Bootcamps funding.				X
Central convening of careers provision.				X
New regional Labour Market Partnership Board.				X

### Housing and infrastructure

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations (with consent of host local planning authority).			X	X
Devolution of locally-led brownfield funding.			X	X
Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently).		X	X	X
Strategic control in any future Affordable Homes Programme (from 2026).				X

### Keeping the public safe and healthy

Detail	L1	L2	L3	L4
Mayoral control of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions where boundaries align.^			X	X
Mayoral control of Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) functions where boundaries align.^			X	X
Clear defined role in local resilience.*		X	X	X
Where desired, offer MCAs a duty for improving the public's health (concurrently with local authorities).		X	X	X

(\*) refers to functions which are only applicable to combined authorities as opposed to county councils.

(^) refers to functions which are only applicable to mayoral combined authorities.