

Cheshire+
Warrington

Information Pack – February 2025

Cheshire and Warrington devolution

In this pack



You will find:

- An introduction to devolution and what Cheshire and Warrington seeks to achieve from it
- Key messaging to explain our latest position
- Assets that you can share about Cheshire and Warrington seeking a devolution agreement

Introduction



Cheshire and Warrington has recently been confirmed as an area selected to be part of the government's **devolution priority programme (DPP)**.

This is a landmark moment for our area.

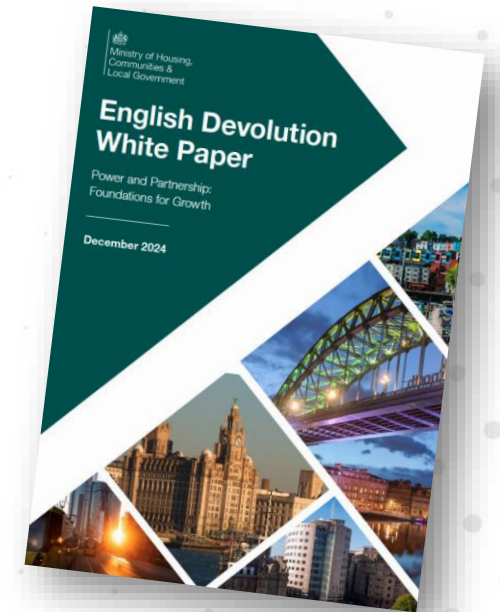
What is devolution?

In England, devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government. It is important because it ensures that decisions are made closer to the local people, communities and businesses they affect.”

Local Government Association

Devolution is therefore broadly about getting more powers from Whitehall, to enable us to be in control of more decision making locally and regionally. It's all set out in the Government's White Paper.

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Why devolution?

- Government has made it very clear through its White Paper that to get the best funding and transfer of power arrangements, devolution really is the only show in town
- Helpfully, Cheshire and Warrington is already a coherent, economic area
- Government **expects** areas to come together to pursue devolution agreements
- Equally, the devolution Minister, Jim McMahon MP, has previously suggested that devolved regions that have elected Mayors, will get the best opportunities
- This is evident in the Government's White Paper



“[Combined authorities with mayors are] the only way to achieve power shift away from Westminster and Whitehall. They are part of our system going forward”

Jim McMahon

Key info



- Devolution for Cheshire & Warrington could mean more decisions made locally, by the people who know our area best—not dictated from Westminster.
- It means local leaders will make key decisions about our area that matter most our residents, communities and businesses.
- We need affordable and convenient transport, good-quality homes in the right places, and a workforce with the skills our businesses need. Devolution could help us to meet these challenges.

Key info



- Cheshire and Warrington’s shared vision is to be the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy in the UK.
- For residents, devolution could mean better transport, more jobs, stronger skills training, thriving town centres and prosperous rural communities —creating a place where everyone benefits.
- For businesses, it could enable growth and investment in our world-leading sectors—life sciences, clean energy, digital, and advanced manufacturing.

Key info



Would there be an elected mayor?

- Our preference is to secure a devolution agreement with an elected Mayor, by May 2026.
- Government has said that the powers and funding that can best support Cheshire and Warrington would come with a Mayor.
- Having a Mayor would mean we could potentially get powers closer to that of the Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- An elected Mayor could also provide clearer lines of accountability and transparency for the public to engage with policy decisions made in their area.

Key info



Would a devolution agreement effectively mean a merger of the three councils?

- The three councils working on striking a devolution agreement are Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, and Warrington.
- Devolution is **not** about councils inheriting any budgets, assets or debts of other councils – councils will retain their current responsibilities
- Devolution is also not a given! Any devolution agreement would be subject to approval from the three councils, before its implemented

Read more info at [cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com](https://www.cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com)

Asset pack



Follow along



You can follow Cheshire and Warrington on social media as we continue to work on securing a devolution agreement for our area.

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)



Or search “Cheshire and Warrington devolution” on both channels

Our devolution website is:

cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com

If you'd like to, you may consider liking, sharing, following etc.

You may equally wish to encourage your networks to do the same



Social media



Some elected members have asked for assets to share on social media.

You may wish to discuss the news of Cheshire and Warrington making the DPP through your own channels. If so, you can download a number of social media assets.

You can download social media assets via the link below or contact your Council's Communications Team for support:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/5c24pe4mhuu9i39cp4067/AAVJwNTCUScRoKWOHrmW5VM?rlkey=0dk0rnqxx1a4kc0xdofagnh zr&st=jry3q9ot&dl=0>