

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 20 January 2016
Report for: Information
Report of: Leader of the Council

Report Title

CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION BILL

Summary

At its meeting on 18 December, the GMCA considered a report which provided an update on progress with the above Bill.

Recommendation(s)

That the report and approach be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Peter Forrester
Extension: 1815

Background Papers: *None*

Background Information

Relationship to Corporate Priorities	Relevant to all priorities
Financial	None arising from this report
Legal Implications	As set out in the report
Equality/Diversity Implications	None
Sustainability Implications	None
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	None
Risk Management Implications	None
Health and Safety Implications	None

1.0 Background

1. At its meeting on 18 December, the GMCA considered a report which provided an update on progress with the above Bill. The Cities and Devolution Bill went through the report stage in the House of Commons on 7 December. The Bill is going back into the House of Lords and it is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent shortly.
2. The Bill as currently drafted is enabling legislation and the detail of the additional powers to be provided to the Elected Mayor and the CA will be set out in Orders confirmed by Parliament through the affirmative process and any subsequent secondary legislation that may be required. The Bill in its current form does therefore meet the requirements of the GM devolution deals.
3. Discussions have taken place with DCLG on the timetable for implementation of the Orders required. The first Order is that to create the GM Mayor role, and to provide for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the PCC for the Greater Manchester police area. It also provides for the election of the Mayor in May 2017 for an initial three year term and removes the requirement for a GM PCC election in May 2016.
4. It is anticipated that the Order will be laid immediately after Royal Assent to meet the timetable required to stop the PCC election. The Order requires the consent of GMCA and the 10 constituent Councils.
5. GMCA will also require the ability to exercise health related functions from April 2016 to enable it to play a full part in health and social care devolution. It is proposed that this will be by way of providing for the CA to have the function that all local authorities have under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to take appropriate steps to improve the health of people who live in their area.
6. Further work is taking place on other additional powers required to implement devolution from April 2016.
7. The totality of powers to be granted to the CA and Elected Mayor will need to be finalised by November 2016. This process will begin in March 2016 and it is envisaged that the orders will then be laid before Parliament in May/June 2016. There will be a combination of Orders as there are a number of devolution deals across the country. It is likely that there will be one Order with general applicability for all CAs and specific bespoke Orders covering those issues which are not generic to all authorities.
8. Detailed work is now commencing on the precise requirements of GMCA in relation to those orders which covers financial functions, including borrowing powers; PCC and Fire authority functions; functions to enable the implementation of the GM Spatial Development Strategy; and Housing and development functions.

9. The GMCA agreed to commend the draft order to GM districts for their consent and agreement to the final version. We are still awaiting a copy of the Order but it is likely that the Council will be asked to

- To consent to the terms of the Order required to establish the role of GMCA elected Mayor and to provide for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the PCC in relation to the Greater Manchester Police area.
- To consent to the terms of orders required to enable GMCA to carry out health related functions from April 2016.

10. The Council have already agreed the approach to the establishment of the GMCA at its meeting on the 10th December 2014. The Council resolved:

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the overall approach to the devolved powers as set out in the body of the report.
- (2) Requests the Leader and the Chief Executive to report to the Executive and future Council Meetings on the specific constitutional and other implications for Trafford Council following the outcome of the GMCA Consultation and in relation to the development of the Governance arrangements and the terms of the Statutory Order.
- (3) Notes the proposal to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to respond formally to the GMCA consultation on devolution in the terms set out in this report; and to finalise on behalf of the Council, the Council's response to the final terms of the Governance arrangements including the terms of the Statutory Order.

11. The Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader will therefore respond to any Orders regarding the establishment of the GMCA and will also report on progress to Council at appropriate times.