

**Report to:** **COUNCIL**

**Date:** 21 January 2016

**Executive Member / Reporting Officer:** Councillor Kieran Quinn, Executive Leader  
Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive

**Subject:** **UPDATE ON CITIES AND DEVOLUTION BILL**

**Report Summary:** This report provides an update on the Cities and Devolution Bill and seeks delegated authority to consent to Orders required to enable progress to be made.

**Recommendations:** The Council is recommended:

- (i) To note the progress of the Bill and the next steps required for implementation;
- (ii) To note the previous delegation granted by Council on the 2.12.2014 to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Executive Leader to consent to the terms of the Order required to establish the role of the GMCA elected Mayor and to provide for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to the Greater Manchester Police area.
- (iii) To delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council the authority to consent to the terms of orders required to enable GMCA to carry out health related functions from April 2016.


**Policy Implications:** In line with legislation


**Financial Implications:** There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.  
**(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)**

**Legal Implications:** These will be set out in the legislation.  
**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

**Risk Management :** These are addressed in the report.

**Access to Information :** The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Robert Landon

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Cities and Devolution Bill went through the report stage in the House of Commons on 7 December 2015. The Bill was further considered by the House of Lords on 12 January and it is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent shortly after. The Bill was discussed extensively at Committee and Report stages in the House of Commons and amended to take in account the Government proposals and respond to amendments made to the Bill in the House of Lords.

## **2.0 CITIES AND DEVOLUTION BILL**

- 2.1 As previously reported to Members the Bill as currently drafted is enabling legislation and the detail of the additional powers to be provided to the Elected Mayor and the Combined Authority (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 Greater Manchester (GM) devolution deals.

## **3.0 NEXT STEPS**

### **First Order**

- 3.1 Discussions have taken place with Department for Communities and Local Government on the timetable for implementation of the Orders required. The first Order is that to create the GM Mayor roles, and to provide for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (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. 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 the Combined Authority and the 10 constituent Councils.

### **Orders required by April 2016**

- 3.2 As Members will be aware under the devolution deals certain powers will be exercisable by the Mayor alone, some Mayoral decisions require the approval of the CA members and other powers will be exercisable by the CA as a body.
- 3.3 GMCA will require the ability to exercise health related function 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 Act 2012 to take appropriate steps to improve the health of people who live in the area. Further work is taking place on other additional powers required to implement devolution from April 2016.

### **Full Implementation**

- 3.4 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 with a 3 month period for drafting, CA engagement and Ministerial approval. 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.
- 3.5 Detailed work has commenced on the precise requirements of the 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.