

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 6 January 2016

Subject: Update on Cities and Devolution Bill

Report of: Liz Treacy, City Solicitor

Summary

To update members on the status of the Cities and Devolution Bill and the next steps to implementation.

Recommendations

1. To note the progress of the Bill and next steps required for implementation
 2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council 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.
 3. 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.
-

Environmental and Climate Change Impacts

Consider, and describe if applicable, how the recommendations in the report will impact on the environment, on carbon reductions goals for the city, and on the Council's climate change strategies.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

Contact Officers:

Name: Liz Treacy
Position: City Solicitor
Telephone: 0161 234 3086
E-mail: l.treacy@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Howard Bernstein
Position: Chief Executive
Telephone: 0161 234 3006
E-mail: h.bernstein@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

1.0 Introduction

The Cities and Devolution Bill went through the report stage in the House of Commons on 7th December. The Bill is going back into the House of Lords on 12th 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 into account Government proposals and respond to amendments made to the Bill in the House of Lords.

2.0 Cities and Devolution Bill

As confirmed in previous reports 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.

3.0 Next steps

3.1 First Order

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.

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.

3.2 Orders required for April 2016

As members are aware under the devolution deals certain powers will be exercisable by the Mayor alone, some Mayoral decisions require the approval of CA members and other powers will be exercisable by the CA as a body.

GMCA will 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.

Further work is taking place on other additional powers required to implement devolution from April 2016.

3.3 Full implementation

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.

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.

Further reports will be brought back to the Executive as this work develops.