**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CA Devolution Deal and what it means for Huntingdonshire Residents and Businesses**

Devolution is the transfer of resources, powers and accountability from central Government to local authorities, in this case the seven Councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – Cambridge City, Cambridgeshire County, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, Peterborough and South Cambridgeshire as well as the [Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership](http://www.gcgp.co.uk) (LEP).

If the devolution deal is agreed a Combined Authority will be established and in May 2017 a Mayor would be elected as its Chair. The Combined Authority would consist of nine members at the outset: the Mayor, the seven council leaders/representatives and a LEP representative.

The Combined Authority will take responsibility from central government for numerous functions, enabling services to be delivered by those closer to their communities who better understand the needs of the area.

The Combined Authority will be responsible for –

* A new additional £20million a year funding allocation over 30 years (totalling £600million) to be invested in order to boost growth – such as road and rail infrastructure projects
* Strategic planning controlling a £100million housing and infrastructure fund, with a commitment to delivering 72,000 new homes across the area over the next 15 years
* Supporting infrastructure development to unlock the housing potential at Wyton and the development of a new Master Plan for St Neots
* Other functions that currently sit with central government relating to public transport, apprenticeships and helping people back into work

Huntingdonshire residents will also benefit from the supported delivery of the Greater Cambridgeshire City deal, as well as the regeneration of Peterborough City Centre.

The Combined Authority will also focus on tackling socio-economic issues in areas of deprivation, such as Huntingdon, to improve the quality of life for local residents.

There will also be a commitment to successfully deliver the Alconbury Weald Enterprise Zone.

The Mayor may be given the power to place a supplement on business rates to fund infrastructure, with the agreement of the local business community through business members of the LEP up to a cap.

The new Combined Authority would not replace any existing councils, or any existing town or parish councils. They will be open and transparent, making the majority of decisions in public and subject to external scrutiny.

The decision on whether Huntingdonshire will sign up to this devolution deal will be based on the feedback we get from our residents. Councillors will then vote on whether to agree to the deal at a special meeting of the Council in October.