



LANCASHIRE

THE TIME IS NOW



Core devolution documents: the Act, our draft Combined County Authority Proposal, and the Lancashire Devolution Deal



Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023

Royal Assent
26th October 2023

LANCASHIRE
COMBINED
COUNTY AUTHORITY

DRAFT PROPOSAL



November 2023

Lancashire Devolution Deal

Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements referred to within this document, including the consent of all councils affected and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this Deal.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

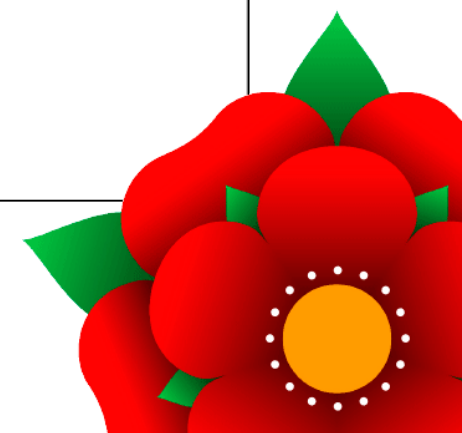
Lancashire
County
Council



Blackpool Council
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR ALL



BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Deal signing event with the Levelling Up Minister on Sunday 26th November 2023

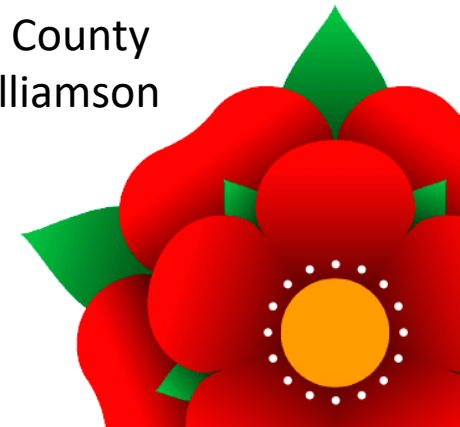


"This transformative deal is set to channel additional resources and authority away from Whitehall, empowering local communities".

Levelling Up Minister, Jacob Young

"The time for this deal is now, and for us to collectively move forward into a new era for our county".

Leader of Lancashire County Council, Phillippa Williamson





Constituent Council Meetings

Lancashire County Council

27 November 2023

- Unanimous agreement to move forward

Blackpool Council

29 November 2023

- Unanimous agreement to move forward



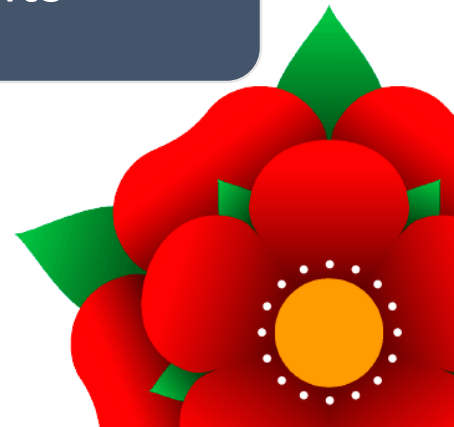
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

30 November 2023

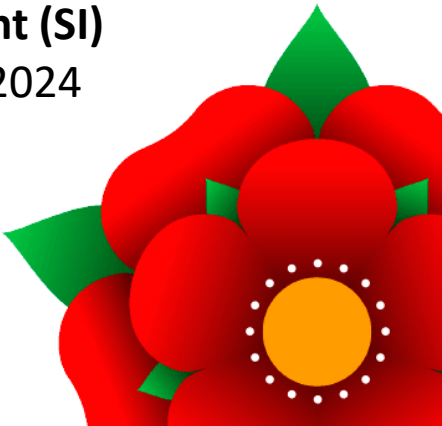
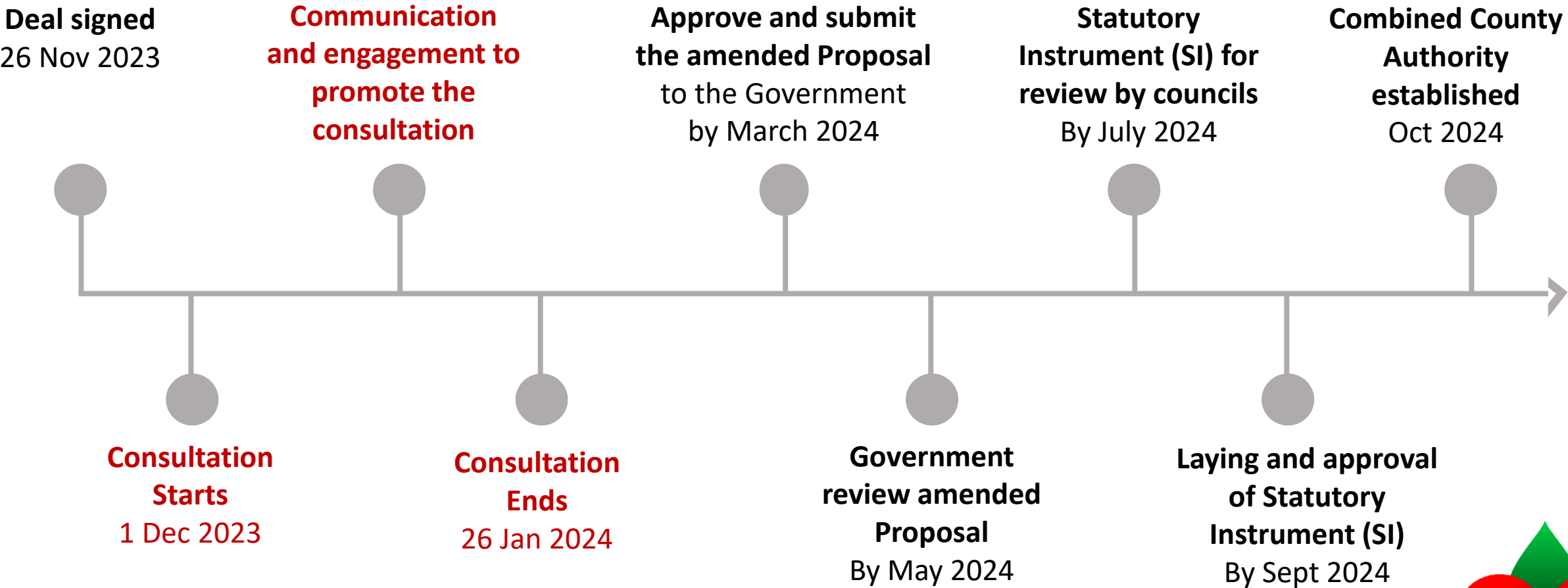
- Unanimous agreement to move forward



Consultation – communication and engagement plan



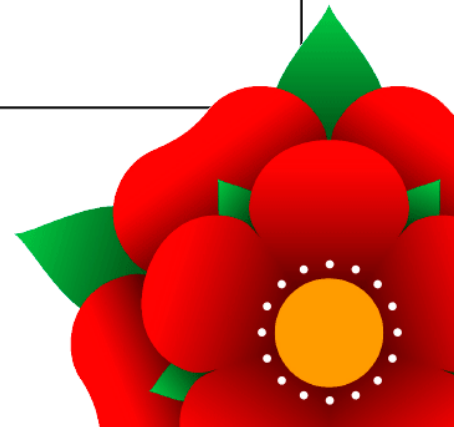
Combined County Authority High-Level Timeline



Key features of Lancashire's devolution proposals

Function	Lancashire CCA Proposed Deal
Giving adults the skills for the labour market	Devolution of Adult Education Budget to meet the needs of the local economy
Strategic role in the delivering services	Pooling services at the Lancashire level, for example delivering action on climate change
Supporting local businesses	Integration of LEP functions and resources into the CCA, ensuring a strategic voice for business in Lancashire
Local control of sustainable transport	Local control of transport functions, policy and funding (building upon existing work)
Investment spending	UK Shared Prosperity Fund strategic planning and delivery

Functions as described under the Government's Devolution Framework for Level 2



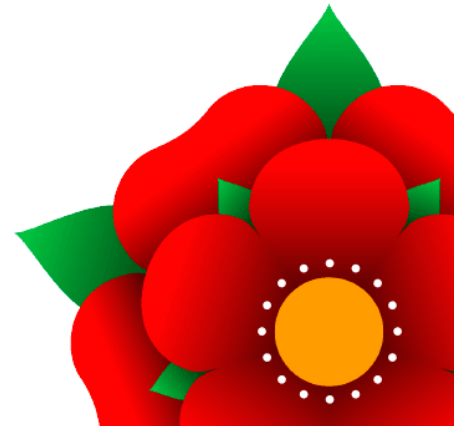
A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a wind turbine against a sunset sky with orange and purple hues. The turbine is dark and silhouetted.

Why this deal is great for Lancashire

It sets aside party politics and focuses on Lancashire's long-term best interests

This deal will help us to:

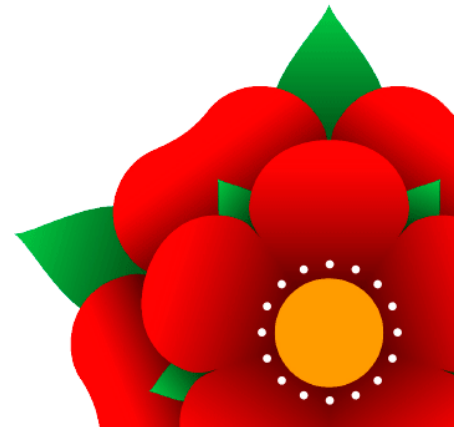
- drive regeneration in our town and cities
- support new jobs in growing industries such as low carbon technologies, cyber security, and energy
- make sure our young people and existing workforce have the right skills to take advantage of these opportunities
- enable greater co-ordination of our collective expertise, priorities, and investment opportunities
- provide a boost to businesses, organisations and people across the region





The proposed Combined County Authority will..

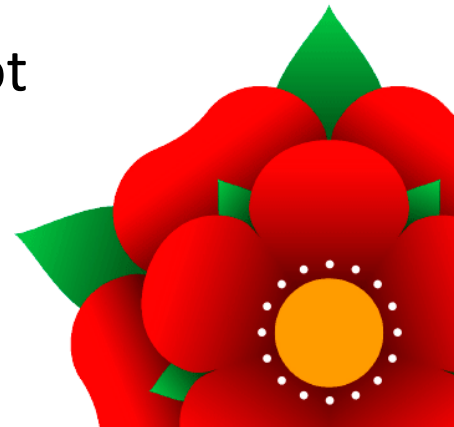
- create a new, democratically led, body to speak with one voice for Lancashire
- include a loud and clear business voice, through a new Business Board and membership of the Combined County Authority
- include a loud voice for districts, both as members of the Combined County Authority and it's Audit and Scrutiny Committees
- have Combined County Authority meetings that are open to the public
- have strong scrutiny and audit of its work





Under the proposed Combined County Authority there will be..

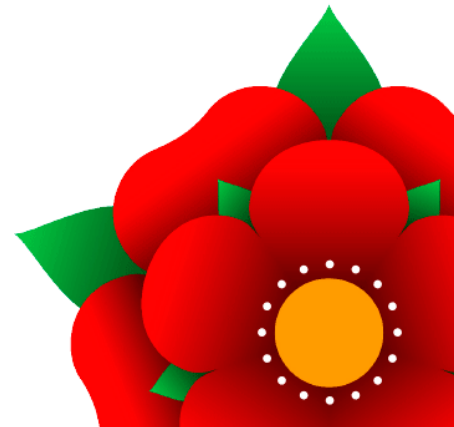
- no new Mayor or new politicians (the proposed CCA draws its membership from elected councillors who are already part of local councils)
- no changes to council boundaries
- no powers will be taken away from district councils (the CCA takes powers from Whitehall - not the other way round)
- no increase for resident's council tax bill (the proposed Combined County Authority will not have the power to add to the council tax precept)





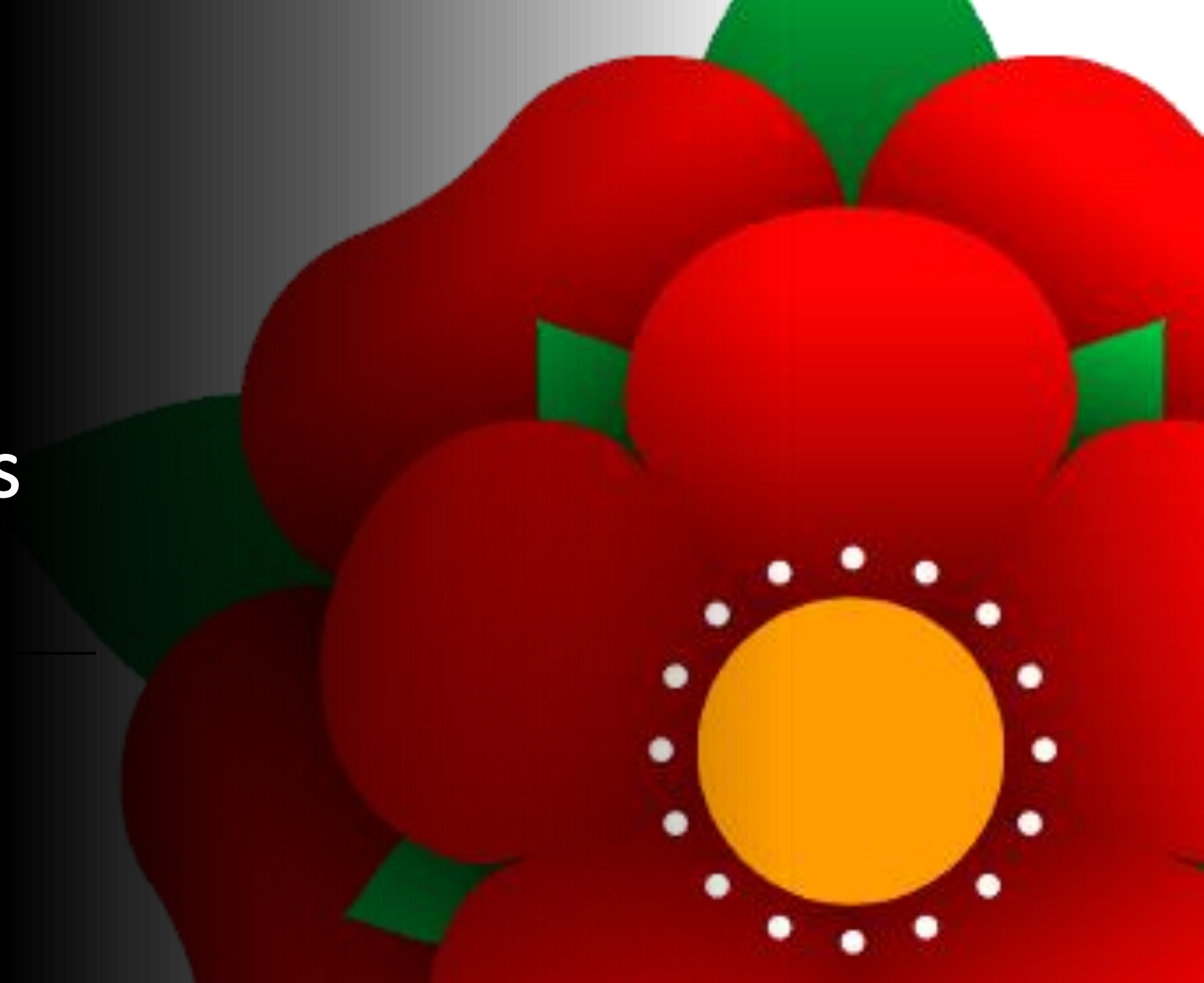
Key takeaways

- the true value of this deal is what it delivers for our residents and businesses
- the deal means more money and decisions made locally
- this first deal is a foundation for future deals
- the time for this deal is now, and for us to collectively move forward into a new era for our county





Main Devolution Work Streams



1. Innovation, Trade and Investment

We will work with local and national stakeholders to become a globally recognised and sustainable economy, distinguished by its quality of life, connectivity and access to opportunities.

We will use the devolution process to **refresh our strategic plans for economic prosperity**. These plans will build upon our competitive advantages, exploit opportunities and **develop new sectors capable of delivering long-term economic growth and creating high-value jobs**. We believe the proposed CCA would enable Lancashire to produce **better strategic cases for investment and gain a greater share of national resources**.

The proposed CCA will **plan and deliver the Lancashire area allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from 2025/26**. In spending this flexible funding pot, the proposed CCA will work closely with district council Leaders in an advisory capacity.

Devolution under the Proposal will **provide £6 million capital investment to create an innovation hub** of international excellence at Samlesbury Enterprise Zone. We believe the new centre will help stimulate the growth of new economic clusters to maximise the county-wide benefits of the £5 billion investment in National Cyber Force to be located in Lancashire.

The Proposal will also provide **£6 million for the Blackburn Technology Innovation Quarter** to create new business space to support the growth of Lancashire's digital, creative and cyber sectors.

Through the Proposal, Government departments will consider the potential for future relocations of Government roles to Lancashire as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

To support the proposed Lancashire CCA in its initial stages of devolution, the Government will provide £1 million of capacity funding.



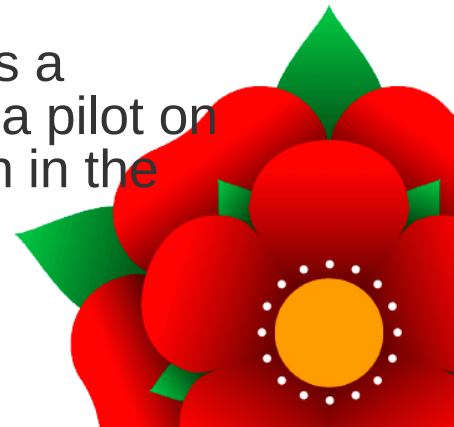
2. Skills

We will work collaboratively with employers, skills and training providers, local authorities and other stakeholders to support people to **develop their skills throughout their lives** and **attract business to Lancashire because of our highly skilled workforce.**

In Lancashire's labour market, the estimated **employment rate** is below the national rate and has worsened since the pandemic. Lancashire's work force is also characterised by a lower proportion of residents with higher level qualifications.

The Proposal includes new powers to better shape local skills provisions to ensure these meet the needs of the local economy. This will include devolution of **adult education, the core Adult Education Budget**, and the opportunity to further refine the Local Skills Improvement Plan. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.

A strong, resilient and inclusive economy brings health benefits to its residents. As a combined authority, we believe Lancashire will be better placed to bid to become a pilot on national programmes that **support individuals with health conditions** to remain in the workplace.



3. Transport

We will work with transport providers inside and outside Lancashire to create better connected infrastructure that links opportunity to need and delivers travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon.

The Proposal will build on a successful track record of major transport investment, and **a new Local Transport Plan** will set the direction and priorities for highways and transport investment. This plan will work across the county to secure the benefits of connectivity to widen transport choices and support low carbon travel opportunities. Lancashire has significant plans for road, bus and rail schemes, and active travel projects that it is seeking to fund through devolution.

The Proposal includes **new powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to develop the bus service improvement plan (BSIP) partnership and strengthen coordination of local transport functions.**

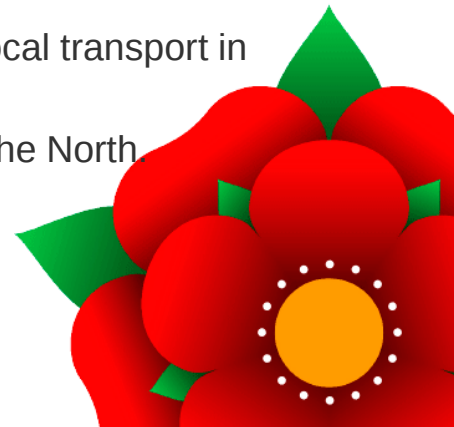
Blackpool Transport Services (BTS) will continue to operate tram services in Blackpool and the surrounding area and Blackpool Council will retain the relevant powers to manage BTS. Maintenance of tram infrastructure and assets will continue to be the responsibility of Blackpool Council in partnership with Lancashire County Council. BTS also provides vital bus services to Blackpool and the surrounding area. BTS will continue to deliver bus services locally.

The Proposal includes plans to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure to increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions.

As set out in a recent Network North announcement:

- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £2.5 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North outside of the big city regions.
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £770 million of funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North.
- The proposed CCA will receive a proportion of the £3.3 billion funding to fix potholes in the North.

We believe devolution will support Lancashire's objective of maintaining a safe and reliable transport network.



4. Net Zero and Climate Change

We will work across Lancashire to meet our low carbon ambitions, promote clean energy, and enhance our natural environment. Our ambition is that Lancashire becomes **internationally recognised as a leader in the creation of 'green jobs'**, building upon our world class engineering and manufacturing capabilities.

Lancashire's energy and low carbon sector is particularly important due to its capabilities in **designing and manufacturing low carbon technologies**. The area is forecast to have the highest number of jobs per capita in the energy and low carbon sector in England between 2030 and 2050. Through the Proposal, if adopted, the Government will work with the proposed CCA to enable the continued growth of this sector by supporting the delivery of Lancashire's energy and low carbon sector plans.

Devolution would provide £2 million additional investment to extend eligibility criteria for the 'Cosy Homes in Lancashire' **domestic retrofit scheme**. We believe this investment will support a reduction in carbon emissions, better quality housing and improved health outcomes.



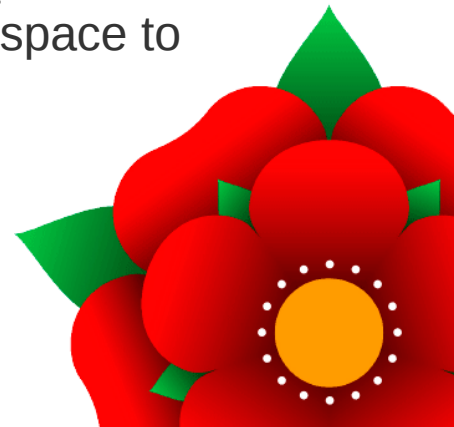
5. Digital and Cyber

We will work across Lancashire to continue to transform our digital infrastructure and knowledge-based sectors to balance and modernise our industrial base.

Lancashire has continued the development of the **Lancashire Infrastructure Plan and supported rollout of Openreach and gigabit programmes**, including establishing **Superfast Atlantic connection with the North Atlantic Loop at Blackpool Enterprise Zone**. This increased digital connectivity provides competitive advantages to attract more cutting-edge, technology-based industries.

Locating the **National Cyber Force in Lancashire** will attract significant investment and create over 2,000 new jobs. The proposed Lancashire CCA will work with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, to fully capture the investment, business, research and skills benefits of this new location. These activities will create opportunities and new careers for residents, develop markets and technologies of local businesses and help to establish a North West Cyber Corridor.

Devolution under the Proposal would provide £6 million investment for a Low Carbon Data Demonstrator Centre at Blackpool Enterprise Zone. The project will provide new business space to support Lancashire's low carbon and digital innovation ambitions.



6. Culture and Tourism

We recognise the fundamental importance of our culture and tourism assets and will work with stakeholders across Lancashire to strengthen these. This work includes the **creation of a Local Visitor Economy Partnership** for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy.

Lancashire's rich heritage and culture has an important role in the area's plans to attract and retain skilled workers, and in contributing to 'pride in place' in the region. Tourism and the visitor economy are crucial industries for Lancashire, with the area amongst the UK's most prolific visitor destinations every year. **Blackpool is the nation's No1 seaside resort**, with some 20 million visits per year, and represents a £1.5 billion visitor economy.

If the Proposal is adopted, Lancashire CCA could work with the government to hold a series of exploratory conversations to test the region's appetite and capacity for partnership working across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy.

Under the Proposal, VisitEngland and the Lancashire CCA would work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership to help further develop the region's visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Lancashire's Tourism Development Strategy, could include harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, and encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season.



7. Housing and Land

We will support the delivery of decent, affordable, and low carbon housing for every community. High quality housing will benefit existing residents, as well as attract and retain the people required to drive the economy over the long term.

The proposal would give Lancashire the ability to exercise compulsory purchase powers (subject to the agreement of the Local Authority where the land is located) to help drive regeneration and build more **affordable homes**, boosting supply and bringing down the cost of newly built dwellings.

The Proposal supports our ambition **to deliver a pipeline of strategic development sites and infrastructure opportunities faster and more strategically than would otherwise be the case.**



8. Delivering our ambitions

We will implement streamlined management and decision-making arrangements with a strong business voice to address the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.

In order that powers and funding are available, suitable management and decision-making arrangements must be put in place. These arrangements provide the Government with assurance that funding will be spent appropriately, and statutory functions will be delivered effectively and efficiently.

We believe that this priority will allow the creation of a powerful CCA with strong leadership and effective governance to drive growth in Lancashire and across the north of England.

To achieve this, our proposals include **the integration of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership with wider structures and the formation of a new Business Board**. This change will help ensure there continues to be a strong and independent local business voice that informs local decision-making and strategic economic planning. The model places a strengthened private sector voice at the heart of growth strategy development.

The governance model proposed would build upon existing structures and recognises the significant role for the 12 district councils (who would be able to nominate two representatives to the proposed CCA, potentially through the Lancashire District Council Leaders Forum). Our proposals also include new delivery arrangements for transport and skills to enable partners to collaborate more effectively and focus on the big opportunities and challenges for Lancashire.



Next Steps

Please complete the consultation and share with your own networks.

Visit www.lancashiredevolution.co.uk
or scan the QR code

