

## COUNCIL MOTION ON DEVOLUTION

In the light of the outcome of the Scottish Referendum, this Council believes that the case for devolution to local authorities in England is unassailable.

In the interest of securing better and more efficient outcomes for our people, it calls on the Government, in parallel with and taking account of negotiations with Scotland, to agree with local government leaders a new devolutionary deal for England including the following components:

### 1. Fiscal Devolution

The cross-party House of Commons Communities & Local Government Select Committee on Fiscal Devolution [Devolution in England: the Case for Local Government: [9 July](#) 2014], makes a compelling case for devolution of range of additional taxes and a process for enabling this to happen.

“With a clear national commitment to the principle of fiscal devolution local authorities working with central government would be able to produce more detail on how such devolution might work in their areas. The Government is rightly concerned about deficit reduction and whether fiscal devolution will have a detrimental effect on the rest of the UK. However, the Government must plan beyond the next few years and the present financial constraints. A common agreement to the principle, combined with a measured approach arranged between local and central Government, including initial devolution to a small number of areas, should allay those concerns.”

### 2. Devolution of Responsibility & Resource

#### i) Housing & Regeneration

HCA responsibilities and resources should be devolved to Local Authorities. This approach would enable councils to deliver coherently on their ambitions and enable Scarborough Borough Council to deliver on its ambitions to deliver 10,000 new homes and 8,000 new jobs plus 4,000 to 4,500 in the construction industry.

#### ii) Work Programme

As demonstrated by performance within the local Jobs Match and apprentice schemes, provision of an UTC and engagement to bring a new university to the Borough of Scarborough this Council has demonstrated it has the local knowledge necessary to deliver better outcomes in relation to employment and education. When current Work Programme contracts come to an end, Local authorities should be invited to deliver the Programme in their areas, using resource flexibly to meet local needs.

Alongside this devolution, there should be “payment by results” negotiations between local authorities and central Government to ensure that the benefits of smaller welfare bills are more equitably shared. This should encompass reductions in relation to in-work benefits as local authorities begin to deliver not only more jobs, but better jobs too.

### iii) Multi-annual Place Budgets

The Local Growth Fund represents a step forward in terms of certainty for local areas in terms of Government resources for investment growth through the next Spending Review period. This needs to be built upon and multi-annual budgets for places delivered as part of a reformed approach to Local Government finance. Certainty about finance across a Spending Review period would allow places to plan more efficiently and deliver better outcomes.

### 3. Re-balancing Infrastructure Investment

Planned investment in London's infrastructure (£36 billion – National Infrastructure Plan 2013) dwarfs that in England's city and other regions. If the growth potential of the north is to be realised, there needs to be a renewed focus on delivering the modern infrastructure we need. In order to support this and as a start, the Government should commit now to building HS2 from Leeds City Region and Manchester at the same time that building from the south begins. It should furthermore commit to investing in the master-planning of HS3 (Liverpool- Leeds City Region) with a view to bringing forward necessary legislation as soon as possible. In supporting the principle to re-balancing infrastructure investment that re-balance has to include investment in local authority areas outside but connected to those areas.

The Council mandates the Leader and Chief Executive to work with colleagues in Yorkshire and the Humber to negotiate with central Government to deliver a meaningful devolutionary deal for the Borough of Scarborough and the wider region for the benefit of its residents and businesses.

Proposer:- Cllr Tom Fox



Seconder:- Cllr Derek Bastiman



12th October 2014