



# COMMUNITY LEADERS EVENT

March 2025

RESILIENT > ADAPTABLE > PARTICIPATIVE

# 1. ICEBREAKER!

# SESSION FLOW



<b>11.00-11.10</b>	<b>Check in and icebreaker</b>
<b>11.10-11.15</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>11.15-11.25</b>	<b>Devolution update Catherine / Cllrs Cox and Gardner</b>
<b>11.25-12.05</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>12.05 - 12.10</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>12.10-12.20</b>	<b>Shaping the future of our places - Catherine</b>
<b>12.20-12.55</b>	<b>Roundtable discussions - hopes and opportunities</b>
<b>12.55-1.00</b>	<b>Next steps</b>

## 2. DEVOLUTION

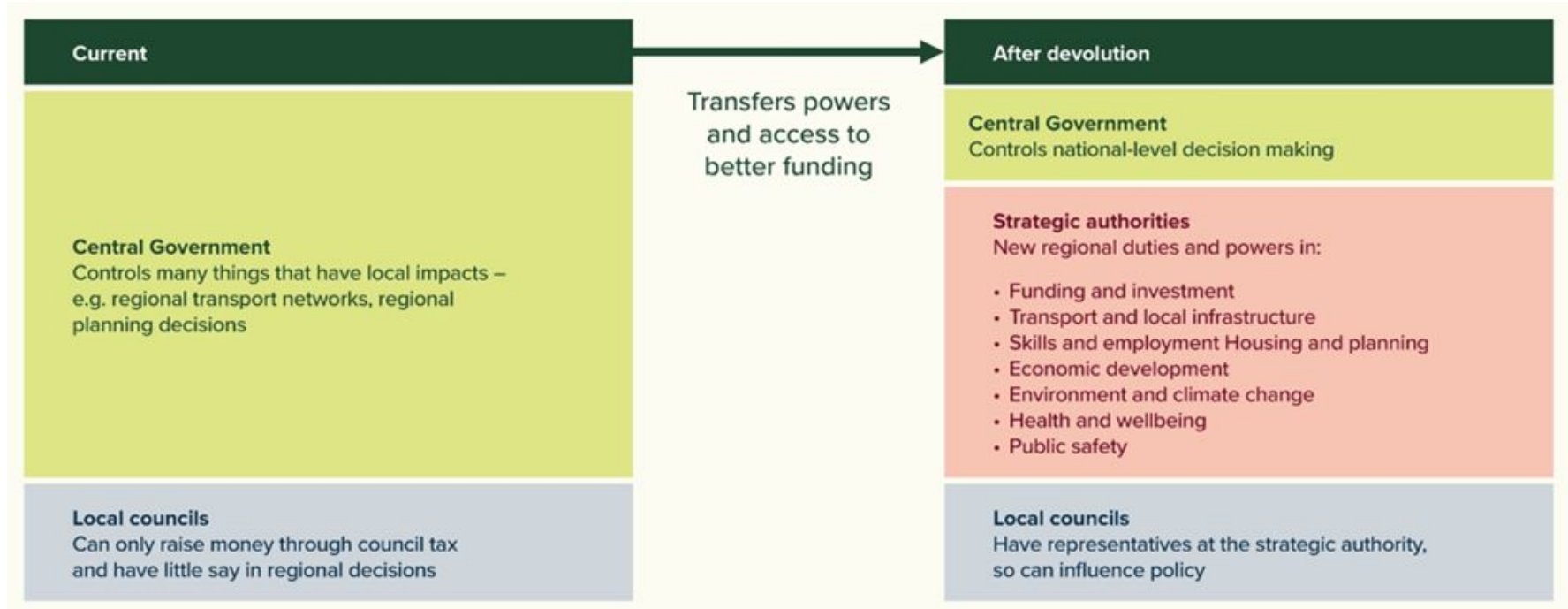
**Overview of Government plans and what it means for our area**

# GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION PLANS

- A government plan to **give more powers and funding to local areas.**
- The intended benefits are to **strengthen local economies** through devolved powers and **improve public services.**
- The government is serious about this and its **timescales to deliver** are ambitious!



# WHAT IS DEVOLUTION?



# IMAGINE WHAT WE COULD DO...

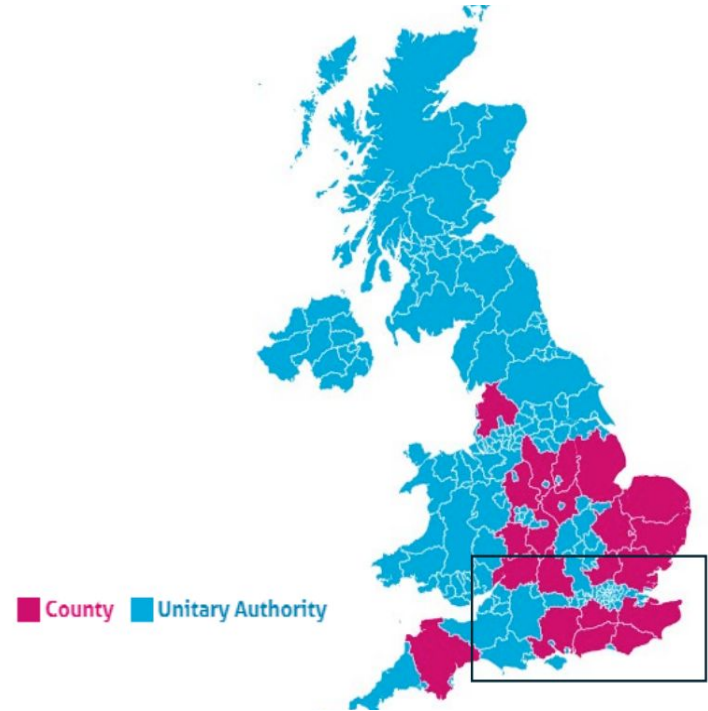
**With greater powers and money from government on:**

- Funding and investment
- Transport like buses
- Skills and employment
- Housing and planning
- Economic development
- Environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Public safety



# WHAT IS REORGANISATION?

- Unitary authorities broadly cover all the services that county & district councils have
- Most of the country has unitary authorities already
- Reorganisation involves combining services across counties & districts





## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SUSSEX THE REGION?



**The government has identified Sussex & Brighton as a priority area for devolution**



**Joint devolution & reorganisation plan for Sussex & Brighton by end of September**



**Elections for Sussex Mayor and new regional authority in 2026 and elections for unitaries in 2027**

# DEVO TABLE

March 21st	Outline plans to government - just a progress report
Mid April	End date for devo consultation
September	Business case on new unitary to government
Jan-April 2026	Government decision on business case
May 2026	first mayoral elections
May 2027	New unitary elections
May 2028	New council 'live'

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ADUR AND WORTHING?



**Devolution will bring greater powers and potentially funding closer to our region on issues that matter**



**Reorganisation will mean people go to a single council for its services rather than both county & district**



**Adur and Worthing together aren't big enough to be our own unitary, we will need to merge with others**

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ADUR AND WORTHING?



Cllr Sophie Cox  
Leader of Worthing Borough  
Council



Cllr Jeremy Gardner  
Leader of Adur District Council



Q+A USING SLIDO? / POST-ITS

# Shaping the future of our places across Adur and Worthing

# 3. BREAK

# 4. THRIVING TOGETHER

Shaping the future of our places across  
Adur and Worthing



# WHAT ARE WE DOING?



**Devolution is an opportunity for us to shape the future of our places across Adur and Worthing**



**We want to shape the future visions of our places with you - our local organisations - and our communities**



**We want to have a conversation with you about how we do this to make sure it works for everyone**

# OUR PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY



Spring-Summer

September

Call out on the  
future of our  
places

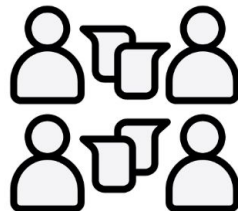
Engagement  
across our local  
areas

People can  
shape &  
deliberate on  
key themes

Future visions  
for our places  
shaped by our  
communities

Council  
debate on  
the future  
visions

Detailed  
devolution  
plan



Online & face to face process

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# WHAT WILL THE OUTCOMES OF THE ENGAGEMENT LEAD TO?



**Showcase the unique identities and potential of our local areas & neighbourhoods**



**Shape a strong set of future visions for Adur and Worthing**



**Work together on practical opportunities that emerge**



**Honour the legacy of Adur and Worthing as local areas**

# ROUNDTABLE ONE - DEVOLUTION (15 M)



- **What's the biggest opportunity and your greatest hope?**
- **What is the most difficult trade-off?**
- **How do we hold the conversation with our communities?**

# ROUNDTABLE

**Working together to make this happen**

# 5. NEXT STEPS