



Press Notice

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Government formalises Bristol and West of England city deal

The Government's plans to transform the powers and levers available to local leaders to deliver growth and jobs in their communities were confirmed today with the signature of agreements between the Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, and the leaders of Bristol and the West of England.

The deal is expected to deliver an additional 40,000 jobs and over £1 billion of investment to support local growth over the next 30 years thanks to new financial powers.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, said:

"Today Bristol signs a deal to hand chunks of power over from Whitehall control - a dramatic power shift that will mean everyone in Bristol will feel the benefits.

"It is my top priority to rebalance our economy so that Bristol gets a fair crack of the whip. So that it's not just the Whitehall that controls the country's purse strings. To ensure cities like Bristol can continue and thrive as a great economic powerhouse."

Greg Clark said:

"This is a great deal for Bristol. The Government is committed to unlocking the full growth potential of our cities. We want powerful, innovative cities that are able to shape their economic destinies, boost entire regions and get the national economy growing.

"This deal provides a suite of new freedoms, powers and tools to help Bristol and West of England embark on new and innovate ways to drive local economic growth. "

Notes for Editors

1. On July 5 2012, the Government announced a series of historic city deals with our largest cities (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield).
2. Today's event saw the Core Cities invited to Downing Street. They were congratulated on their efforts and signed wave 1 deals with the Government agreeing its joint commitment to the full implementation of the city deals.
3. Each deal is bespoke and reflects the different needs of individual places but every deal aims to:
 - Give cities the powers and tools they need to drive local economic growth;
 - Unlock projects or initiatives that will boost their economies; and
 - Deliver a step change in the governance arrangements.
4. Bristol City expects the deal to deliver an additional 40,000 jobs and over £1 billion of investment to support local growth over the next 30 years thanks to new financial powers.
5. The deal for Bristol comprises of five parts and will be delivered by government in return for strong local leadership and strengthened governance structures. These are:
 - The growth incentive and the economic investment fund, which will allow West of England to keep 100 per cent of growth in business rates in their 5 Enterprise Areas over 25 years to invest in projects, allowing authorities to deliver an investment programme worth £1 billion over 30 years.
 - Ten years of major funding allocation for the Greater Bristol Metro; flexible delivery for the Bus Rapid Transit Network which will allow savings to be recycled locally; and new powers over rail planning and delivery.
 - A Public Property Board will manage up to £1 billion of City Council assets and an estimated 180 land and property assets to unlock more land for economic growth or housing and to lever in additional public or private investment.
 - A city growth hub which will provide additional support to inward investors. This will be based in the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone and will work closely with UK Trade and Investment.

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- The business community and local enterprise partnership will have more influence in skills provision in the city region, in particular the £114 million Skills Funding Agency funding for FE colleges, to help capture employer demand.

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