

Mayor and Cabinet			
Report title	Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Devolution		
Contributors	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	11 November 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arising from discussions held on devolution at its meeting on 26 October 2015.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is requested to respond to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section three of this referral.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views

- 3.1 On 26 October 2015, the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report entitled *Devolution* and a presentation on the same topic by the Chief Executive.

- 3.2 The Committee resolved to advise the Mayor and Cabinet of the following:

1. In February 2015 the Council agreed a motion expressing its support for the Core Cities' Modern Charter for Local Freedom¹; and agreed to campaign for further devolution and greater localism and a fairer distribution of resources based on the restoration of needs-based central funding². However, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to be reassured that this is not used as a mechanism to implement more HM Treasury top sliced cuts. It would also like to endorse the recommendation of the Public Spending Working Group that:

If proposals for devolution in London are accepted by the Government, the Mayor and Executive Members should share their proposals with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible to facilitate constructive scrutiny and the most effective constitutional arrangements

...to ensure we have transparency and accountability in any arrangements.

2. It also endorses the recommendation of the Public Spending Working Group that:

The formal partnership arrangements between the Mayor, Executive Members and Officers should be reviewed to ensure that they are robust enough to recognise the potential conflicts and solutions required to address the scale of

¹ See: <http://www.corecities.com/what-we-do/publications/modern-charter-local-freedom>

² See:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s33998/Motion%203%20Proposed%20by%20the%20Mayor%20Seconded%20by%20Councillor%20Hall.pdf>

the challenges this review [the Public Spending in Lewisham Review] has identified.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

6. Further Implications

6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider.

Background papers

[Devolution](#) – report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 26 October 2015

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Charlotte Dale, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (0208 3149534)