

# Devolution in Yorkshire

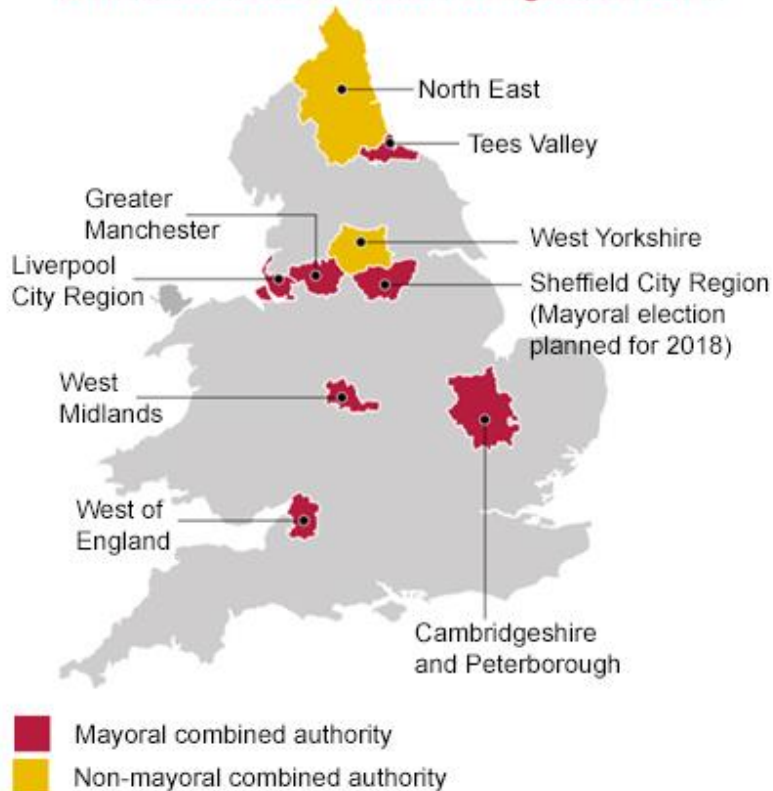
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Director for Cities



# English devolution: progress to date

## Combined authorities in England, 2017



- [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#) (@CambsPboroCA)
- [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#) (@Greatermcr)
- [Liverpool City Region](#) (@LivCityRegion)
- [Tees Valley Combined Authority](#) (@TeesValleyCA)
- [West Midlands Combined Authority](#) (@WestMids\_CA)
- [West of England](#) (@WestofEnglandCA)
- [Sheffield City Region](#) (@SheffCityRegion)



# English devolution: progress to date

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Eight created to date including London

All three year terms from 2017-2020 except the Mayor for Sheffield City Region has agreed a two year term

The eight combined authorities encompass 50% of the population

Increased emphasis in the revised NPPF on strategic planning, e.g. para. 25

Benefits: ability to plan on a larger than local scale

Government remains committed to further devolution



# Combined authorities formed but yet to elect a mayor:

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**North of the Tyne Combined Authority** ([@NorthEastCA](#)) – elections scheduled for May 2019

The North of the Tyne Combined Authority has is negotiating a devolution deal with government. In terms of housing it has been agreed that the total number of new homes to be provided will remain the same as outlined in each council's individual plan but the rate of delivery will increase from 1,800 to 3,000 per year up to 2032. The Combined Authority is made up of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland

**West Yorkshire Combined Authority** ([@WestYorkshireCA](#))

No plans for an election of a mayor yet.

Established in 2014. Members are Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Calderdale and Kirklees Councils. York City Council is an associate member (why do we think that is?). The areas of Harrogate, Craven and Selby district councils fall into the 'Leeds City Region' area covered by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), but they are not members of the combined authority.



# Why hasn't West Yorkshire elected a mayor?

2015 - West Yorkshire sought devolution deal covering a wider area including Harrogate, Selby and Craven.

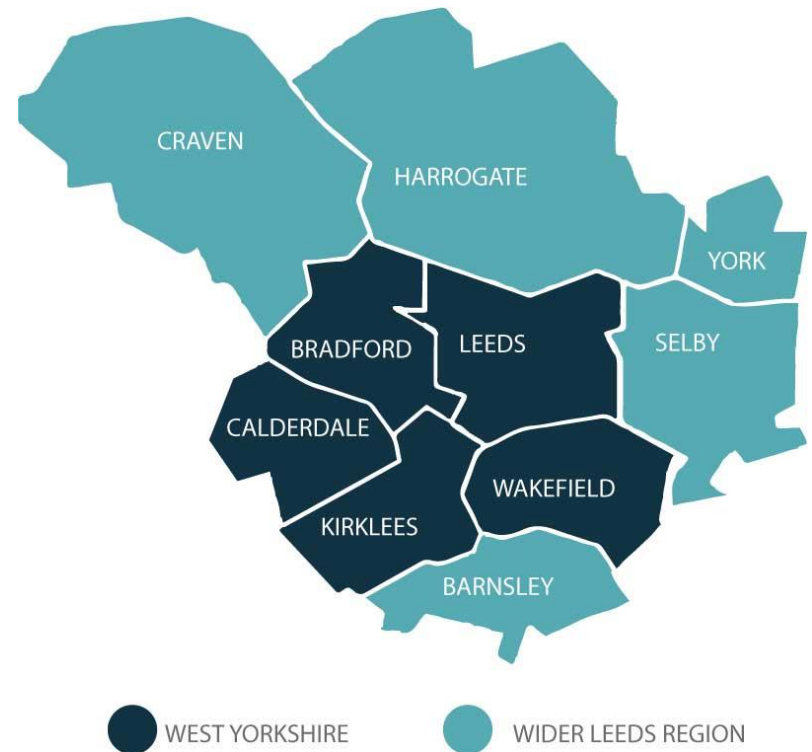
Opposed by North Yorkshire County Council – feared loss of powers from the county council to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Conservative MPs wary of the prospect of a Labour Mayor with a metropolitan power-base wielding power?

Limited devolution deal agreed in 2015.

Confusingly AKA the Leeds City Region

Progress stalled owing to support for the One Yorkshire proposal.



# Sheffield City Region

Dan Jarvis – elected Mayor in May 2018

Remains MP for Barnsley Central

Politics are fragile owing to Barnsley and Doncaster favouring the One Yorkshire proposal.



Bassetlaw, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire are associate members. Bassetlaw and Chesterfield were going to be full members but was challenged in the courts by Derbyshire County Council. This caused the Mayoral election to be delayed by a year).



# Sheffield City Region

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Full powers have not yet been transferred to the Combined Authority - requires consensus of all four authorities - but Barnsley and Doncaster now back the One Yorkshire proposal. Local referenda in the two authorities in Dec 2017 strongly support this.

This means that although elected, the SCR Mayor in practice is unable to exercise most of the powers that were to be provided via the Devolution Deals.

Government does not support the One Yorkshire proposal at the moment. Has said that a One Yorkshire proposal will only be considered once the Sheffield City Region is consented.



# Sheffield City Region

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## Housing Objectives:

**Aim: 70,000 homes between 2014 and 2024 – 7,000 per year (SCR SEP)**

But 7,000 pa target has not been achieved in any one year yet:

| 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | Average |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 3,810   | 4,042   | 4,752   | 4,201   |

Sheffield City Council wants to meet with HBF and members to discuss ways to improve delivery.

SCR Pilot Housing Fund was launched in September 2017 – provides £8.1m to accelerate and enable the delivery.





# West Yorkshire Combined Authority

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No devolution deal as such, but has secured a Local Growth Deal based on the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan

Provides for £1 billion-plus in investment through the Local Growth Deal, agreed by Government in July 2014.

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The Growth Deal aims to accelerate economic growth across the entire City Region by improving local transport links, accelerating housing growth and town centre regeneration, developing a skilled and flexible workforce, supporting growing businesses and building a resource-efficient City Region.

**Judith Blake: Leader of Leeds City Council but de facto figurehead for the Combined Authority**



# One Yorkshire?

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18 out of 20 Yorkshire Councils have agreed that they should be free to join a new Yorkshire CA in order to enable the people of Yorkshire to elect a Mayor by 2020

One Yorkshire proposal is not supported by Sheffield and Rotherham

Dan Jarvis backs One Yorkshire



# One Yorkshire? The Government's view

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Viewed unfavourably by the Government (for the moment?)

Jake Berry, Minister for Devolution and the Northern Powerhouse:

*"consent by the 20 councils for such an approach is very unlikely. Nor do I believe that a deal and governance across the whole of Yorkshire, given its scale and diversity, would in practice deliver the benefits that the proponents of such a deal seek".*

James Brokenshire, Secretary of state for Housing, Communities and Local Government:

*"Until the Sheffield City Region deal is fully implemented, the Government is not prepared to enter into any discussion about wider devolution arrangements that would include some or all of the SCR (Sheffield City Region) authorities".*



# One Yorkshire? A revised bid

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A **revised devolution bid** made by the 18 authorities to Government in September 2018

*“The aim of the proposal is to secure a deal for the widest possible Yorkshire geography by 2020...”*

The creation of a Yorkshire Combined Authority will require dissolving both existing combined authorities. It is proposed that a Yorkshire Shadow Combined Authority would by May 2019 receive interim funding and responsibilities.

No intention to take existing powers from local authorities, including transport powers, without agreement and the agreement will protect the integrity of local authorities in Yorkshire. ***Comment: Not especially encouraging: a somewhat pusillanimous aspect to the bid.***



# One Yorkshire? Good or bad for housebuilding?

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## Questions:

Would devolution to all of Yorkshire prove an effective vehicle for housing delivery?  
Or would constituent authorities guard jealously their plan-making and decision making powers?

Will the more Conservative northern and shire authorities yield power to a Mayor will a largely Labour voting metropolitan base?

Too big an area for effective planning?

Would a single Yorkshire authority be better for transport planning?

What's the industry's view?

