

Heart of the South West

Update on the Devolution Prospectus

The prospectus, [available here](#) covers a whole range of topics that aim to generate higher productivity and better-paid jobs, including improved road, rail and broadband links and more homes for the region's growing population.

There are radical proposals to integrate health and social care to allow the ageing population to be better looked after, tailored support for growing businesses and the creation of a centre of excellence for skills development. The prospectus proposes that more powers and finance are devolved to us so we can close the productivity gap and allow local people to benefit from a thriving economy.

Currently productivity in the South West is running at less than 80 per cent of the national average. The prospectus offers Government significant improvement if local councils have greater freedom to act. By 2030 devolution could help us deliver significant benefits including:

- 163,000 new jobs
- 179,000 more homes
- Higher wage levels which are above the national average
- Apprenticeship starts up by 400 per cent
- Every young person in education, employment or training
- A better qualified workforce
- Faster, more rail services with greater capacity
- Faster road journeys with less congestion
- 100 per cent superfast broadband coverage
- A UK centre of excellence for skills development

The prospectus also highlights the area's transformational opportunities in nuclear cluster development, the marine sector, environmental futures, rural productivity, tourism, aerospace and advanced engineering.