

Overview of the 3SC devolution priority focus areas

Housing and planning

What are we trying to achieve for 3SC area?

- Accelerate delivery and increase numbers including tackling blocked sites
- Provide the range of housing that meets the needs of the area including different tenures and levels of affordability
- Ensure development is supported by necessary infrastructure
- Make best use of available public brown field land for housing and employment sites
- Diversify the number and nature of housing providers and developers

What more could we do?

- Collaborate to share resources and expertise among Local Planning Authorities
- Develop the range of delivery vehicles
- Do more to bring empty homes back into use
- Deepen joint work on land and property with Government agencies

How could devolution help?

- Single pot for forward funding infrastructure including some business rate growth
- Pooling and master planning all public sector land releases
- Streamlining the planning system to speed up brown field development
- Ability to flex the permitted development regime to support a balance between housing and employment space

What governance arrangements are needed?

- Housing Delivery Board to prioritise and oversee site development

What will we have achieved in five years?

- Accelerated housing delivery and unblocked stalled sites
- Developed planning and investment frameworks that reflect 3SC Infrastructure Strategy
- Significantly enhanced collective 3SC capacity and capability

Infrastructure

What are we trying to achieve for 3SC area?

- Proactive planning for the 3SC area to promote growth and unlock housing and commercial development
- Support the economic vitality of the area whilst respecting constraints
- Develop a long-term approach to address impact of London's growth
- Secure full engagement of national support and investment
- Exploit the full potential for enhanced connectivity, particularly digital

What more could we do?

- Complete the infrastructure studies underway across the area
- Collaborate on planning and investment frameworks to support Local Plans
- Collaborate on the use of financial and fiscal resources to support infrastructure

How could devolution help?

- Additional investment from business rates, other fiscal mechanisms and private investment for forward funding

- Long term strategy reflected in national investment programmes
- Targeted national policy flexibilities/changes including local commissioning and funds (eg. broadband)

What governance arrangements are needed?

- Collective, binding decision making on strategic priorities and investment and on commitments to national agencies

What will we have achieved in five years?

- 3SC infrastructure strategy reflected in national investment programmes including Highways England and Network Rail/Department for Transport
- Undertaken priority local improvements to unlock sites

Transport

What are we trying to achieve?

- Supporting growth within the 3SC and the wider South East
- Improving linkage between growth and transport infrastructure and transport services
- Enhancing capacity on key transport links (A21, A27, SWML, BML etc)
- Integration of local networks and strategic networks
- Addressing poor connectivity for some places
- Supporting residents to access work opportunities

What more could we do?

- Work better with national agencies within existing arrangements
- Agree the most significant improvements that are needed
- Make better cases for investment

How could devolution help?

- Bigger voice and larger envelope of resources from fiscal devolution which can also leverage private investment
- Plan at scale for investment in priorities (using “regional” transport planning arrangements) including wider and deeper collaboration with national agencies (eg. helping to fill some of the gaps in the electrified rail network)
- Work at scale across 3SC to agree quality bus partnerships and influence rail franchises

What governance arrangements are needed?

- Binding collective decision making to prioritise investment, collaborate on use of resources and negotiate with bus and train operators

What will we have achieved in five years?

- 3SC priorities included in national investment programmes
- Investment using new resources in local pinch points and improvements to facilitate improved services
- Quality bus partnership in place and market responding to develop service improvements eg. ticketing

Skills

What are we trying to achieve?

- Increase Gross Value Added per head in the 3SC area

- Meet business demand for skills and close skills gaps particularly in high growth sectors and high employment sectors
- Secure more opportunities for 3SC residents (particularly in areas with low demand)
- An integrated skills and employment package with a single pot and local or joint commissioning of services
- Influence and build on Area Reviews to support provider base

What more could we do?

- Encourage more employer involvement in schools
- Provide some additional pathways using national programmes
- Support colleges and other providers, particularly capital
- Integrate skills and employment into growth plans
- Collaborate, including with LEPs and through local employment and skills boards, to influence focus for funding

How could devolution help?

- In schools: incentivise more employer involvement including apprenticeships; address fragmentation of careers advice; provide some additional vocational pathways; secure some shift from academic achievement to employability
- In Colleges (16-19): incentivise employer involvement to make system more responsive; reduce risk to providers through fiscal mechanisms
- Address low demand: access and connectivity; business support on workforce
- Existing workforce – up skilling through more suitable locally driven provision and more influence over Department for Work and Pensions programmes
- Employment training for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)/vulnerable adults to enhance employment and reduce costs to public sector

What governance arrangements are needed?

- Employment and Skills Board to commission and to focus employer involvement in shaping the system

What will we have achieved in five years?

- Reduction in hard to fill vacancies
- Increase in take up of business-led training in our priority sectors
- Increase in numbers going through vocational pathways
- Increased numbers of those with SEND in employment