

NEWS Release from East Midlands Councils
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DEVOLUTION AND THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EAST MIDLANDS PUSHES FOR MORE POWER

At a region-wide summit of councils being held on 'Devolution and the Future of Local Government and Public Services' in Leicester on 21st November 2014 [details [here](#)], council leaders in the East Midlands will be demanding 'far reaching, radical reforms' and a fundamental transfer of powers from Whitehall to the local level.

Council leaders will be launching a cross-party report – 'A Prospectus for Devolution', a blueprint for the transfer of powers to the local level in order to save money for the taxpayer, better promote economic growth and to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.

Chaired by John Hess, BBC East Midlands Political Editor; confirmed speakers include Kris Hopkins MP, the Minister for Local Government; Graham Allen MP; David Sparks, Chairman of the LGA; Professor Tony Travers; Ben Lucas, The Royal Society of Arts; and Council Leaders from across the East Midlands.

Cllr Jon Collins, Chairman of East Midlands Councils, said,

"....It is time that the East Midlands joined the growing debate on devolution. This summit meeting will do just that, and by bringing together politicians and leading commentators from across the county – we have an opportunity to present the case for shifting power from Westminster to local councils."

Cllr David Sparks, Chairman of the Local Government Association, said,

"Devolving down to England's local areas will generate billions of pounds worth of economic growth. But this is only the tip of the iceberg."

"We have long been making the case for people from across the country being able to benefit from more of the important decisions affecting their lives being made close to where they live, whether home is a big city or a rural area."

"This meeting will set out the case for what devolution could mean for the East Midlands and will give politicians a chance to discuss how they think the region could look in the future."

With over 170 delegates signed-up to date, The Future of Local Government event will be held on Friday 21st November 2014 at Leicester City Football Club, King Power Stadium, Filbert Way, Leicester, LE2 7FL.

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Notes to Editor

East Midlands Councils is the consultative forum for local authorities in the region. It provides support to Councils to improve their services and is a strong voice for the East Midlands. www.emcouncils.gov.uk

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