

# South Midlands Business Board

## Item 6 – Devolution Update

### Summary of devolution EOI submissions:

- **North Northants** – submitted an EOI jointly with West Northants with the preference of the 6. This was only signed by North and West.
- **West Northants** - submitted an EOI jointly with North Northants with the preference of the 6. This was only signed by North and West.
- **Milton Keynes** - submitted an EOI jointly with Bedford and Luton with the preference of the 4 (BLMK). This was only signed by MK, Luton and Bedford.
- **Luton** – submitted an EOI jointly with Bedford and MK with the preference of the 4 (BLMK).. This was only signed by MK, Luton and Bedford.
- **Bedford Borough** - submitted an EOI jointly with MK and Luton with the preference of the 4 (BLMK). This was only signed by MK, Luton and Bedford.
- **Central Beds** – Wrote a letter to government expressing interest in more time to make a decision and explore options with partners.

At the 18 February 2025 South Midlands Authorities Board meeting, a consensus was not made on devolution pathway regarding going in as a 4 or 6 region.

### Statements following 10 January 2025 EOI submission:

- **North Northants** - [North Northamptonshire Council to pursue fast-track South Midlands devolution bid | North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- **West Northants** - [WNC agrees to pursue South Midlands devolution bid | West Northamptonshire Council](#)
- **Milton Keynes** - no formal statement or press release, but made the following statement to media.
- **Central Beds** - [Central Bedfordshire Council news and press releases | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)
- **Luton** – no formal statement or press release, but made the following statement to media.
- **Bedford Borough**– no formal statement or press release.

### Statements following 5 February 2025 priority pathway announcement:

- **North Northants** - [Work to continue to deliver fresh bid for South Midlands devolution | North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- **West Northants** - [South Midlands not included in Government’s devolution programme for now | West Northamptonshire Council](#)
- **Milton Keynes** - [Devolution statement: Cllr Pete Marland | Milton Keynes City Council](#)
- **Government statement** - [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)
- **Government press release** - [Devolution revolution: six areas to elect Mayors for first time - GOV.UK](#)
- **Central Beds** – no formal statement.
- **Bedford Borough**– no formal statement.
- **Luton** – no formal statement on 5/2/25, but made a statement to media from Leader.

Authorities received a letter from Government following priority pathway outcome and no area in region was successful in priority pathway.

**Requests:**

- Chair / Business Board to make representation to UK Gov to support a 6 South Midlands region economic area.
- Chair to issue letter to invite all MPs to a South Midlands Business Board devolution roundtable
- Invite to Baroness Taylor to meet with the Chair/Board regarding devolution
- Request to meet devolution Minister.
- Request meeting with Lord Patrick Vallance regarding OxCam growth delivery and role of sub-regions and business leaders.
- Request the Local Authorities produce evidence of the pro and cons of 4 and 6 economic models, compare with previous CCOG economic model for central area proposal (2017).