

[Home](#) > [About us](#) > [Democracy, Funding and Transparency](#) > Expanding the West of England Combined Authority into North Somerset



CONSULTATION

Expanding the West of England Combined Authority into North Somerset

This consultation seeks views from residents and organisations across all parts of the West of England on a proposal for expansion of the West of England Combined Authority to incorporate North Somerset Council.

[Read the detail](#)

[Have your say](#)



Expanding the West of England Combined Authority i...



In December 2024, the government published the English Devolution White Paper. This sets out plans to move power out of Westminster and back to local communities, ensuring that every part of England is covered by devolution. As part of this move towards greater devolution, there has been strong support locally for North Somerset Council to join the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and gain access to the additional powers and funding that membership of a Combined Authority brings. This expansion is also supported by national government.

Before taking a decision on whether to proceed with including North Somerset within the existing Combined Authority covering the West of England region, the Combined Authority is seeking views from interested parties, including those who live, work, and/or have businesses within the existing West of England area and North Somerset Council area.

Geography, proposal and funding

Decision making, governance and accountability

FAQs

The benefits

With strong economic foundations and an economy that already operates as a single functional area, the West of England has significant opportunities to build greater prosperity. The region's Growth Strategy sets out these opportunities in detail. Formal expansion to include North Somerset would unlock greater regional potential by integrating public resources, aligning policy levers and enabling genuinely regional planning and delivery. This would strengthen competitiveness, productivity and long-term growth across the whole West of England.

A fully integrated transport system that boosts productivity across the region

A coherent place-based strategy for the entire West of England

Challenges and opportunities do not stop at administrative boundaries. Expansion enables:

Tailored but scalable place-based interventions, ensuring solutions developed in one area can be applied across the wider geography where appropriate.

Joined-up planning for commercial and residential development, skills, infrastructure and amenities - ensuring growth is planned holistically rather than piecemeal.

More efficient use of public resources, with consistent approaches for businesses and residents and better value for money.

Stronger, more sustainable communities, as coordinated regeneration and infrastructure investment improves quality of life across the whole region.

A more effective and inclusive skills system for the whole region

Stronger regional competitiveness and a clearer offer to Government and investors



Have your say →

We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to share your opinions on the proposal for expanding the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority to include North Somerset.

The easiest way for you to respond and engage in the consultation is by completing the online form.

If you are unable to provide your views through the online form, you can fill out a paper copy, which can be requested by emailing comms@westofengland-ca.gov.uk or phoning [0117 428 6210](tel:01174286210) with your name and address and one will be sent to you.

There are also some paper copies available in community hubs and main libraries. You can also email or post your responses directly to the email address above or using the Combined Authority's [postal address](#) .

1. Do you believe that North Somerset Council should join the West of England Combined Authority? *

Please select



Next

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This is not a referendum. This consultation is advisory and will be used by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and North Somerset Council to inform its approach to expansion. Responses to the consultation will be fed into the decision-making process but the consultation itself is not binding.

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