

## Summary of the Devolution White Paper

The English Devolution White Paper explains the government's plans to give more power to local leaders and communities across England. Some of the key points include:

- Creating Strategic Authorities (SAs), which are groups of councils working together.
- Setting clear rules for what each type of authority can do.
- Making decisions easier in areas with mayors by allowing a simple majority vote.
- Giving mayors a combined budget for things like housing, transport, and local growth.
- Giving more control over important areas like transport, housing, and the environment.
- Changing two-tier councils into single unitary authorities and improving the relationship between town, parish councils, and local authorities.

## Impact on Parish Councils

More Engagement: Parish councils will have more chances to work with strategic authorities.

- Reorganization: Fewer, bigger councils might mean parish councils will work more closely with these new larger authorities.
- More Responsibilities: Parish councils might take on more duties and need to collaborate more with higher authorities.

### Positive Impacts for Parish Councils

- Increased Influence: Parish councils will have a stronger voice and more opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.
- Better Resources: With more collaboration, parish councils might have access to better resources and funding to improve local services.
- Community Empowerment: The changes will allow parish councils to address local issues more effectively and engage their communities in the process.
- Improved Local Services: With more responsibilities and resources, parish councils can enhance the quality of services they provide to their communities.

### Negative Impacts for Rural Parishes

- Less Local Representation: Bigger authorities might mean fewer local representatives, making it harder for rural communities to be heard.
- Centralization of Power: Power and resources might be focused in bigger urban areas, leaving rural parishes with less influence and fewer resources.
- Increased Administrative Burden: Rural parishes might have to deal with more paperwork and costs to keep their services running.
- Potential Service Reductions: Resources might be directed to bigger authorities, leading to fewer local services in rural areas.

Overall, while the devolution plans aim to create a more efficient local government structure, it's important to address the potential negative impacts on rural parishes to ensure all communities' benefit.