

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT: NOT A STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Criteria: New Responsibilities**

This is a living document of the guiding principles the responsibilities working group will apply to its work to consider proposed candidates for devolution alongside rates retention. It is not intended to be prescriptive or definitive and potential candidates do not need to meet each of the criteria or sub-sections. The responsibilities working group will keep these criteria under review as it undertakes its considerations and may amend, add or delete criteria as necessary.

**1) Devolution of a responsibility should build on the strengths of local government**

- a) It should provide opportunities for greater integration across local services, taking advantage of council expertise to provide user-centric, outcomes focussed approaches.
- b) Devolution should remove barriers to other innovative service delivery models, for example the commissioning of new multi-agency services that offer better value for the tax payer.
- c) There should be appetite from the sector for the activity to be delivered at a local level.
- d) There should be capacity at a local level to deliver services, taking into account other local pressures.

**2) Devolution of a responsibility should support the drive for economic growth**

- a) The activity should support local authorities' role in driving local growth, for example through a clear link to local employment, skills or infrastructure policy, and build on the ambition councils have demonstrated through Local Enterprise Partnerships, Growth and City Deals.

**3) Devolution of a responsibility should support improved outcomes for service users or local people**

- a) Devolution should be accompanied by have as much flexibility as possible for local government to tailor local services, for example allowing user-centric, outcomes focused delivery.

**4) Devolution of responsibilities should be made with consideration for the future financial impact on local government.**

- a) The national cost and demand for any new responsibility should be relatively predictable and stable over time, relative to the business-rates based funding stream.
- b) The relative demand for funding between local authorities should be relatively stable over time.
- c) Service provision can reflect the distribution of need across the country. Consideration should be given to the effect of devolution on protected groups under the Equalities Act 2010.
- d) The timeline for devolution will allow sufficient time for preparations at a local level.
- e) The responsibility is a sensible fit with a business rates-based funding stream, i.e. from a forward planning, governance and technical perspective.