

# NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## Motion 3

### English Devolution

Councillor Muzammil (9 January 2025)

- “1. That this Council notes
  - a) The Government white paper on English devolution was published on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
  - b) That the Leader of the Council has been in discussions with members of the South Midlands Authorities Board (Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton Borough, West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire) about forming a Mayoral Strategic Authority.
  - c) That the Government has invited the proposed South Midlands area to join the Devolution Priority Programme with the intention to establish a Mayoral Strategic Authority with a Mayoral election in 2026.
  - d) That all South Midlands authorities, including this Council, were required to notify the Government by the 10<sup>th</sup> of January if they are minded to agree to establishing a Mayoral Strategic Authority.
2. That this Council agrees:
  - a) With the principle of Devolution and the benefits of bringing decision making to a local forum.
  - b) That an elected Mayor is the most appropriate governance of this proposed authority.
3. That this Council requests:
  - a) The Leader to bring any further decisions and updates on the progress of the proposed Mayoral Strategic Authority to Full Council.
  - b) The Leader to confirm that this Council would not support and would actively challenge any proposals that do not include a directly elected Mayor.”