

Governance & Resources Scrutiny Commission 16 th March 2016 Devolution – The Prospects for Hackney	Item No 5
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Outline

The Governance and Resources Scrutiny Commission is commencing a short review to explore the implications of the devolution process for Hackney.

The aim of this review is to give councillors an understanding of the implications of Devolution for Hackney. Hackney's Scrutiny Members wish to provide input to the discussion and work being carried out at a regional and sub-regional level in relation to devolution. The overarching question framing this review is 'What are the implications of a London wide devolution for Hackney and how the borough can make the most of the opportunities?'

In preparation for the meeting members of the commission have read and reviewed The London Proposition document produced by London Councils at its meeting on [29th October 2015](#).

Invited guests

- Professor Tony Travers, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Ben Lucas, Metro Dynamics
- Ed Hammond, Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Jessica Studdert, New Local Government Network
- London Councils – Written submission on pages 21-24 of the agenda.

The Commission submitted (in advance) the questions below to the invited guests in preparation for the meeting:

- What are the most promising areas for further devolution of budgets and powers from central government to London?
- What areas of service/expenditure should be devolved and to what governance level within London?
- How will the relationship between the GLA and the 32 boroughs need to be recalibrated in order to make devolved arrangements work?
- Is there a need for more consistent arrangements to be agreed at the sub regional pan borough level in London?
- How can we ensure that devolution is supported by strong governance and public participation?

Biography of Guest Speakers

Professor Tony Travers

Tony Travers is a well-respected commentator on the public sector and local government, particularly as it relates to London. He is director of the LSE Greater London Group, a research centre at the London School of Economics. He is also a visiting professor in the LSE's Government Department.

Tony's key research interests include local and regional government and public service reform. He is currently an advisor to the House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Select Committee and the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. He is a board member of the Centre for Cities and is an Honorary Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy.

Tony has also been a Senior Associate of the Kings Fund, a member of the Arts Council's Touring Panel, and a member of the Audit Commission.

He has published a number of books on cities and government, including Failure in British Government - The Politics of the Poll Tax (authored with David Butler and Andrew Adonis), Paying for Health, Education and Housing - How does the Centre Pull the Purse Strings, and The Politics of London - Governing the Ungovernable City.

He is also a regular commentator on the BBC and in print media include The Guardian, the New Statesman and The Times, and a range of public sector publications.

Ben Lucas

Founding director and managing director, Metro Dynamics.

Prior to founding Metro Dynamics, Ben was chair of Public Services at the RSA where he set up and directed two influential Commissions, the Commission on 2020 Public Services and, more recently the City Growth Commission which helped establish cross party consensus for devolution to metropolitan areas. He is a public policy and communications entrepreneur, who has set up a charitable trust, a think tank and a highly successful public affairs consultancy, LLM Communications.

Since working as a union research officer and advising Jack Straw during the formative years of New Labour, Ben has advised many of Britain's leading companies and cities, and is a frequent speaker at public policy conferences and contributor to periodicals, newspapers and journals.

Ben is an adviser to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a member of the Post Office Advisory Council, and a Founder Trustee of the New Local Government Network.

Ed Hammond

As Director for the Centre for Public Scrutiny, Ed is involved in overseeing a wide range of projects relating to improving and supporting scrutiny and accountability in local and national government. Before taking on this role, he led on CfPS's research programmes.

His background is in local government scrutiny, having been a scrutiny officer at the London Borough of Harrow before joining CfPS. Before this he was a committee officer at Westminster City Council.

He has produced research on the way that scrutiny can contribute to discussions around value for money and the impact of recent structural changes in education, crime and disorder, health and local government on local accountability. He has also produced research on work programming and annual reports.

Ed worked with several local areas to develop and pilot CfPS's "Accountability Works for You" framework, which assists organisations in evaluating their governance and accountability arrangements. He also put together the initial proposals for and continues to support CfPS's extremely well-regarded improvement programme for scrutiny in Wales, now in its third year. He is now working with a number of Scrutiny Development Areas across England and Wales to develop and support member engagement and challenge to major commissioning and service transformation programmes.

Jessica Studdert

Jessica joined NLGN in September 2015. She provides day-to-day management of NLGN's operations and leads the development of the policy and research programme.

Prior to joining NLGN, Jessica was political adviser to the Labour Group at the Local Government Association. She worked closely on local public service reform and devolution, including a secondment to the Policy Unit of the Leader of the Opposition's Office during 2013-14 to lead on the Local Government Innovation Taskforce, a commission that reported into Labour's Policy Review in the last Parliament. Previously she has worked in policy roles in the voluntary sector for a street homelessness and a childcare charity, and she began her career at the Fabian Society.

Action

The Commission to note discussion for evidence session.