

# DEVOLUTION

**The Good .....**

**The Bad.....**

**& the Indifferent.....**



**Where next for Devolution?**

**Clr Rob Light**

# 'The Long & Winding Road'

Devolution journey started in 1997

Long road but progress made

- Establishment of City Regions
- All party commitments to further devolution
- 2010 new Government sets out devo agenda
- Northern Powerhouse initiative
- Some Devo deals agreed



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# 'Nothing Else Matters'

Why would Central Government of any colour even try to have a individual relationship with each of the 364 principle Authorities in England?

England has the most centralised system of Government in the western world but it just doesn't work for most parts of the country.

If devolution fails then England will revert to a command and control from central Government.



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# ‘Where Are We Now?’

Brexit vote and new Government led to confusion , uncertainty and deals falling apart as Councils fail to agree.

2016 has seen momentum slow for most areas

More Councils feeling its ok not to be involved in Devolution deals

2017 new Metro Mayors elected

- a green light for further devolving of powers ?
- but will this only be to CA's with a Mayor?



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# 'Its all over now!'

It may be a intention not to pursue further deals

It may just be an unsaid decision to only work with those areas  
signed up to a deal & a Mayor

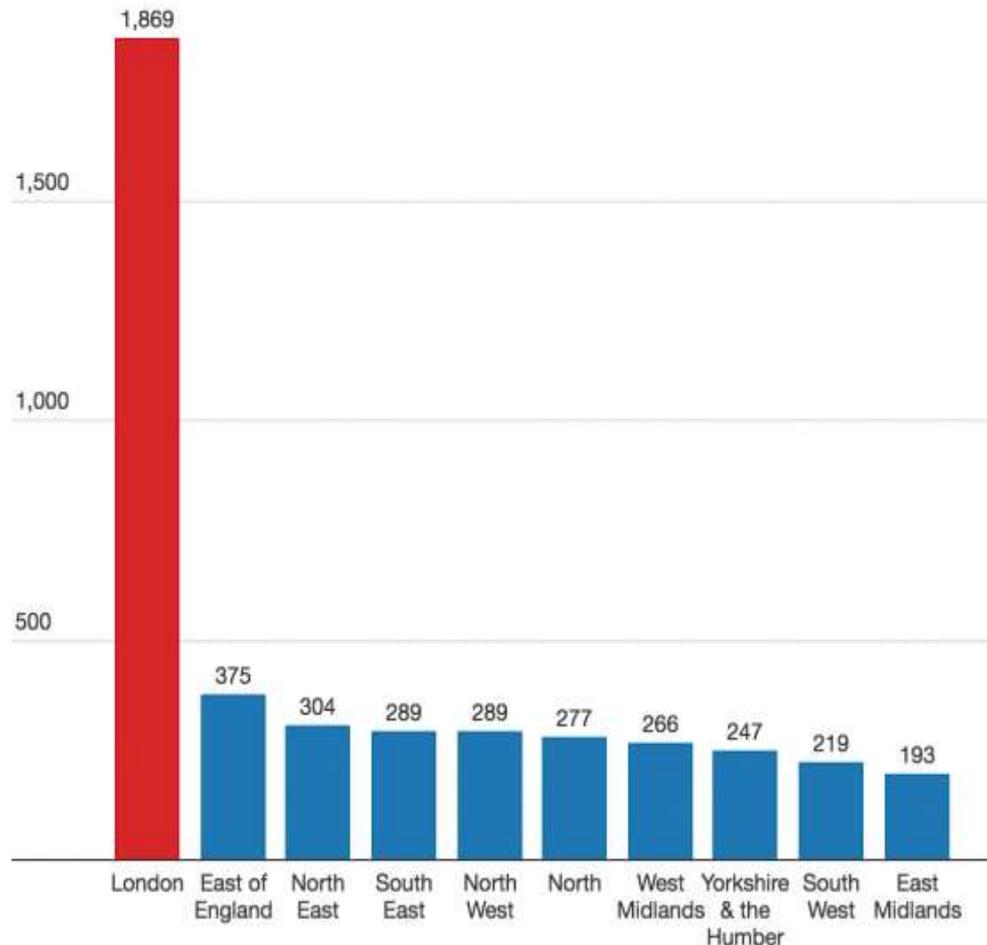
It may be that Government re asserts command and control  
governance

**We in Local Government cannot let the opportunity of a  
generation to negotiate a proper realignment of power and  
resources from Central to Local Government be lost.**

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## 'You win again'

Transport spend per capita by region (£)



If Devolution doesn't happen for all areas London will still have a Mayor and the same unrivalled access to Government.

10 out of the 12 most struggling Cities will still be in the north

Government investment will still be made into the regions – but how much, on what terms and against who's priorities?

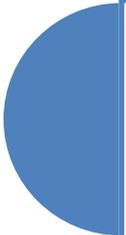
Will this spend chart have change 10 years on? 20 years on?

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# **‘We can work it out’**

### My priorities

1. Statement of intent from Government
2. Statement of intent from Local Government
3. Agreement on what is a viable geographic & economic size for a Combined Authority
4. Open debate on Health devolution
5. Clear programme delivering deals over this parliament and beyond
6. Real power, real resources devolved to Deal CA's



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“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

John F Kennedy