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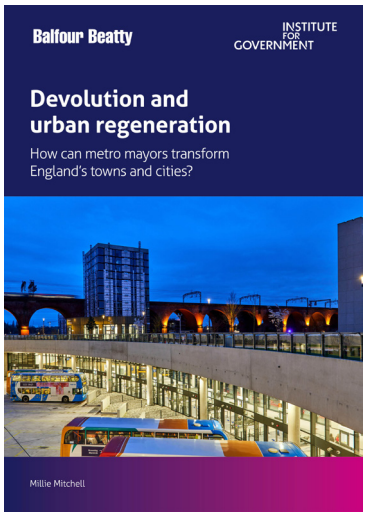


BRIEFING SHEET | DECEMBER 2024

# Devolution and urban regeneration

## How can metro mayors transform England's towns and cities?

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### Metro mayors are growing in influence under Labour

- **12 metro mayors**

  **The government has pledged to 'get Britain building' and has put metro mayors at the heart of its growth plans**

### Metro mayors can drive regeneration

- **6 case studies**

  **The report draws lessons from London to Tees Valley to show how mayors have used their powers to drive regional growth**

### Mayoral development corporations (MDCs)

- **6 MDCs, another 4 planned**

  **The MDC model is gaining traction. With four more planned, the report offers insights into how mayors can make the most of MDCs**

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# Key recommendations

## To drive urban regeneration within their regions, metro mayors should:

- Design interventions to **meet the needs of a place**, considering the full array of powers available.
- Develop a clear and persuasive **vision for future development**.
- Use their **political capital** to promote major regeneration schemes.
- Engage with **businesses and contractors** early on when carrying out direct delivery.
- Align devolved powers over **transport, skills and the environment** to make the most of urban regeneration.
- **Mayoral development corporations (MDCs)** can be a particularly powerful method for driving urban regeneration in the appropriate circumstances.

## To make best use of MDCs, mayors should:

- Focus on MDCs' specific benefits, such as their knowledge of local projects that may have **complex land ownership or that sit over multiple local authority boundaries.**
- Give each MDC the **appropriate levers** to tackle specific local challenges.
- Appoint MDC boards with **expertise from the public and private sectors**.
- Establish strong systems of **oversight and accountability**.

## The Westminster government should also:

- **Legislate** to enable mayors to make better use of the powers they have.
- Provide **long-term, flexible funding** to MCAs and the GLA.
- Support mayoral authorities to **build up capacity** to develop long-term regeneration plans, including through the involvement of **Homes England**.

Scan to read the report