

FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

10 September 2025

Written responses to questions

Question

The Committee queried the impact on Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington should Full Council at its meeting next week (17 September 2025) support Devolution, and equally, the impact should Full Council not support Devolution.

Written response:

1. **Impact for ECW if a 'no' vote:** ECW is a company wholly and equally owned by the three Councils across Cheshire and Warrington. If the decision is not to proceed with devolution a full options analysis on future arrangements would be completed. This would be further discussed as appropriate within each council – with recommendations ultimately going to the existing Cheshire and Warrington Joint Committee in its capacity as the ECW Shareholder Board, and in turn for final approval by each Council. This will be an entirely local decision.
2. **Impact on ECW monies if a 'yes' vote:** As noted in the Joint Committee report being considered, existing Government funding linked to services that will become the responsibility of the Combined Authority would follow those functions. These have yet to be confirmed in detail but are likely to impact on ECW funds related to business support (Growth Hub) and skills (Skills Boot Camp). Also as noted in the report, we have had confirmation from Government that the Cheshire and Warrington Enterprise Zone will transfer to the Combined Authority – although timeframe has not yet been confirmed. As above, as these details become clearer over the coming weeks, following the scenario of a 'yes' vote, a full impact analysis would be completed to highlight the direct implications for ECW – and as above, any final decisions on the future of the company would rest with the Shareholder Board and each Council.