



There's no clear party line on devolution in Manchester - Tory George Osborne offered it, the Labour Council accepted it whilst New Labour nationally recoiled at it being done behind their backs and seemingly their support. This is not a manifesto headline issue, but the extension of powers in Manchester and roll-out to other cities will be affected by who's in power after the May election. With the devolution genie out of the bottle and the two-party system of electoral politics fragmenting, will devolution become a mechanism for national parties that are in decline to consolidate their power base in regional rumps. And where does all this leave the electorate who seem to have been well and truly sidelined by the whole process?



Historically, the wealth of the nation, and indeed from the Empire, was seen as a source of revenue for the population as a whole distributed through national government infrastructure planning. Localism has become a more popular part of the conversation in politics of late, exemplified through the Scottish devolution campaign demanding the riches of revenue from oil to be returned to the people of Scotland. Talk of a northern powerhouse around Manchester has inevitably been followed by demands for greater resources to be spent in the North around transport and building in particular. Will the discovery of potentially massive oil reserves near Gatwick lead to the South demanding more devolution and greater fragmentation of the UK, or will this focus on devolution simply enrich our democracy?

---

## Some background readings

[Will the north follow Scotland and search for greater power?](#) by Robert Yates, The Observer  
31st August 2014

[We're all in the non-uk now](#) , by Mick Hume, spiked 22nd September 2014

[MIPIIM UK: Don't punish London for our success, says Boris](#) , by Jessica Swettenham, Place  
North West 15th Oct 2014

[Devo-Manc and the 2015 election](#) , by Simon Belt, Manchester Salon, March 2015

[Ex Tory MP forms the Northern Party](#) , by Lauren Woods, Guardian 2nd April 2015

[Why devo-Manc is not just a Tory game](#) , by Michael Taylor, Guardian 9th April 2015

---

## Discussion Partnered by



[Northern Soul](#) is a weekly magazine for things to do in the North of England, and is available to journalists, bloggers, and anyone else who wants to know what's going on in the North of England.