

Agenda Item 1

MEETING OF LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 March 2024

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

MEETING GUIDANCE

The proceedings will be live streamed and recorded.

Please note there is no fire drill or fire alarm test planned, in the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave by the nearest fire exit and make your way to the car park at the front of County Offices.

Members should be mindful that the new high-performing loop system is sensitive to any type of noise in the Chamber. Ambient sound from the Chamber immediately prior to meetings, and during open session may be picked up by the loop, and therefore Councillors should conduct private conversations outside of the Chamber. The loop will be muted at the close of the meeting.

If a member would like to speak, they should raise their hand so it can be clearly seen.

Requests to speak will be monitored by Democratic Services, and managed by the Chairman, with the assistance of the Chief Executive.

When the Chairman invites you to speak, you should press the button on your microphone unit to make it live. Please speak directly into the microphone and press the button again to switch it off once you have finished speaking.

Prayers will be led by Councillor A M Key in the Council Chamber at 10:20 a.m., prior to the start of formal proceedings at 10.30 a.m.

The agenda previously circulated and published will be followed

Councillor R P H Reid in the Chair.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS – 13 March 2024

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

List of apologies to be read by Chief Executive, Debbie Barnes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillors to indicate if they have any interests they wish to declare.

Note:-

Councillors are reminded that there is no need to declare an interest if it has already been recorded on the register of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or notified to the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. Where councillors do declare an interest they must state what the interest is. A councillor who is aware that they have a DPI in a matter under consideration, must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room during discussion of the matter.

Should you have any queries about declarations please seek advice from officers in advance of the meeting.

3. GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION – CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION OUTCOMES AND SUBMISSION OF FINAL PROPOSAL TO SECRETARY OF STATE

A report by the Chief Executive has been circulated.

Councillor M J Hill OBE to move:

That the Council considers the report to the Leader of the Council, feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (as set out at Schedule 1 of the order of proceedings) and supports the recommendations to the Leader of the Council as set out at Appendix 1 of the report to Council dated 13 March 2024.

Councillor C J Davie to second

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

At the conclusion of the meeting will all Members please be upstanding in their places until the Chairman has left the Chamber.

Members are reminded to collect their post from their pigeon holes after the meeting.

Schedule 1 – Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on Greater Lincolnshire Devolution – Consideration of public consultation outcomes and submission of final proposal to Secretary Of State

On 12 March 2024, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the report to the Leader of Council on his proposed decision on Greater Lincolnshire Devolution. The Board agreed by a majority decision (seven votes to two) to support the five recommendations in the report [*pages 10 – 11 of the County Council agenda, 13 March 2024*].

Specific Comments

Governance: Requirement for a Directly Elected Mayor

- (1) The Board supports a view that a key element of the devolution proposal, in line with stated Government policy, is that without a directly-elected mayor, none of the £750 million funding would be available for Greater Lincolnshire. This condition has been and remains a non-negotiable element of the deal between Greater Lincolnshire and the Government. This funding would lead to economic, environmental and transport benefits as outlined in the report. There is dissent from some members of the Board, who do not support a directly-elected mayor, arguing that there is not sufficient support for the establishment of this role.

Governance: Delaying a Devolution Deal

- (2) The Board concludes that delaying a devolution arrangement could lead to a future Government making decisions on the devolution arrangements in Greater Lincolnshire without reference to the local authorities concerned. This in turn could lead to outcomes such as the separation of the ancient county of Lincolnshire into different combined authority areas and the dilution of Greater Lincolnshire into other areas.

Governance: Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements

- (3) The representation of district councils, as non-constituent members of the Greater Lincolnshire County Combined Authority (CCA), would essentially be a matter for their determination through the establishment of a joint committee, comprising representative from the district councils only. The Board is sympathetic to a view that the district councils not represented on the CCA should have representation in the CCA's overview and scrutiny committee arrangements, with these details to be determined at a later date. Ideally, the joint committee would seek to have arrangements, whereby their representation on the Greater Lincolnshire CCA and its committees was rotated.

Consultation Process

- (4) The Board's view is that the consultation has been very thorough and provides a strong indicative result of the views of the people of Lincolnshire supporting the proposals for jobs and business growth; education and training; roads buses and transport; and environment. There was dissent from this view from some members of the Board, who indicated preference for a referendum, given the significance of the change to the county's governance.

Points of Confirmation and Clarification

Representation of District Councils on the Combined County Authority

- (5) There has been no change since the original proposal to the representation of district councils, as non-constituent councils, on the Combined County Authority: four representatives, to be decided by a joint committee, comprising members of district councils only. Furthermore, there would be no changes to the powers and functions of the district councils themselves.

Government Policy Changes and Flexibility of the Combined County Authority Arrangements

- (6) The proposals have been drafted in the context of Government policy. There is flexibility in the devolution arrangements. For example, if Government policies on electronic vehicles were to change in the future, say, to an emphasis on hydrogen powered vehicles, this could be accommodated as part of the devolution arrangements, to seek to maximise the benefits for Greater Lincolnshire.

Roles of Non-Constituent District Councils in Decision-Making

- (7) The principle will generally apply that district council representatives, as non-constituent representatives, on the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority will not have a vote on matters which are currently the responsibility of the upper tier councils, for example, transport. There are instances of powers that could concurrently be used with district councils: for example, if the mayor were to intend to set up a mayoral development area, there must be consent from the relevant district councils.

Application of Armed Forces Covenant to Combined County Authority

- (8) The armed forces covenant would apply to the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority, and there would be appropriate engagement with armed forces and armed forces veterans.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS

COUNCIL MEETINGS – RULES OF DEBATE

(i) Rule 13.5 (When a Councillor may speak again)

A councillor who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

- a) In exercise of a right of reply;
- b) On a point of order or information; and
- c) By way of personal explanation.

(ii) Rule 13.9 (Right of Reply)

- a) The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote;
- b) If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of debate on the amendments, but may otherwise not speak on it; and
- c) The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

COUNCIL MEETINGS – INTERVENTION IN DEBATE

1. (a) Points of Order are just that. They must relate to the Council Procedure Rules or conduct of the meeting and generally will be drawing attention to a perceived breach, e.g.

- (i) absence of a quorum;
- (ii) order of speeches;
- (iii) irrelevance;
- (iv) time limit for speech exceeded;
- (v) misconduct;
- (vi) motion not seconded.

- (b) Examples of common intervention which are **NOT** points of order:-

- (i) Points of information or Personal Explanation (as to which see below);
- (ii) Disagreement with a speaker;
- (iii) Further thoughts or clarification of a previous speech prompted by the speaker (unless amounting to a Personal Explanation);
- (iv) Correction of a speakers opinion (rather than fact, which is a Point of Information);
- (v) An attempt to "reply" to another Member's speech or a point made in it;

2. (a) Point of Information – when a Member is speaking and is obviously proceeding on the basis of information which is wrong or of which the member is ignorant, another member may properly seek to intervene to provide the correct or missing information, thereby saving the Council from being misled and saving its time.
- (b) ASKING FOR information is **NOT** a Point of Information; a member who has spoken may be able to request a colleague who has not yet spoken to ask;
3. (a) A Personal Explanation is a proper intervention only when an earlier speech by the Member is being misquoted or misrepresented;
- (b) It must not be used as a spurious pretext for reiteration of the Member's earlier speech or as a second speech.

4. Practice

Members making one of the Points must specify which one is being used. The Member speaking should give way. The Point should be made briefly. The Chairman will then rule on it promptly, firmly and finally. There will be no debate nor will the ruling of the Chairman be open to discussion.