

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open Report on behalf of Dr Tony Hill Executive Director of Community Wellbeing and Public Health

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	8 December 2015
Subject:	Greater Lincolnshire proposals for devolved powers from Government

Summary:

On 4 September 2015 Greater Lincolnshire submitted an expression of interest to the Government setting out its plans to bring more power and responsibility to the area. The proposal, signed by 21 organisations, representing the public and private sector, asks for a range of the central government's powers and associated funding to be devolved locally.

Actions Required:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the details in this report and Greater Lincolnshire's Expression of Interest document attached in Appendix A.

1. Background

As a result of the referendum decision on Scottish Independence in May the Government introduced the *Cities and Local Devolution Bill* to Parliament. The Bill provides the legal basis to implement the Government's 'northern powerhouse' ambitions which will devolve powers to cities with elected 'metro mayors' and will empower towns and counties by building on growth deals.

Following the introduction of the Bill a ground-breaking deal was struck between the Government and the ten local authorities that make up the Greater Manchester Metropolitan Area. It was agreed that a significant range of powers, with associated funding, would transfer from Westminster to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority; to be headed by a directly elected Mayor. Shortly afterwards, the Government announced a major deal for Cornwall, with extensive transfer of powers and funds to that area without a mayoral model (due to geography and political landscape of the area).

From these forerunners, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 21 July 2015 that he wished to negotiate further devolution deals with other parts of England that had an appetite for them. He set a deadline of 4 September 2015 for areas interested in moving quickly to submit

their proposals. A total of 38 proposals, covering 80% of the country, were submitted. Some have since been concluded, one of these being the North East of England. This is significant given the geographic scale of the area involved, encompassing as it does five Metropolitan Authorities and two County Councils, with a total population of 2m people. Other areas include the Tees Valley, Sheffield City Region, the West Midlands and Liverpool City Region.

Greater Lincolnshire submitted an expression of interest on 4 September 2015, a copy of the submission appends this paper. It was signed by the Leaders of the ten local authorities along with other public sector organisations including the six Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Chairman of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. The submission sets out the ambition for the area, and invites the Government to enter into negotiations over a package of devolved powers and funds that could be used to deliver the ambition. The document focuses on the benefits of this approach including:

- Accelerating economic growth
- Improving transport links regionally, nationally and internationally
- Tailoring skills to the needs of local employers to boost employment opportunities in the county
- Managing flood risk
- Meeting the housing needs of all our residents
- Joining up health and care services to improve people's health and wellbeing

On 28 October 2015, representatives from Greater Lincolnshire met with the Minister for Local Government Marcus Jones MP to discuss the proposals. Since then further discussion have taken place with civil servants from relevant Government departments.

Work has also begun looking at the options of how a 'combined authority' could potentially be managed and governed. To ensure appropriate arrangements are in place it is proposed to establish a joint committee of the local authorities. The remit of this joint committee will be to have oversight of the continuing discussions with Government, develop the governance arrangements and to operate as the 'Greater Lincolnshire Leadership Board'. A paper outlining the governance arrangements, including proposals to undertake a governance review in the New Year, will be considered by each authority during November and December 2015.

2. Conclusion

The Greater Lincolnshire expression of interest provides genuine opportunity for the area to take on some responsibility from central government and to make more decisions locally to improve the quality of life and prospects for greater prosperity in Greater Lincolnshire.

3. Consultation

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Greater Lincolnshire: A Place to Grow...faster than anywhere

5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Cities and Local Devolution Bill	http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/citiesandlocalgovernmentdevolution.html

This report was written by Alison Christie, Programme Officer Health and Wellbeing, who can be contacted on 01522 552322 or alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk