



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

23 November 2023

Council

A meeting of the Council will be held on **Friday, 1 December 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL, commencing at 10.30 am** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda. The attendance of all Councillors is requested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Debbie Barnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council
(70 Members of the Council)

Councillors R P H Reid (Chairman), E W Strengiel (Vice-Chairman), M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, Mrs A M Austin, A J Baxter, M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, A W Briggs, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, S Bunney, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, T A Carter, L A Cawrey, K J Clarke, M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, R J Cleaver, K H Cooke, P E Coupland, A Dani, C J Davie, R G Davies, P M Dilks, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, R A Gibson, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, A M Hall, M Hasan, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, Mrs J E Killey, J L King, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, P M Martin, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, N M Murray, Mrs S A J Nutman, Mrs M J Overton MBE, S R Parkin, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, S P Roe, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, G J Taylor, J Tyrrell, Mrs C L E Vernon, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R A Wright and T V Young

**COUNCIL AGENDA
FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2023**

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8	Questions to the Chairman, the Leader, Executive Councillors, Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees	
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13	Motions on notice submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution	

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

Name: **Emily Wilcox**

Direct Dial **01522 552334**

E Mail Address emily.wilcox@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Council on Friday, 1st December, 2023, 10.30 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>



**COUNCIL
15 SEPTEMBER 2023**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R P H REID (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors E W Strenziel (Vice-Chairman), M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, Mrs A M Austin, A J Baxter, M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, A W Briggs, Mrs J Brockway, S Bunney, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, T A Carter, L A Cawrey, K J Clarke, R J Cleaver, A Dani, C J Davie, R G Davies, P M Dilks, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, R A Gibson, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, M Hasan, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, Mrs J E Killey, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, N M Murray, Mrs S A J Nutman, Mrs M J Overton MBE, S R Parkin, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, S P Roe, N Sear, P A Skinner, T J N Smith, E J Sneath, A N Stokes, G J Taylor, J Tyrrell, Mrs C L E Vernon, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley and R A Wright

66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Brookes, M Clarke, Mrs N Clarke, K Cooke, P E Coupland, A M Hall, J King, H Spratt, L Wootten, and T V Young.

67 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

In relation to the proposed amendment by the Independent Group to item 8, as circulated within the order of proceedings, Councillor M D Boles declared a non-pecuniary interest as the trustee of a charity which delivered a holiday and activity funding programme in Gainsborough.

Other declarations are recorded under the item as declared.

68 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MAY 2023

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council held on 19 May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69 RESULT OF THE BY ELECTION FOR LINCOLN CARHOLME ELECTORAL DIVISION

The Council received the Electoral Return for the By Election for Lincoln Carholme Division.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor N Murray to his first meeting of the Council and the Chairman, Councillors K E Lee, P M Dilks and M J Hill OBE paid tribute to Robert Parker and his service to the Council, following his resignation as a Councillor after 34 years serving as a County Councillor.

70 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred Members to the announcements, as circulated in the Order of Proceedings.

Reference was made to the Chairman's visit to RAF Digby for the RAF Civic Reception and in particular the arrival of a satellite expansion of GCHQ, for which they would welcome 50% of applications for employment from Lincolnshire.

With a heavy heart, the Chairman reported the death of Councillor Ray Wootten, who served the Grantham North Division and was elected to the County Council in June 2009 and served as Chairman of the Council from May 2013 to May 2014.

With sadness the Chairman also reported the death of former County Councillors Mike Williams and Barry Young.

Members observed a minute's silence and were invited to speak to pay tribute.

71 STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Statements by Members of the Executive had been circulated.

Councillor L A Cawrey, Executive Councillor for Fire & Rescue, Emergency Planning and Cultural Services announced that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue were hosting the year's Festival of Rescue 2023 on behalf of the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO). The event was taking place in various locations across Lincolnshire between Thursday 14 – Saturday 16 September and involved over 300 Firefighters from across the Country and included teams from France, Ireland and Romania. The event showcased various rescue challenges and tested rescue crews across various skills. More information could be found on UKRO.org.

In addition, four Lincolnshire Firefighters and Colin the rescue dog had been deployed to search for victims of the devastating earthquake in Morocco.

72 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10.3 were asked answered as follows:

	<u>Question by</u>				<u>Question to</u>				<u>Subject</u>
a)	Councillor Marfleet	C	E	H	Councillor Bradwell OBE	Mrs	P	A	Post 16 Transport

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| b) | Councillor K J Clarke | Councillor R D Butroid | Building Inspections in Schools |
| c) | Councillor Mrs M J Overton MBE | Councillor M J Hill OBE | Devolution |
| b) | Councillor M A Whittington | Councillor R G Davies | Increase in accidents on A52 from A152 to Leicestershire Border |
| d) | Councillor M Boles | Councillor R G Davies | Road Resurfacing works |
| e) | Councillor A M Austin | Councillor R G Davies | Introduction of additional traffic calming measures |
| f) | Councillor Mrs S Rawlins | Councillor C J Davie | Boiler Replacement Scheme |
| g) | Councillor K Lee | Councillor R G Davies | Availability of Disabled Parking in Lincoln City Centre |
| h) | P M Dilks | M J Hill OBE | Cuts to PCSO funding |
| i) | Councillor S Bunney | Councillor D McNally | Household Waste Recycling Centre's |
| j) | Councillor C Matthews | Councillor C J Davie | Offshore and Onshore Wind farm developments |
| k) | Councillor Mrs J Killey | Councillor R G Davies | Cycling in pedestrian areas |
| l) | Councillor A Baxter | Councillor R G Davies | Traffic Regulation Orders |
| m) | Councillor A Maughan | Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE | Workforce demand in relation to the introduction of further childcare funding |
| n) | Councillor R J Kendrick | Councillor R G Davies | Road Conditions on B1202 from B188 at Metherringham to A15 |

73 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2022/23

During this item, Councillor Mrs J Brockway declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of her family benefitted from the Holidays Activities and Food Programme.

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

An amendment had been submitted by the Independent Group.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Council Procedure Rules 13.6 (b), 13.6 (c), 13.6 (d), 13.6 (e) and 13.10(b), be temporarily suspended for the duration of the debate to allow one debate on the motion and Independent Group amendment and that

- (1) Councillor M J Hill OBE Leader of the Council in introducing and moving the motion and in responding to the debate be allowed to speak for 6 minutes (at A and F in this Order of Proceedings)
- (2) That the proposer of the amendment listed be allowed to speak for 6 minutes (at C on the Order of Proceedings)
- (3) That Councillors seconding the motions, each be allowed to speak for 3 minutes (at B and D on the Order of Proceedings or at E on the Order of Proceedings if they reserve their speech until later in the debate)
- (4) That other speakers each be allowed to speak for 3 minutes (at E on the Order of Proceedings)
- (5) That no further amendments be moved.

Further to circulation of the Order of Proceedings, a revision to the original motion had been circulated and was moved and seconded by the Conservative Group as follows:

That the Council:

1. Notes the carry forwards of underspends and transfers to its reserves set out in paragraphs 1.16 to 1.18 of the report, which are made in line with the Council's Financial Regulations

2. Approves:
 - a) That the overspends under 1% in Place (£0.170m) and Fire and Rescue (£0.028m) referred to in Paragraph 1.20 of the report are not carried forward but instead funded from the underspend above 1%; and
 - b) That the underspend remaining after the carry forwards and transfers to reserves referred to in recommendation 1 and the funding of overspend referred to in recommendation 2(a), be allocated to the Development Fund so that it can be made available to support investment in local highways initiatives

2. Notes the performance against the Prudential Indicators as shown in Table D of the report

3. Notes the transfers to and from reserves carried out in 2022/23 and notes the position of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2023 as shown in Table F of the report

4. Notes the position of the General Reserves as set out in paragraph 1.27 of the report and Table G

5. Notes the key financial performance measures in 2022/23 as set out in Table H

6. Notes the proposed use of the £8.7m transferred to the development fund as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process generally for the purposes set out in paragraph 1.23 of the report

An amendment to the Conservative revision had been circulated and was moved and seconded as follows:

That the Council:

1. Notes the carry forwards of underspends and transfers to its reserves set out in paragraphs 1.16 to 1.18 of the report, which are made in line with the Council's Financial Regulations

2. Approves:
 - a) That the overspends under 1% in Place (£0.170m) and Fire and Rescue (£0.028m) referred to in Paragraph 1.20 of the report are not carried forward but instead funded from the underspend above 1%;
 - b) That £1m of the remaining underspend above 1% be allocated to the Council's excellent Holiday Activities and Food Programme to facilitate extending the current offer to more children already identified as a priority, this extension to be a temporary measure to cover the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays in 2024; and

- c) That the underspend remaining after the carry forwards and transfers to reserves referred to in recommendation 1 and the funding of overspend referred to in recommendation 2(a) and the allocation referred to in recommendation 2(b) be allocated to the Development Fund so that it can be made available to support investment in local highways initiatives and social priorities which will improve the overall well-being of people in this county.
3. Notes the performance against the Prudential Indicators as shown in Table D of the report
4. Notes the transfers to and from reserves carried out in 2022/23 and note the position of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2023 as shown in Table F of the report
5. Notes the position of the General Reserves as set out in paragraph 1.27 of the report and Table G
6. Notes the key financial performance measures in 2022/23 as set out in Table H
7. Notes the proposed use of the £8.7m transferred to the development fund as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process generally for the purposes set out in paragraph 1.23 of the report

A vote was taken on the Independent Group amendment and upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

A vote was then taken on the Conservative Group motion and upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

74 POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the allocation of Committee seats, as detailed in Schedule 2 of the Order of Proceedings in accordance with the political balance rules, be approved.

75 APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

Further to the appointments in schedule 3 of the order of proceedings, it was confirmed that Councillor P A Skinner would be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the nominations for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and Sub-Committees, as set out in Schedule 3 of the Order of Proceedings and with the additions noted above, be agreed.

76 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

Further to the appointments detailed in schedule 4 of the Order of Proceedings, it was confirmed that Councillor P A Skinner would be appointed to vacancy on the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the new appointments to the organisations as detailed and highlighted in Schedule 4 circulated with the Order of Proceedings be agreed.

77 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Tracy Colman and Michael Barratt be appointed as Independent Persons.

78 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION - LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

A report by the Monitoring Officer had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

1. That approval be given to the proposal put forward by the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board to change its membership:
 - a. To reduce the number of County Councillors by two
 - b. To reduce the number of NHS representatives by four

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COUNCIL

15 SEPTEMBER 2023

2. That the amendments to the constitution set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

79 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 be approved.

80 MOTIONS ON NOTICE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The motion by Councillor M Overton MBE was moved and seconded as follows:

We are aware that:

- Local residents are deeply concerned about human health and the impact on wildlife of regular wastewater discharge, including untreated sewage, into our local rivers and seas.
- Anglian Water discharges sewage into local rivers and seas on a regular basis
- Water companies are writing renewed long-term plans now
- The Environment Agency has overall responsibility but need to be clearer on the impacts.

This Council calls on our MPs, water companies and the Environment Agency to take whatever action is necessary to stop raw sewage discharges in our area at the earliest possible time.

The Conservative Group proposed an alteration to the motion to also include the following:

This Council also asks for this matter to be referred to the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee, where this issue can be fully aired, and actions available to this Council can be determined.

The alteration to the motion was supported.

RESOLVED:

Upon being put to vote the altered motion was carried.

The meeting closed at 1.40 pm



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	County Council
Date:	1 December 2023
Subject:	Result of By Election for Grantham North Electoral Division

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to formally report to the Council the outcome of the Lincolnshire County Council By-Election for the Grantham North Electoral Division which took place on 9 November 2023.

Recommendation(s):

That the Electoral Return as set out in Appendix A be noted.

1. Background

- 1.1 A By-Election for the Grantham North Division took place on 9 November 2023 following the sad passing of Councillor Ray Wootten. Councillor Ray Wootten had represented the division since his election on 4 June 2009.
- 1.2 Following the By-Election on 9 November 2023, Paul Michael Martin was elected to the position of County Councillor for the Grantham North Division.
- 1.3 Appendix A to this report sets out the formal notice of Return of Persons Elected for that division.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

There are no direct implications in relation the noting the result of the By Election.
--

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

There are no direct implications for the JSNA or JHWS.
--

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

There are no direct implications in relation to crime and disorder.

3. Conclusion

The County Council is requested to note the outcome for the Lincolnshire County Council By-Election held on 9 November 2023 as set out in Appendix A to this report.

4. Legal Comments:

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial consequences arising from accepting the recommendation in this report.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Electoral Return for Grantham North Electoral Division

8. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nicola Calver, Member Services Manager, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Appendix A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 1 DEC 2023

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ELECTION OF A COUNCILLOR FOR THE GRANTHAM NORTH DIVISION

ELECTION DATE: 9 NOVEMBER 2023

Notice is hereby given that the under-mentioned person was elected as the Councillor for the Grantham North Electoral Division at the election held on 9 November 2023: -

Name: Paul Michael Martin

Address: c/o Democratic Services
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Lincoln
LN11YL

Political Party: The Conservative Party

Debbie Barnes OBE
Returning Officer

Dated: 9 November 2023

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Agenda Item 6

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from: Councillor Martin Hill OBE – Leader of the Council, Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications, Community Engagement and Commissioning

COMMERCIAL

The Commercial Team continues to jointly lead with HR and Finance colleagues the re-provision of the Corporate Support Services and the exit and transition into the new arrangements as the existing contract with Serco draws to a close.

The team is supporting and procuring a range of other projects including:

- The re-commissioning and re-provision of the Council's Facilities Management Services.
- The re-procurement of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Control and mobilisation system, using specialist framework agreements after rapid and extensive market engagement.
- The re-provision of laptops on a phased basis, prioritizing older equipment to maintain effective security.
- The next iteration of the DBS and Right to Work checks, required for recruitment and ongoing assurance of staff working with vulnerable people.
- The re-provision of the Gritting Salt Contract, which will continue to ensure the Council meets its statutory duty to keep the highways safe at all times.
- The early stages of the re-commissioning of the library service, undertaking pre-market engagement to inform our specification and commercial arrangements.
- The printing and distribution of County News.
- Following confirmation that, from 2026, local authorities must divert food waste from landfill, re-procuring the Council's waste processing and haulage solutions in a timely way to enable transition to the new arrangements.

The Team concluded the award of a single supplier Framework for the supply of Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs). Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is the framework operator and all District and Local Authorities within the geographic Lincolnshire and Yorkshire boundaries are eligible to place orders directly with the supplier. This will enable authorities to meet their municipal waste collection requirements including food waste collection. As the Framework operator LCC receives a small rebate on all purchases under the framework.

FINANCE

Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2023/2024 – Monitoring Reports

During this continued financially challenging period we continue to keep a vigilant eye on our finances. Our latest budget monitoring reports for the current financial year were based on the position as of 30 September 2023. The reports were presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 30 November 2023 and the comments of the Board will be presented to the Executive on 5 December 2023. In spite of the on-going inflationary cost pressures and service demands, we remain financially resilient, delivering savings and forecasting an underspend of our revenue service budgets and our capital programme for the current year.

Setting a Budget for 2024/2025

Following on from the government's recent autumn budget announcements, we will be consulting in January on our budget proposals for 2024/2025. This will incorporate the awaited financial settlement from government, which we hope to receive later in the month. The council continues to face significant cost pressures relating to inflation and growth in demand for services, and in this challenging environment, we are planning to propose a one-year revenue budget for 2024/2025 with a review of the capital programme to meet the commitments of our on-going capital schemes and ensure the programme and our investment in services remains affordable.

CORPORATE SERVICES

A Devolution deal has been agreed between Government and Greater Lincolnshire Leaders which will be endorsed by a signing ceremony with Local Government Minister Jacob Young in Lincolnshire. Following that, the three future constituent councils including LCC will be invited to endorse that before the proposal is put to public consultation.

Extensive engagement continues with city, district and borough councils. This includes all member briefings, and one to one sessions with leaders to talk through the details of the deal.

Work has been completed to develop the devolution proposal which will form the basis of the devolution consultation. The proposal document draws from the prospectus that was approved by Council in December 2022, the 2050 vision document, and the devolution deal that has been negotiated with government. The proposal, along with the equality analysis and consultation plans will be considered by members through Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in November and Council on 1 December. Subject to the three upper tier councils' agreement, public consultation will start on 4 December and last for a period of eight weeks.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the 2023-2024 financial year to the end of October, there were 45 engagement activities carried out by services across the council. This includes five consultations, 33 public and wider stakeholder engagements and seven internal engagements. Further, the engagement team supported 33 customer feedback surveys hosted on Let's Talk. A recent example of our engagement work is the local nature recovery strategy. It is still open to participate in and has already seen 717 people provide responses.

Our corporate engagement platform, Let's Talk Lincolnshire, helps us engage with our communities, stakeholders, and staff to shape our services and inform decision-making. Since its launch in September 2021, we received over 134,000 site visits and have seen 21,000 people taking part in engagement activities on the site. There are over 3,200 registered participants we regularly communicate with. We received nearly 1,900 responses to our Parental childcare sufficiency survey and had nearly 520 responses to the Stamford transport strategy survey. Online engagements like these help us to reach a wide range of people across Lincolnshire and what we learn from our respondents' priorities informs and shapes our work.

The engagement process has a strong focus on clear reporting. To close the feedback loop, we share reports widely internally and externally. We publish reports on engagement activities on Let's Talk Lincolnshire, to update local people on the impact of their contributions.

Our County Views survey helps us get a snapshot of how we're doing as a council and improve services for people across Lincolnshire. We run these surveys three times a year. The surveys are available online on Let's Talk Lincolnshire, are printed in the County News magazine and are available via a dedicated telephone line which provides a good opportunity for all to take part in them. The current survey, on the topic of vaping is open until 8 January 2024.

The last survey, on the topic of helping people access information about care, had 360 responses. The feedback will feed into the information and advice offer review to improve service provision in Lincolnshire. The results of all County Views surveys are available on Let's Talk Lincolnshire including a dashboard with responses and trends over time.

TRANSFORMATION

In April this year, the council successfully went live with the implementation of its Business World ERP application, hosted through Hoople Ltd. Rigorous testing and planning resulted in a positive implementation, ensuring our staff and suppliers are being paid and that the council can receipt the income it is due. The council is now operating on the latest version of the application and is working with Hoople on future developments.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from: Councillor Patricia Bradwell OBE - Deputy Leader, Executive Councillor for Children’s Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Summer 2023

Compared to Summer 2022, the number of HAF clubs in Lincolnshire grew from 96 to 135, with 4,503 eligible children and young people accessing provision (a 20% increase). 1,215 children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) accessed the HAF provision (a 103% increase), and 722 secondary aged young people accessed the HAF provision (a 77% increase); both of which were priority focus areas for Lincolnshire. Clubs were delivered by a range of different providers including third parties, schools, early years providers and Council-led services and included SEND specific and secondary specific clubs.

School Standards

Our maintained schools continue to perform well in Ofsted inspections and are the best performing group of schools in the sector overall. SEND pupils in our mainstream settings outperform their peers nationally.

We continue to work closely with our strategic partners to support, monitor, and challenge schools. L.E.A.D. Teaching School Hub works effectively with strategic partners and schools to ensure that they are providing a comprehensive offer which responds to the needs of schools. We have seen that the impact of the work of the Teaching School Hub has been positive for those schools which have engaged with the comprehensive offer and the majority of maintained schools continue to work collaboratively to support each other.

Inclusion

Lincolnshire’s Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Pathway was developed in September 2021 to support Lincolnshire’s children and young people who are missing school because of anxiety that is either rooted in or exacerbated by the school environment. As set out in Lincolnshire’s Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Strategy, a review of the Pathway took place during 2022/2023.

The updated EBSA Pathway has been significantly strengthened, now providing schools with clarity around what EBSA is and what it isn’t, why it occurs, the potential risk factors and the resilience factors. As per the aim of the SEMH Strategy, the updated Pathway now has a key element around early intervention, focussing on supporting schools to review and adapt policies and practices throughout their settings, addressing EBSA as a long-term whole school focus.

A Toolkit has been added, providing schools with the resources to implement the Pathway effectively at each phase, alongside links to existing support and evidence-based interventions that can supplement the Pathway. This is further supplemented through the support of the EBSA Caseworkers within the Pupil Reintegration Team (PRT) who provide training, advice, support, and strategies to schools to enable them to fully utilise the Pathway and address EBSA effectively in their settings.

SEND - Award for Young People's Learning Provision

The council's post-16 Young People's Learning Provision (YPLP) was delighted to win the Community Involvement Award presented at the Lincolnshire Education Excellence Awards in the summer.

YPLP has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to community engagement, undertaking various projects that not only enhance the local area but also provide students with invaluable life skills. Projects range from cleaning up local areas, conservation work at Rutland Water, supporting community events, and collecting food for local food banks.

YPLP has also demonstrated significant involvement in charity work, particularly amidst the ongoing cost of living crisis, helping various organisations by lending time and support. These efforts have seen an outpouring of gratitude from the community projects they support, evidencing the profound impact YPLP students are having on local life.

School Admissions

Despite an increase in demand for secondary school places, on national offer day 86% of children received a place at their first-choice school and 96% received an offer at a school of preference. A further 1% were allocated their first preference following revised applications and appeals. This number is expected to be similar next year, but it is largely influenced by parental preference and applicants not listing three preferences or not naming their closest schools on their application. All students were offered a school within a reasonable distance of home which has not been echoed nationally due to increased cohort sizes across the country.

For primary admissions, 95% received a place at their first-choice school and 99% received an offer at a school of preference.

Fostering

There continues to be a shortage of foster carers across the country, and our efforts to retain and recruit carers is a continued priority. Our marketing and recruitment strategy results in the service being visible and being creative in attracting all groups to consider what they could offer children in care. The recruitment challenge is becoming greater owing to the Local Authority competing with other providers within and across Lincolnshire. Therefore, continuing to value this group is essential and investing in them with supervision, support and training is essential in terms of recognising their willingness and desire to undertake this voluntary role. Lincolnshire Fostering Service are continuing to attract new enquiries and applications from those interested in fostering and we capitalise on the Council being the preferred fostering provider for local children.

This financial year saw an increase in the fostering allowances to all households of 12%, which supports the care of these children within their fostering families. This together with the fostering-friendly initiative, positive foster carer community and the layered support to carers to support children who have experienced trauma encourages the sustainability of our in-house provision, notwithstanding that commissioned resources are increasingly being requested to support the rising children in care numbers.

Children's Health

The Children's Health Service continues to deliver the Healthy Child Programme (HCP). The national challenge of a declining health visiting workforce persists, but the service has responded by developing a robust workforce plan which has led to the successful recruitment of community nurses who have joined the health visiting teams to support the delivery of the HCP. The new roles also mean that health visitors will have more capacity to focus on the needs of our most vulnerable children. The service has also successfully recruited new health visitors and offered posts to all the newly qualified health visitors who trained with Lincolnshire County Council. All vacant posts continue to be advertised. Six new students have commenced training with the Council and once qualified all will be offered permanent posts. The service continues to work in collaboration with our Early Years service to deliver several new programmes through our children centres that aim to support parents and carers with managing normal childhood problems such as sleep for example.

ADULT SKILLS & FAMILY LEARNING

The Adult Skills & Family Learning Service continues to deliver good outcomes for its learners, achieving high learner satisfaction of 99%.

In the 2022/2023 academic year, working with 19 training providers, we delivered 1,600 courses to 7,100 learners across Lincolnshire. Of these learners 58% are unemployed and looking for work, 29% live in areas of deprivation, and 36% have low or no qualifications. There has been, and continues to be, a great deal of interest in our qualification programmes which support Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors and provides the skills and learning to equip our learners for work. These include English, Maths, bookkeeping, customer service, hospitality, leadership, working in mental health, payroll, food production, and food preparation.

Multiply

We launched the second year of our Multiply programme on 17 May 2023 to coincide with National Numeracy Day, delivering activities in libraries, children's centres, employers' premises, and community venues across Lincolnshire. In this second year of Multiply delivery, working with training providers, voluntary and community organisations and employers, we have engaged with over 1,000 residents, to date, to improve adult numeracy skills. We have recently launched the second year of our Multiply Champion grant scheme and look forward to working with local employers to deliver this programme.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Channel

Channel plays a pivotal role in effectively managing an individual's susceptibility to radicalisation and their terrorism risk, thereby helping to better protect the public. Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Lincolnshire County Council have lead responsibility for effectively delivering the county's Channel Panels.

In this quarter, the Home Office have published revised Channel duty guidance which has been developed to reflect policy and strategy developments, including CONTEST 2023 and the renewed Prevent duty guidance; valuable insights from the recommendations provided by the Independent Review of Prevent; and feedback from practitioner engagement.

There are several areas where the Home Office have sought to strengthen the guidance and introduce new policies, and in recent weeks Lincolnshire County Council's Prevent lead has spent time understanding those changes and introducing mechanisms required to ensure the continued effective delivery of Channel going forward, including enhancements to Lincolnshire County Council's Prevent training programme and updates to the Prevent National Referral Form and Prevent Assessment Framework tool.

Stay Safe Partnership

There has been a year-on-year increase in the number of preventative education sessions delivered by the partnership since its inception in 2015, and the 2022/2023 academic year was no different, with the partnership delivering sessions to 20,978 secondary and 17,762 primary students. This marked an increase on the previous academic year which was the result of additional investment, that saw the recruitment of additional staff to deliver a broader and more enhanced programme of intervention around healthy relationships.

One of the key priorities of Lincolnshire's Domestic Abuse Partnership (LDAP) - Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024, is to develop an early intervention response to domestic abuse through school and early years engagement. Additional government grant funding has enabled LDAP to appoint two Domestic Abuse Stay Safe Officers, to develop and deliver age-appropriate 'Friendships and Emotions' sessions to primary age children. These sessions aim to teach these children the skills and values required to have healthy relationships in the future. Children learn about emotions, how they cause our bodies to react and strategies to manage them. Other sessions include celebrating differences, communication skills, conflict resolution, positive boundaries, and identity. This will lay a positive foundation of the healthy qualities and emotional resilience at a point when students are more likely to engage and adapt their behaviour through education.

These additional Domestic Abuse Stay Safe Officers have enabled the Stay Safe Partnership to reach an additional 42 primary schools during 2022/2023; delivering an additional 51 sessions to an additional 1,218 children, compared with the previous academic year. The LDAP intend to expand the Healthy Relationship Curriculum from Year 2 to college age during this academic year, so we anticipate these figures will rise again.

MIGRATION

Homes for Ukraine

Lincolnshire continues to welcome Ukrainian guests on the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme. The scheme remains live so whilst we continue to support new arrivals, other families are now firmly established having lived in the County for over 18 months.

Although some families have chosen to return to Ukraine or move to another area of the country, we are aware that almost 1000 Ukrainians are still living in Lincolnshire (on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme) with just under half having successfully 'moved on' from their hosts and into their own independent accommodation. Some guests have successfully become hosts themselves and helped other family members to join them.

With our partner organisations, we continue to support guests (and their hosts) for the duration of their three-year visa in a wide variety of ways. This includes steering people to existing services available to all Lincolnshire residents, but also more targeted support relating to immediate welcome arrangements, access to English language classes and employment, community integration, wellbeing, in-person support events plus rematching and housing. Recently some Lincolnshire guests have been helped to access a free qualification to learn to teach English, enabling them to help others and potentially build a new career.

More information about the support available to our Ukrainian community and their hosts can be found at [Advice for Ukrainian Arrivals | Lincolnshire \(connecttosupport.org\)](https://connecttosupport.org) and in our dedicated newsletter that is shared every month.

RAF Scampton

Following the government announcement in March 2023 that surplus military sites will be used to accommodate asylum seekers, RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire was identified to house approximately 2000 single, adult males.

We, along with other local statutory partners including West Lindsey District Council, City of Lincoln Council, Police, and Health are not responsible for the development or delivery of the Home Office's plan. We are stakeholders and our role is to seek assurance on behalf of our communities, that all identified risks are being carefully considered and mitigated appropriately by the Home Office and its contractors before the site is mobilised. Senior officers have been collectively engaging with the Home Office civil servants since the proposals were announced in March 2023, and continue to influence the Home Office to independently commission relevant services and arrangements to ensure the safe, legal, and compliant mobilisation of the site should it go ahead.

The Home Office are still developing the detailed Operational Management Plan for the site which they will continue to iterate as they onboard their Service Provider, Serco PLC. Local statutory partners will continue to check and challenge plans as they develop over time. The Home Office have produced a fact sheet that shares the latest updates with the community which can be found [here](#). They are also now sharing a monthly newsletter with residents

living in closest proximity to the site along with organising public community engagement events both in person and online.

West Lindsey District Council is also pursuing legal action seeking to prevent the use of the site without planning permission. The full judicial review was heard in court on 31 October 2023 and 1 November 2023 and a written judgement is expected within the next few weeks.

In addition, the political leaders of the County Council, West Lindsey District Council and City of Lincoln Council are coordinating their communications with relevant government Ministers to seek responses to actions expected of the Home Office to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the local community as well as those accommodated and working on the site.

Asylum Hotels

We have recently been notified by the government of their intention to terminate their contracts with three Lincolnshire hotels as asylum accommodation. The hotels in East Lindsey and South Kesteven will end by February 2024 and residents currently accommodated will be moving to other accommodation in the government's asylum estate.

Asylum Dispersal Accommodation

Asylum Dispersal and Contingency Accommodation in the East Midlands continues to be sourced and managed by Serco on behalf of the Home Office. As well as procuring hotels, Serco continue to seek properties to lease from a wide network of landlords, investors, and agents. Procurement of properties within local authorities is expected to increase over the coming months as the government continues their first phase of hotel exits. However, as a large site has been proposed at RAF Scampton, we have negotiated a procurement pause in West Lindsey and City of Lincoln.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from Councillor Wendy Bowkett - Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health

ADULT CARE

Day Services

Further progress has been made with the development of the Council's In-House Day Opportunities Services including a re-structure of the service to enhance the work aimed at helping people to maximise their independence. This work has led to an increased number of people with disabilities participating in volunteering and employment. We are also seeing a wider use of the day services buildings by the wider community.

The improvement work includes the re-provision and refurbishment of a number of the Day Services buildings to ensure that these are places we can be proud. We have successfully completed phase one of a major refurbishment of Ancaster Day Centre building in Lincoln and have further refurbishment work planned for the future including phase two of Ancaster, refurbishment work in Spalding Chappel Centre and when suitable accommodation can be sourced an alternative base for Grantham and potentially the Skegness service as well.

The Day Opportunities team have also supported the Butlin's ICE conference. The Butlins Inclusive Community Experience Conference welcomed more than two hundred and fifty participants to Butlins Skegness in September, offering a remarkable holiday experience to learning-disabled adults from across the county. This allowed family carers to take a well-deserved break. The central theme for this year's ICE conference was "Busting Barriers," with all workshops focusing on individuals' accomplishments despite the challenges they've encountered.

Lincolnshire Adults Safeguarding Board and Team Around the Adult

Good progress is being made against the key priorities identified in the second Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Prevention Strategy (LSAB) 2023-2026. Key areas of focus include further improvement in the quality and safety of residential and nursing care, preventing the impact of pressure sores, tackling domestic abuse of older adults, preventing financial abuse and safeguarding adults with complex needs by piloting phase two of Team Around the Adult (TAA). Senior Responsible Officers have been identified from across the partnership to lead on each of the key priorities and where appropriate, links have been made to other statutory boards to ensure a joined-up approach; for example the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership are leading on financial abuse work related to scams and fraud and the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership are leading on work around Domestic Abuse and Older Adults.

The TAA phase two multi-agency audit group is progressing an audit of activity related to forty individuals who were frequently presenting to either the Police, District Councils, LPFT Crisis team or LCC Emergency Duty team. There has been great commitment to these meetings by all partners, sharing information and actively participating in meetings, fostering open

discussions, professional curiosity, and constructive challenges. The TAA task and finish group is analysing the findings and considering what system changes could help to identify the right support at the right time, reducing demand on services and leading to better responses and outcomes for individuals.

As a result of audits to date, the TAA multi-agency task and finish group has identified a need for training and resources which could be accessed by all practitioners working with those living with unresolved trauma. The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board agreed to take this forward and are working with the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's partnership to ensure that all those working across the Lincolnshire system have access to the same training and resources. This will support a consistent trauma-informed approach which will improve outcomes for the people we work with. Feedback and learning have also been shared to inform the review of the LSAB Self-Neglect Protocol, including the emerging findings associated with a frequent perception of 'non-engagement' and 'individuals not being ready for support'. To date thirty-five complex cases have been audited. Once complete, the Task and Finish Group will review the findings in their entirety to consider and agree next steps and further recommendations for improvement.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Drugs and Alcohol

It has been a busy year regarding our work around drugs and alcohol. The Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership is now well-established with several priority activities underway. This includes expanding work to prevent drug and alcohol related harms and improving referral routes into specialist treatment. One You Lincolnshire continues to support people who want to cut back on their drinking, and With You provides specialist support for young people and adults of all ages with problem drug and alcohol use.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Work to deliver the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health is well underway. Partners from across Lincolnshire are coming together to raise awareness of how to look after your mental wellbeing, through the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. We are also working across Lincolnshire to improve the health and wellbeing of people with serious mental illness, who are some of our most vulnerable residents and who experience worse health outcomes across the board. The new Suicide Prevention Strategy will be launched in early 2024, which sets out our approach to reducing suicide attempts and deaths in Lincolnshire for the coming years.

Oral Health

I'm pleased to tell you all that Lincolnshire Smiles – our local supervised toothbrushing programme – is thriving. In the last school year over one thousand three hundred children from twenty-eight schools and early years settings participated in the daily toothbrushing programme, helping them to develop healthy oral health habits for life. Our programme to deliver toothbrushing packs to settings across the county, including the Holiday Activity and

Food Programme, Food Banks and through the Health Visiting Service continues. The latest dental epidemiology survey, which helps us to understand oral health needs of children in Lincolnshire, is now underway for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ageing Better Conference

Our second annual Age Friendly Lincolnshire Conference, organised in conjunction the Centre for Ageing Better, took place at the end of September. The conference brought together organisations with a remit around housing, employment, community development and tackling inequalities, including those supporting or delivering services for people over the age of fifty.

The key highlights of our ongoing work in Ageing Better are:

- Design guides are improving the quality of new residential developments and meeting needs for older people.
- Activity sessions are set up for those living with dementia.
- Active care programmes exist for those with Parkinson's disease.
- Community hubs provide drop-in advice and information points to support people with issues ranging from benefits to IT access.
- Our Wellbeing Lincs service continues to provide the right support for people to live independent, long lives, keeping them safe and well at home and in their communities.

We also know that many people are struggling to make changes to their homes to keep them warm and safe. As we age, it becomes more challenging to maintain and improve our homes due to factors such as becoming less active and agile and not knowing where to go to seek advice.

Another aspect of our commitment to supporting Lincolnshire's ageing population is our exciting plan to develop additional extra care housing schemes in Lincolnshire. Extra care housing supports independent living with additional amenities and on-site support if needed. Work is progressing on the new Welton scheme, due to open at the end of next year. The joint project with Homes England, West Lindsey District Council and LACE Housing will feature sixty-two apartments for older people.

In addition, The Hoplands in Sleaford has now been awarded planning permission with work due to start in the new year. In partnership with North Kesteven District Council, the development will bring much needed accommodation to the district. It will include forty extra-care apartments for older people and twelve maisonettes providing community-supported living accommodation, specifically for adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and those who are autistic.

These schemes will add to our successful opening of De Wint Court in Lincoln and I'm looking forward to seeing this take shape for people and more extra care housing schemes come on board in other areas of the county in future years. They are a vital part of our package to support independence, improve the wellbeing and enhance the quality of life of our older residents.

On the 2 November 2023 The Council hosted a 'Summit' of senior leaders from across the Lincolnshire urgent and emergency care system. The 'Summit' reviewed our achievements and challenges on our mission to maximise the likelihood that people needing urgent care in the County are routed in a timely fashion to the most appropriate service in our systems.

Delivering appropriate and timely urgent and emergency care to our residents is a significant challenge in Lincolnshire, with significant distances between communities and services and areas with sparse population where it is difficult to provide services in a cost effective way. Working well with partners to overcoming this challenge in innovative and creative ways is essential and we have recently been commended for the quality of our approach to joint working during NHS England's review of our joint preparation for the coming Winter.

The Summit was chaired by the Leader of the Council and was very well attended by very senior representatives of organisations from the NHS, independent and voluntary sectors, emergency services and the University. Informative presentations proved a very good jumping off point for the discussions which followed.

Whilst we have much to celebrate in Lincolnshire, there was a consensus that there are areas which will require further improvement. We closed the Summit by securing commitment to a range of actions which will improve local people's experience and I look forward on reporting progress on these to Council as they progress.

Appendix C

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from: **Councillor Richard Butroid – Executive Councillor for People Management, Legal and Corporate Property**

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

The Council's performance on sickness absence and voluntary turnover has been positive. As of 30 September 2023, we have seen a reduction in the past 12 months to 7.22 days per FTE and 8.41% respectively. Likewise, we have also seen an increase in the number of employments within the Council to 5798, compared with 5668 in September 2022. The figures indicate that the Council's actions on attraction and retention of the workforce over the past 18 months are having an impact.

With respect to our agency spend, our contract with the Council's supplier of agency workers has seen an overall reduction in the last three quarters to an average spend of £1.4m. This is compared with an average of £1.5m during quarters 1, 2 and 3 in 2022. Whilst off-contract spend has risen in the last three quarters, this is largely due to an increase in the usage of educational psychology, in which the model delivers a more cost-effective option to that of direct employment.

LEGAL SERVICES

13 November 2023 saw the commencement in post of Will Bell as the new Chief Legal Officer in place of David Coleman who will be retiring in April 2024. Will was formerly Director of Governance and Partnerships at North Lincolnshire Council, where he acted as their designated Monitoring Officer from 2011.

20 November 2023 saw the commencement in post of Lisa Tremble in the new post of Head of Legal Services. Lisa was formerly Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services at Westmoreland and Furness Unitary Council and prior to that fulfilled the same role and was Monitoring Officer at Eden District Council.

These appointments leave the Legal Service in strong hands and enable an orderly transfer of responsibilities prior to David's retirement.

CORPORATE PROPERTY

Property Services Re-procurement

In July, the Executive approved the new approach for Property Services delivery. The existing contract will come to an end in March 2025 and will be replaced with two new separate contracts, covering facilities management and professional services. The team have been working hard since July to pull together a specification for the facilities management contract. This was sent to the market in mid-October alongside a bidder questionnaire. The next stage is to refine a shortlist of

potential bidders who will be invited to tender early in 2024. The second contract will be for Professional Services and relates to the delivery of our capital projects. The team are in the planning stages and expect to be able to start the procurement process for a new provider, using a framework, next summer. Both new contracts will improve the responsiveness and aid efficient delivery of our property services.

Property Rationalisation Programme

The Property Rationalisation Programme started in earnest over the summer. In October, Corporate Property brought a scrutiny paper to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board which provided an update on the programme and sought pre-decision scrutiny for the refurbishment of Orchard House B. I'm pleased to say that this project is now proceeding, with the final details being added to the technical design. I expect work to start on site early next Spring, with the project being complete by the end of 2024. Completion of the project will enable the sale of Crown House, 4 Lindum Road (where the registrars are located) and we will be able to mothball a number of other properties – generating an anticipated £1.2m in capital receipts and around £320,000 in revenue savings. The programme is also working in the localities, with projects either ongoing or about to start in Boston, Sleaford, Gainsborough, and Spalding. These projects will further rationalise the office estate, disposing of surplus office accommodation and generating further savings.

Deepings Leisure Centre

The Council has a statutory obligation to grant a 125-year academy lease to the Academy Trust operating the Deepings School. To enable this to progress, following an Executive decision on 4 July 2023, an Expression of Interest exercise was launched on 11 August 2023 offering an opportunity for a third party to acquire, refurbish and operate the vacant Deepings Leisure Centre. The opportunity closed on 22 September 2023 and only one expression of interest was received. The business plan and associated papers accompanying this expression of interest are currently under review. Should a successful bid not be received, the Council will look to demolish the Leisure Centre. A formal decision should be made by February 2024, following a full review and evaluation of proposals.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from: Councillor Lindsey Cawrey - Executive Councillor for Fire & Rescue, Emergency Planning and Culture Services

LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE (LFR)

Operational Response

Once again, the service has had to deal with a variety of operational incidents in which our front-line responders have been tested to ensure they are resolved. The summer months proved to be quieter than last year as the county didn't experience the same levels of hot weather, however, we still attended a range of outdoor fires.

At the end of October and into early November, the recent storms have brought about some extreme weather, which has resulted in areas of Lincolnshire suffering from widespread flooding. The service has supported the community by providing messages of advice, standing up operational assets to standby at locations of higher risk and mobilising officers and appliances to inspect and remove flood water where suitable. These incidents which have been caused by environmental impacts continue to be a significant challenge to the service.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

The Service was one of the first services to be inspected as part of the first tranche of the third round of inspections made of fire and rescue services by HMICFRS. The visit was conducted over eight weeks in May and June of this year and had a significant impact upon the service in terms of supporting the inspection process.

The initial feedback received following the inspection appears to be largely positive, although as always, there will undoubtedly be areas for improvement identified by the inspectors. Overall, the inspectorate suggested that the service was moving in a positive direction.

The final report was due mid- to late-August once a moderation process, involving benchmarking against other inspections, had been completed, however it is understood that publication of the report will be delayed until the end of November.

Integrated Risk Management, Operational Support & Service Support

Our integrated risk management team have continued to develop the new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for 2024-2028. We have worked very closely with a risk profiling company, Operational Research in Health (ORH), to ensure that we have a focused understanding of the risks in Lincolnshire, and how our service can best meet the needs of our communities. The document is now in the design phase, and we are seeking to ensure that our communities have a variety of options to access and understand its content. This is an integral part of the rollout.

A contaminations group has now been established, following the ongoing release of information from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and representative bodies regarding firefighter contamination and its effects. This also follows on from national research undertaken by the University of Central Lancashire, where the designation of firefighting is now recognised as a carcinogenic occupation by the World Health Organisation.

This group will be integral in the design of new firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), fire appliances (reference to the clean cab policy) and LFR properties to ensure we are able to mitigate the potential issues we face and keep our firefighters safe.

Work continues in our operational support department to ensure we have the right fleet and equipment in the right place, at the right time, to meet the risks we've identified in Lincolnshire. Projects are now underway to review the replacement of some of our fire appliances, the replacement of our fleet maintenance contract, a review of our current PPE in response to the impacts of climate change, the changing dynamics of the incidents we attend and contamination, as detailed above. A review of our current officer response vehicle provision is also underway.

The service support team, amongst their business-as-usual activities, are heavily involved in the fire control mobilisation project. This is an extensive piece of work that will provide a robust and future proofed solution regarding our ability to receive 999 calls and to mobilise assets to incidents. Pending approval, Phase 1 of this work will be completed by March 2025, with Phase 2 seeking to implement new station mobilising equipment and our fire appliance mobile data terminals (MDTs). The team are also working alongside our protection and prevention departments to scope out a new and improved management information system. This will provide a streamlined solution to the way we collect and utilise data, avoiding duplication and double keying.

The service support team are also working with the Information Management Team to assess the impact of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) replacement programme, required to be fully implemented by December 2025. The identification of impact is crucial in ensuring we are able to maintain service delivery during this transition.

All three departments are working with the resourcing project team to identify how the structures of these teams may look in the future, to service the needs of LFR, Lincolnshire County Council and the communities we serve and protect.

People

The service continues to ensure that the recommendations contained within the London Fire Brigade Cultural review and within the HMICFRS culture and values spotlight report are actioned within our service.

We have also seen good progress with our activities outlined within our people framework, including a service-wide rollout of equality, diversity, and inclusion training. Earlier this quarter, we reviewed the pilot of our talent management process which saw over 100 individuals from across our organisation engage in a talent conversation. We have also seen employee voice grow, where we now have active participation in six staff networks.

We are making good progress with our review of staff structures to ensure we are making the best use of skills and that the service is capable of meeting future demands. This review has already seen the successful expansion of our Fire Protection team. All staff continue to receive meaningful and regular engagement on this project through management updates and newsletters.

Fire Protection

The team have continued to work hard to ensure we deliver against the Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP). A working group has been established to review the current risk methodology and we have been able to integrate partner datasets into RBIP, resulting in one comprehensive list of properties for inspection. We have seen an increase in the number of formal notices issued by fire safety inspectors, with actions being followed up with a consideration for prosecution.

Local policies and internal structures have been developed which has ensured that we are in line with legislative fire safety updates. Automated reporting mechanisms are now in place, allowing owners of high-rise and multi-occupied residential buildings to report issues that may impact on the safety of buildings. To date, we have received a number of updates via the reporting mechanism that has allowed support to be provided and required actions to be taken.

A positive recruitment process has allowed us to fill vacancies in the team that were created through individuals leaving the Service. We are monitoring the impact of these fire safety inspectors leaving, prioritising work and activities as required. A robust development process is in place with all new inspectors progressing well. Following Phase 1 of the internal resourcing project, we have successfully recruited into the managers' posts, which will allow us to continue to develop the capabilities and capacity of the team.

Fire Prevention

We have successfully updated our risk profiling process, and we are now able to identify and proactively target household-level risk. The process is aligned with our identified vulnerabilities and is a result of analysis of local and national datasets. The process has been rolled out across the Service with our community safety advocates and our operational crews utilising the updated process. A quality assurance exercise is being carried out to allow the validity of the profiling process to be confirmed. We have seen a significant increase in the number of Home Fire Safety Visits being carried out, with plans in place to further increase the outputs.

Following the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty, work has been carried out to review the impact for the prevention team and Service as a whole. The Duty is clear and places responsibility on Fire and Rescue Services to support the reduction of serious violence in their local areas. A gap analysis has been carried out and a delivery plan developed to outline how LFR will contribute to the wider agenda. In addition to activities within the Service, we are sitting on the Serious Violence Duty Core Priority Group, as part of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership.

Supporting the development of the 2024-2028 CRMP, we have been reviewing the community risks and ensuring that we have robust plans in place to mitigate potential impacts. With home and road safety identified as priorities, we are now looking to take the lead on a county-wide water safety group. Terms of reference have been developed, with the second meeting of the group planned for November 2023.

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY SERVICE

Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Service Storm Babet

October saw the first autumn storm of 2023, storm Babet. The team co-ordinated the multi-agency Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) response to both the initial impact and ongoing issues that arose consequently. Formal command structures were put in place and the County Emergency Centre was opened. Multiple areas were flooded or affected and several breaches and potential breaches to riverbanks occurred most notably in Horncastle, Wainfleet, Fiskerton and Coningsby, although many other areas were impacted.

Repairs to the bank of the River Witham in Fiskerton are going to take some time, and bespoke evacuation plans were developed for the village and for residents in Short Ferry to enable them to return to their properties whilst this work was carried out. The team are now actively working with these communities to assist them in developing their own community emergency plans. The UK government's Flood Recovery Scheme has also been enacted allowing residents to claim if their properties have been affected by flooding and meet the criteria.

Business Continuity Audit

During October 2023, Internal Audit carried out a full audit of LCC business continuity preparedness. Its objective was to assess the effectiveness and readiness of the council's business continuity management and delivery. The audit aimed to identify strengths, weaknesses, and any areas for improvement. It focused on looking at delivery, training, assessment and plans across different services. As this is a corporate risk, it gets a high profile with the Audit Committee.

We are audited every three years and, the last time this was conducted, we received substantial assurance. In preparation for this, the team have ensured that all area plans have been updated and validated through a series of tabletop exercises, an area highlighted during the last audit for some improvement. The final report is expected towards the end of November 2023.

Rest Centre Exercise 4 October 2023

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Service co-ordinated a live exercise on the Lincolnshire Coast on the 4 October 2023. This tested our capability to respond to an evacuation by setting up a rest centre and direct warning and informing through door knocking. The area chosen for the exercise was Sutton on Sea and Skegness, two community information evenings were held prior to the exercise to give residents further information and train volunteers who wanted to be involved. A similar exercise took place in Anderby with

great success a couple of years ago. These types of exercises are vital to ensure our plans remain fit for purpose and give us the opportunity to test in the field our new registration and mapping systems.

The exercise was well received by the community, and it was great to be able to work alongside our Community and Ready for Anything volunteers in the process.

Ready For Anything Volunteers

Following the challenges presented by the flooding in Lincolnshire in 2019, high profile incidents such as the Grenfell Tower fire and the Manchester Arena attack and more recently, the Coronavirus pandemic, the use of volunteers and embracing and channelling public goodwill, has never been more important. Through the Ready for Anything scheme, individuals can support emergency responders and communities during and after crisis. Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) has teamed up with North Yorkshire Resilience Forum to launch the scheme in Lincolnshire, building upon the outstanding achievements of their volunteers. Training is well underway in Lincolnshire, and volunteers have been deployed in the recent Storm Babet response. Further information and engagement sessions are being held over the next few months to recruit and train new volunteers.

Training & Exercises

Preparations continue for Exercise Imp which is next year's LRF multi-agency exercise. It is hoped to test our developing plans for the recovery from a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) incident. The team will be leading this piece of work and co-ordinating the planning group. The team are also working closely with Lincoln City Football Club management team, as this will be the fictitious location for the incident, and they are keen to be involved with the exercise.

LRF Winter Campaign

Storm Babet served as a timely reminder that the LRF and our communities continually need to be prepared for extreme weather and flooding events as we move through the autumn and winter months. The Emergency Planning Chair and the LRF Warning & Forming group have been putting together practicable advice for the public. This year's campaign has been enhanced by the LRF's new website which saw a dramatic increase in traffic along with Facebook and Twitter/X social media accounts during storm Babet. The team continue to promote this site and hope that residents will use it as a trusted source of information both in peacetime and during emergencies.

The website was developed because of a successful bid for Cabinet Office innovation funding. To date, ten other Local Resilience Forums across the UK have actively adopted the website format and another four are currently working with the team to do the same. This project is held up as best practice and a positive example of how this funding scheme is not only benefitting individual LRFs but multiple LRFs.

CULTURE

Lincoln Castle wins VisitEngland's Gold Award

Now in their ninth year, VisitEngland's Accolades are designed to celebrate excellence within the visitor attraction sector and showcase those who go the extra mile to provide a high-quality day out.

Gold award status recognises those attractions that have scored highly across the board, and Lincoln Castle is one of only three venues in the whole of the East Midlands to receive the award this year.

Alongside our sister sites across the city and beyond, Lincoln Castle attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors and, in turn, supports the visitor economy of Lincoln and Lincolnshire. For a sector that is struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic and an ongoing cost of living crisis, it's important we celebrate Lincoln Castle's success as an opportunity to entice more people to enjoy our beautiful county.

Lincoln Castle Illuminated

The magical and much-loved Christmas event will run from Friday 8 December until Saturday 23 December 2023, giving families and friends the perfect and unmissable opportunity to get into the festive spirit in the heart of Lincoln.

Visitors will be able to enjoy the castle grounds bejewelled with festive lights and illuminated Christmas features. The Illuminated Wall Walk will give visitors the chance to see this historical landmark sparkling with festive lights, and to take in the beautiful night-time views across the city and county.

This year will also feature a 'Mini Polar Express' alongside other traditional fairground rides to be enjoyed by the young and young at heart.

Sam Scorer: A Life in Fourteen Buildings Exhibition

28 October 2023 to 21 January 2024.

Sam Scorer is widely recognised as the most significant architect of post-war Lincolnshire, and this exhibition celebrates a local architect of national significance.

Through loans from the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Architectural Association and local, personal collections, the exhibition considers the main themes that are expressed through Scorer's work and that remain relevant to the designers of the contemporary built environment. These include envisioning the future through architectural design, architecture's relationship with the wider context and legacy-building. The exhibition also serves as a bridge between the past and the present.

Through the use of 3D and immersive models, you are invited to deepen your understanding of architectural processes - from concept to completion - and encouraged to reconsider your

relationship with your built environment through various activities; both within, and beyond, the Usher Gallery's walls.

Libraries – Summer Reading Challenge (SRC)

This year's Reading Challenge has been phenomenally busy and successful with over 3,600 children participating across the core and mobile libraries. This is a 16 per cent increase on 2022's actual and a nine per cent increase on the stretch target GLL had set. We also saw an 11 per cent increase in the number of children completing the challenge in 2023 compared to 2022. Nineteen of the Community Hubs ran the SRC this year, with a total of 556 children participating and 371 completing.

This year's sport and games theme provided ample opportunity for engaging staff run activities. We were delighted to also be able to link with a number of community sport initiatives and providers, resulting in additional activities such as yoga and karate taster sessions and visits by professional football players from Lincoln City Football Club. Over 100 activities were held across the 15 core sites that were attended by just over 4,000 people.

Libraries – Continuing To Grow

The library service has continued to thrive, with Quarter Two in particular exceeding pre-covid levels by 10 per cent and reporting an overall 16 per cent increase in visits, when compared to last year's figures; August seeing a 20 per cent increase on August last year, due to the Summer Reading Challenge. Digital issues continue to represent approximately 25 per cent of all issues. The new app, which launched in April 2023, has seen a total of 54,843 app launches across Quarter Two alone.

In summary, our customers continue to engage with the library service, whether this be through the physical library or through a digital offer, evidenced by a positive increase in issues per visit, and increased usage of our digital platforms; website visits have exceeded the target to date by 102 per cent.

Libraries continue to be a vital community asset across Lincolnshire, with a total of 1,590 hours between July and September. This success is largely down to the wide variety of community events and groups offered across the libraries. Community use across the libraries continues to include the independent readers and writers' group and local/family history societies, all of which continue to be popular.

Learning Award for the Museum of Lincolnshire Life

The Museum of Lincolnshire Life has gained the Sandford Award in recognition of its outstanding learning programme for schools, colleges and universities. The lead assessor commented on the "engaging active learning programme which makes use of the special aspects of the museum and presentation of its collection in room sets". They also spoke about their "imaginative family activities during the school holidays" and "inspirational visits for learners". This latest recognition builds upon our previous Sandford Award successes at Lincoln Museum and Lincoln Castle.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from: Councillor Colin Davie - Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning

GROWTH SERVICES

Economic Infrastructure

The Council's leadership role in the countywide energy for growth agenda continues, and its working relationships with the two electricity Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) who cover Greater Lincolnshire continue to strengthen. In parallel and following the production of the 'Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire' this summer, we now have and are already using to good effect an online interactive electricity supply and demand analysis tool to help inform both our and the DNOs' infrastructure investments.

At the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone near Holbeach in South Holland, private sector investment continues to follow on from the Council's. One of the centrepieces of the scheme, The Hub, the council's first innovation centre has now been open for just 13 months and has now reached 50% occupancy.

The Sutton Bridge placemaking scheme in South Holland, which is currently at detailed design stage, is a perfect example of a small, local economic development initiative designed to encourage greater spend with local businesses. The objective is to maximise the influence of the village's marina and other tourism assets to increase footfall to and from the village centre, by creating better physical and visual links between the two locations. The scheme has been developed with the local community to ensure ownership and buy-in and is programmed for delivery in Spring next year.

In East Lindsey, the Skegness Countryside Business Park extension, which Members will recall was completed in 2021, will provide a much-needed opportunity for local employers to expand in sectors which will help to diversify the coastal economy. A local developer has recently completed several industrial units on the first plot, which are available for small local businesses to rent.

Across the county, we continue to support our small business tenants, which total around 145, in our five business centres, innovation centre and industrial and commercial units. Occupancy levels remain buoyant with a health mix of lease renewals and new tenants.

Infrastructure Investment

Work continues in developing the proposals of the Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework to support the case for infrastructure investment, to meet the needs of our key economic sectors and to promote inclusive growth for our residents. The current focus is supporting the Council's energy work and that of other public sector partners across the region. As part of this, WSP have been commissioned to map and assess clean energy activities in Lincolnshire, benchmark against other areas and to set out options

for an Energy Strategy for the region. This will help draw together the council's existing work and responsibilities and position the county to best effect, enabling us to address our energy constraints and harness new energy opportunities to drive local growth and local benefits.

In a similar way, work has been undertaken to look at the challenges and opportunities in our rural economies and communities. We have looked at how issues of sparsity manifest in the provision of services and how it impacts the private sector, but we are also seeking to tell a lesser told story around Greater Lincolnshire's rural growth opportunities. These are present in our natural capital, the potential pool of economically inactive people who can share skills and work flexibly, and the presence of entrepreneurial clusters within our rural areas; where businesses have diversified, adapted, and innovated to not just survive but thrive. As this work draws to a close, we hope to have some compelling case studies and data that will support focused interventions that drive the economic links between our rural hub towns and their rural hinterlands. If the rural economy can thrive, this strengthens the wider economic impact of Greater Lincolnshire so that everyone will benefit.

I am also delighted to report that two Scrutiny Panels have completed deep dives into how the Council can support the agricultural sector to best effect, and how this council can help drive a revival in the region's high streets and town centres. I am currently overseeing what actions we can prioritise to best effect, but partnership, lobbying, place-making and digitalisation are at the heart of the thinking, together with the development of innovative pilots. Under one review, this will help drive town centre footfall and under the other will be designed around recruiting young people to work in agriculture as a career of choice.

Work is also underway to secure funding and responsibility for the Lincs Coast 2100+ Investment Plan, in partnership with the Environment Agency (EA) and East Lindsey District Council (ELDC). The Council recognises the importance of collaboration, vital to address the physical and social challenges that the Lincolnshire coast faces now and in the future. This work is substantial and will build on the recently completed Adaptive and Resilient Communities (RCC) project, enhancing our understanding of the challenges, and helping shape future decisions to support the impacts of climate change on coastal communities. The project will also enable us to focus investment on what is needed after consultation with communities and stakeholders.

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)

Work continues on the LEVI pilot, a scheme to introduce on street Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure for the residents of Lincolnshire. Leading a consortium of five Local Authorities across the Midlands, the Lincolnshire Team are working on the contract and tender process, with a tender expected to go out by the end of November 2023.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) have also secured further funding from the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund. The Midlands have come together to create two partnerships, with support from the sub-national Transport Body, Midlands Connect, to successfully submit a bid for the LEVI Fund. The partnerships have been awarded £39.3m, and each local authority has been allocated an individual amount from that pot. LCC has been awarded £5.6million and will lead the third consortium group of seven Local Authorities. The consortium partners are currently undertaking the financial modelling required by the

funding providers, to ascertain the number of chargepoints we can expect to deliver with the funding and the associated private sector investment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Team continue to be busy, providing much needed support to local businesses. In the first two quarters of 2023, 492 businesses have been supported.

The new jointly funded Business Lincolnshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Shared Service maintains much of the good practice developed through the many years of delivery experience since the Growth Hub launched in 2015. Although the funding pot is smaller than that provided by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), there is still a good breadth of services. As well as generalist advice, the service provides Specialist Advisers for Low Carbon, Manufacturing, Retail, Leisure and Hospitality, Agriculture and Horticulture and Digital. There is also in-depth support for Low Carbon, Manufacturing, Retail, Leisure and Hospitality, Social Economy, as well as Start Up and Scale Up programmes. The advisory support is complemented by an online events programme.

The team also continue to deliver services funded through other routes. For example, the East Midlands Made Smarter Adoption programme for the manufacturing sector, and the Create Growth programme aimed at high growth businesses in the creative sector.

East Midlands Made Smarter industrial digitisation programme delivery is well; year two is moving at pace, and interest in the programme remains good. To the end of September 2023, we have engaged with 52 manufacturing businesses, delivered 23 Road Maps, and awarded three grants. The first cohort under our Leading Digital Transformation element started on 2 November 2023, and we have delivered a number of Technology Transfer Workshops in Lincolnshire.

We also continue our partnership work with Lincolnshire Co-op and the Mosaic Digital Hub, providing important support for the fast-growing Digital, Creative and Technology sectors in the county. A popular, targeted events programme has now been established, and the Digital Lincolnshire online brochure has been launched which highlights many of the area's world-class digital businesses. This is an important tool for collaboration, talent retention and inward investment.

The team have also been undertaking activities to support the delivery of the International Trade Strategy that launched in October 2022. This has included adviser training, enhanced website content and a co-ordinated export marketing campaign, as well as practical support through the Export Peer Network and Roundtable, and the Empowering SMEs in International Trade programmes. We are seeing improved co-ordination and cross referral between providers which is great for the business community.

In November 2023, we also held our 'Going Global Export Conference' at the International Bomber Command Centre and the Taming the Dragons Investment Pitching Event, now in its 11th year. Future flagship events will include our very popular Manufacturing Conference on 8 March 2024.

Business owners continue to face significant challenges, particularly recently as a result of high inflation and interest rate hikes, and the Growth Hub Adviser Team provide an important support system for small businesses working their way through these difficulties. That said, many businesses that we are working with have continued to have positive growth and investment plans, and this can be seen through our support to high growth businesses through our next level programme which has now supported its 275th fast growing business.

We are very pleased to highlight that our ongoing evaluation activities continue to confirm that our business support services are well received, with 92% of respondents either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the service, and 91% of respondents either very or somewhat likely to recommend the service they received / event they attended to a friend or colleague.

All the elements of the Shared Service have now been commissioned and are in delivery. There is now expected to be a fairly settled business support landscape for the short term, whilst post March 2025 plans develop.

Skills Bootcamps

The Skills Bootcamps are part of the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee, helping everyone gain skills for life. They are free (a contribution to the cost from the employer is required if sending their own employees), flexible courses of up to 16 weeks, giving people the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast track to an interview with a local employer, and for employers to upskill their workforce.

We are finalising the third wave of support which started in September 2022, having been awarded a grant of £939,500 from the Department for Education (DfE) in May 2022 to deliver the programme across Greater Lincolnshire. Focusing on Greater Lincolnshire residents and employers, with a target of 310 learners to achieve by 31 March 2023. Overall, 272 learners started a Skills Bootcamp and of those, 262 completed the programme, a 96% success rate (DfE target was 80%). This outcome has put Greater Lincolnshire on the top of the DfE Grants Area Performance Table. Skills Bootcamps offer included Food Manufacturing and Food Safety and Compliance (University of Lincoln), Clinical Care Programme (MEDEX), Shipping and Maritime and Logistics and Transport (MODAL).

We are now also currently delivering a fourth wave for which we were awarded a grant of £2.2m in February 2023. The target is for 1,151 learners to achieve by 31 March 2024. Skills Bootcamps being delivered include Digital, Construction and Retrofit, LGV Driving, Leadership and Management, EV Technicians, Clinical Care, Hospitality Excellence, Food Manufacturing and Food Safety. We are currently at 88 learner starts, with more in the pipeline. We continue to build on our success and have recently submitted a proposal to the DfE for a grant of £3.2m to deliver 1,180 learners from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. We are expecting to be notified in late autumn of the outcome.

PLACE AND INVESTMENT

Team Lincolnshire Activity

Team Lincolnshire held their first annual conference on 17 September 2023. The event was attended by 97 ambassadors (70% of the membership) and themes for the event were, 1) the future strategic direction of Team Lincolnshire; 2) Focused Collaboration and Connectivity across business communities in Lincolnshire. We have been aligning the Team Lincolnshire Ambassador programme, Inward Investment promotion and Foreign Direct Investment support, to ensure a cohesive sector-based approach to support all investors. This will help to lever the existing sector propositions, and Team Lincolnshire events will be sector specific and geographically balanced to ensure maximum benefit for Ambassadors and Investors.

The event was very successful, we welcomed 20 new Ambassadors joining the programme, celebrated the successes achieved over the last seven years and delivered the 2023-2025 Business plan.

Visitor Economy

Visit Lincolnshire (www.visitlincolnshire.com) has seen excellent growth in 2023. In the busy July to September period, the site received over 237,000 sessions, largely from organic search; this is up 77.9% on the same period last year. We attribute this to the optimised and continuously updated events pages, and also the new valuable destination and category level content added in recent months. The average conversion rate of visitors clicking through to a booking link is around 19.3%; this has consistently been around 13-15% so we are very pleased with this jump. 95% of all traffic is from across the UK, with 4% from the Lincoln area and 35% from the London area.

Continued development of the content on the website is important to ensure that our site is fresh and vibrant and maintains its number one spot in terms of search engine optimisation. The Cycling area has now been improved and now features 38 routes. The Wolds Birding area went live in late September; the Fens and the Lincoln Edge areas are left to complete. Bird watching is a great fit with our Nature Tourism offer: walking, cycling and exciting developments at our nature reserves.

The King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIECP) Toolkit is nearing completion. The path sections in Lincolnshire are anticipated to complete in early 2025, and we need to ensure that our businesses are ready for the opportunities it brings. To accompany the toolkit, workshops will be held in January to March 2024.

Although the web analytics are excellent, the tourism season of 2023 has been challenging. Businesses report no pattern to trade, last-minute bookings, those visitors who do come are not spending, and there are still a lot of job vacancies. There have been closures across the board, with retail having taken a particularly big hit. We have seen some quality businesses go, and many report on the sheer cost of doing business. Our findings are consistent with the rest of England; the bad weather has not helped, but clearly people are feeling the economic pinch.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Flood Risk and Water Resources Management

Recent flooding following Storm Babet has been a focus for officers. Significant work has been undertaken in our role as lead Local Flood Authority, to assess and investigate the causes of flooding into properties, often referred to as the section 19 process. With so many properties unfortunately suffering from water ingress across the county, this work will take some time to complete. We will work with partners, such as the Environment Agency and Anglian Water, to ensure that the work is undertaken efficiently. Each investigation will be submitted to the relevant authority who may have responsibilities to resolve concerns to ensure there are no repeats.

The current figures based on what we have had reported to us and collated from partner organisations are as follows:

- Internally flooded properties = 573
- Externally flooded (gardens, outbuildings etc) = 484
- Road closures = 50
- Highway flooding (not requiring road closures) = 102

Please note that these numbers may be revised as we continue to receive information, verify records, and commence the formal investigation process.

Away from the floods, the County Council has long recognised the economic and environmental potential of our coastal areas. We have been working closely with our partners over many years, to ensure that the best solutions are put in place to manage the risk from coastal flooding, while securing a prosperous future for businesses and communities in these areas. In October, I was pleased to sign up to the Local Government Association Coastal Improvement Group “Pledge for the Coast” seeking to ensure that our coast and its communities are resilient and to join calls for an appointed Minister for the Coast.

Officers have been actively engaged with various partners through an Environment Agency led initiative on three specific programmes, looking to the future adaptation of our coastline and water resources.

Following the completion of the Adaptive & Resilient Coastal Communities Project, the Lincs Coast Investment 2100+ project has started to look at reviewing how strategic infrastructure delivery behind the built and natural flood defences will need to be shaped. This is in light of the need to approach decision making in the context of the adaptive approaches required.

Similarly, the Humber 2100+ project has created baseline data to understand tidal flood risk affecting the estuary and surrounding land. I was pleased to endorse this on behalf of the Council in September 2023. This data will now help shape how the project undertakes its next

steps to agree the strategic approaches and associated flood risk measures available to manage tidal flood risk into the future around the Humber.

For both the Fens 2100+ and Future Fens Integrated Adaptation project, we are working with the Environment Agency and drainage boards, as well as Anglian Water and land managers, to start to develop similar long-term plans for managing future flood risk and supporting economic prosperity in the Fens. In the Fens, land is below mean sea level and will be susceptible to the risk of flooding from both the rivers and breaching or overtopping of the coastal defences.

With regards to the Lincolnshire Reservoir project, our officers maintain regular communication with Anglian Water and will continue to push for the project to incorporate a wider range of benefits than just water storage and distribution. This will ensure that the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits of the scheme are recognised. Currently, discussions are focussing on the opportunities that open water transfer to and from the reservoir may bring; as well as the wider strategic resource options that are required to support the development of the whole reservoir project.

The Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project is continuing to develop an understanding of a broad range of groundwater risks and opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire. In recent months, working with the University of Lincoln, Lincolnshire County Council's Project Groundwater team are collecting data on the present salt levels in the soil in the Fens, using modelling software to understand how salt water might infiltrate the soil and impact food production in the future. This innovative work has already gained interest at a national level, including amongst some major supermarket chains.

We were also pleased to see the government's commitment to tackling sewage pollution from storm overflow discharges and the impacts that this has had environmentally and on coastal bathing waters.

Sustainability and Natural Environment

The Council has delivered its most recent Carbon Report into its overall Greenhouse Gas emissions and in greater detail on the sources of emissions than previous iterations. I am pleased to inform members that we can demonstrate that the authority has reduced its emissions by nearly 72% since the baseline figure was taken in 1990. Similarly, between 2016 and 2023, we have reduced carbon emissions from energy consumption by 51%.

We recognise that the challenge of meeting Net Zero by 2050 is a strong one and there is much more that can still be done. The Sustainability team have been working to ensure that the Council's fourth Carbon Management Plan will be completed in the near future and will highlight how we may seek to rise to those challenges.

An example of this is that the Council has a large number of older buildings which are difficult to make energy efficient. Many of our schools have at least parts that are from the Victorian era, and it will be a challenge to make these buildings energy efficient and net zero carbon. Recently the Council received funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to produce a Heat Decarbonisation Plan. The work to produce this is being managed between

the Sustainability Team and the Corporate Property Team and will look at the costs of decarbonising the top twenty energy using buildings at the Council. The initial results from this work have identified a series of energy efficiency improvements, such as LED lighting replacements and insulation upgrades, that can reduce running costs and carbon dioxide emissions.

On 18 September 2023, I attended the launch of the new National Nature Reserve on the Greater Lincolnshire coast, which marks the first in the new King's Series of National Nature Reserves committed to enhancing biodiversity and nature recovery while connecting people with nature. The site covers 33 square kilometres along almost 30 kilometres of Greater Lincolnshire from the south of Cleethorpes to the north of Mablethorpe, making it the ninth largest National Nature Reserve in the country.

I was equally pleased to learn of the addition of the East Coast Wetlands to the tentative list for consideration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Heritage site. The area incorporates the majority of the Lincolnshire Coast and is part of the East Atlantic Flyway, extending from the Arctic to South Africa. This is globally important for migratory waterbirds. Officers will be working with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) lead on this proposal over the coming years.

As the Responsible Authority for the delivery of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Council is working closely with the local nature partnership on putting together this important strategy for the protection, enhancement, and recovery of our vulnerable habitats, to ensure that the area benefits in its delivery of biodiversity net gain. Preparations are well underway; a governance structure has been agreed and we look forward to the completion of the strategy. This will help identify, set priorities and advocate for the recovery of our most vulnerable habitats and to aid in the delivery of biodiversity net gain across the region.

The Sustainability Team has jointly commissioned a study with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to look at the environmental impacts of the cold chain sector in the county. The project is being delivered by the Lincoln Institute of Agri-Technology at the University of Lincoln. Anecdotal evidence suggests that small scale agricultural cold stores, such as potato stores, have been significantly affected by the rises in energy prices. The report will look at opportunities to improve the efficiency of cold stores and reduce overall running costs.

Greater Lincolnshire is a centre of cold store activity in the UK, with important clusters in Grimsby, Spalding, and Grantham. There is a growing demand for new large-scale cold store facilities. This report will identify suitable locations for cold store expansion, where there is sufficient electrical capacity to power new facilities.

The Sustainability Team has also been working with the Public Health Team and the environmental health teams at the district councils to look at air quality in the county. The Environment Act 2021 has new targets for air pollution levels and the project has looked at how these new air quality targets will be measured in Lincolnshire. Some initial testing of particulate matter in the air has been undertaken at eight sites around the county.

In general, air quality in Lincolnshire has improved over recent years. This has been due, in part, to improving vehicle engine standards; in Lincoln, the Eastern Bypass has improved air quality by diverting HGVs away from the city centre, having a noticeable impact on the pollutant levels measured in the city.

Planning Services

The Planning team continues to be engaged with the ever-increasing expansion of Nationally Significant Energy Infrastructure Projects that continue to emerge in the county. These cover the full spectrum of renewable energy such as solar, carbon capture, offshore wind, hydrogen, and the associated expansion of the National Grid infrastructure to move this energy generated around the country. This continues to create tension between the provision of producing renewable energy to meet the country's Net Zero ambition, and the impacts caused to our local communities who are being faced with the prospect of hosting large-scale energy projects with all the associated disruption without any tangible compensatory measures for the impacts caused. This situation is only likely to escalate as the number of these energy projects continues to increase within the county.

The Council's core planning activity of minerals, waste and our own developments is also seeing an increase in work demands with the emergence of large-scale anaerobic digestion plants being brought forward in the county. A couple of these are at the application stage with others at the pre-application stage. Also, the demand for the county's sand and gravel reserves continues to increase, with a number of applications for large-scale sand and gravel extraction currently before the Council for determination. Finally, the application for the North Hykeham Relief Road has recently been submitted with the expectation that this will be brought to the Planning Committee for determination in the Spring next year.

Finally, due to resourcing issues and the higher than anticipated potential sand and gravel sites being promoted by developers to be included in the updated Minerals and Waste local plan, the timetable for the public consultation on this updated plan has slipped. This public consultation is expected to take place next summer once the consultation proposals for the updated policies and sites to be included in the Local Plan have been approved by the Scrutiny Committee and Executive.

Historic Places Team

The caseload of the Historic Places Team continues at a pace, partly due to carrying some vacancies at a time when the incoming workload continues to increase. A great deal of the team's work continues to be in support of our colleagues across Planning Services with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, predominantly applications for solar farms but also including the Lincolnshire Reservoir and other infrastructure projects. One such infrastructure project, the water supply pipeline currently being constructed across the length of the county by the Strategic Pipeline Alliance, has resulted in a number of significant findings. They are still excavating the Roman site between Bracebridge Heath and Waddington, although this should have been completed by mid-November. It looks increasingly as though the site consists of light industrial activity associated with what must have been a large high-status structure nearby (and outside the area of excavation). The site

contains a number of corn dryers (a method devised by the Romans for prolonging the life of wheat for flour), lime kilns (for making the lime for mortar) and quarry pits as well as buildings for domestic use.

Other planning work includes the increasing demand for minerals, particularly sand and gravel, the preparations for the North Hykeham Relief Road application and a number of major development projects in both Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw districts in Nottinghamshire.

Members of the public continue to report objects to the Finds Liaison Officer (part of the national Portable Antiquities Scheme). Recently, a second season was spent excavating at Cammeringham to recover more evidence of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery that we first started work on in 2021. The project is now being run as a student project in conjunction with the University of Central Lancashire.

The team continues to provide access wherever possible to the county's Historic Environment Record (HER). We are close to an agreement with the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire to make arrangements for access to the HER and for data exchange to ensure the HER is as fully up to date as possible. Once this agreement is in place it will be possible to further develop the online HER. Recently, we have uploaded to the HER a record of every historic school building across Lincolnshire and all the information from the Inns on the Edge historic pubs project. We are continuing with the work with Historic England on this. All the data gathered by the Extensive Urban Survey project has been passed on to the Archaeological Data Service for long-term curating (as requested by Historic England) and is being incorporated into the HER.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from: Councillor Richard Davies - Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Budget

Inflation within the construction sector continues to cause challenges for the Highway service, as it does for the wider cost of living challenge experienced by the residents of Lincolnshire. Whilst the dramatic rises witnessed in 2021 and 2022 have subsided, increases of 2% in the last five months have been experienced in road surfacing related activities. These increases will not commercially impact the Highway Service until April 2024, but it does indicate a potential future budget pressure, unless it is matched by additional funding or further service efficiencies.

The additional Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) highway funding announced in the 2023 budget has ensured that the existing service levels can be maintained for the current financial year. The LCC funding was also increased by the Additional Pothole Funding announced by the Department for Transport (DfT). The one-year funding of £6.8 million will help improve the Highway service, however, the funding level falls short of the inflation pressure on the Highways Maintenance Block allocation that has and is due to remain static between April 2022 and 31 March 2025 under a three-year settlement. LCC Highways continues to lobby the DfT via regional bodies in relation to this ongoing pressure and are awaiting the outcome of the Autumn Statement to see if highways maintenance funding has improved. Similarly, there is an indication that further highways maintenance funding will be made available through Network North.

Carriageway Condition

The results for the Principal, Non-Principal and Unclassified roads all exceed the minimum agreed target levels in terms of the percentage of the network where maintenance should be considered.

PI 84 Condition of Principal Roads

Actual: 2%

Target: 3%

PI 85 Condition of Non-Principal Roads

Actual: 6%

Target: 7%

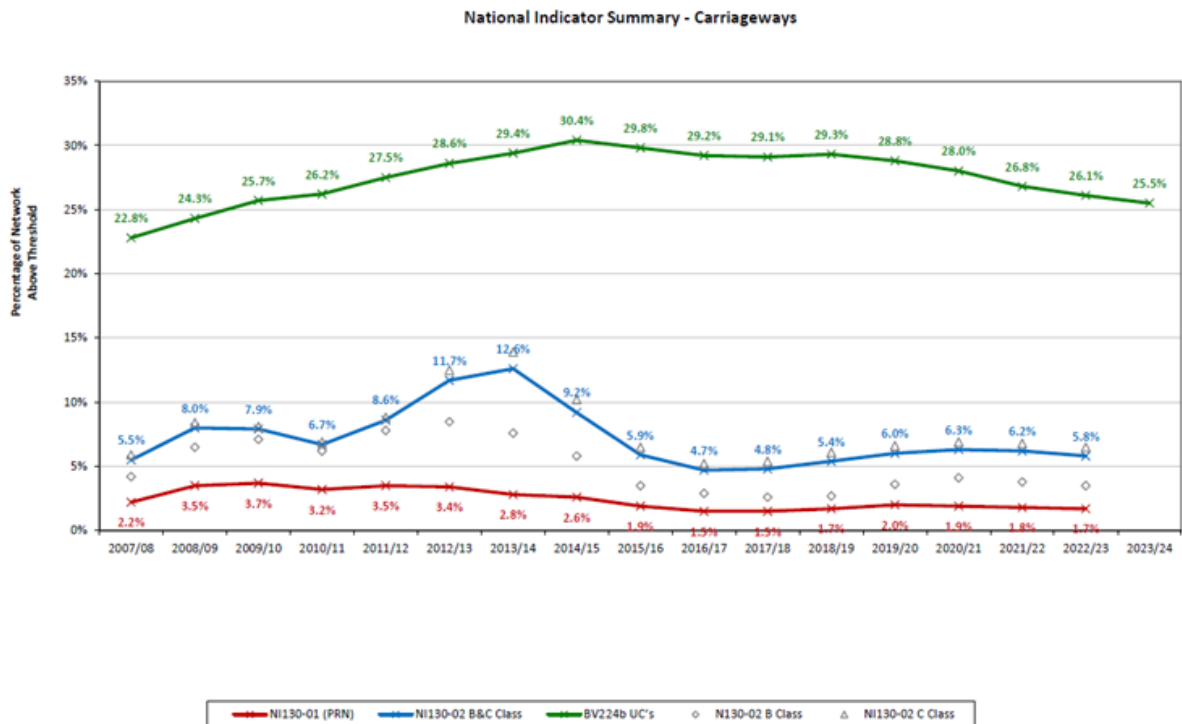
PI 86 Condition of Unclassified Roads

Actual: 26%

Target: 27%

Comparisons to other authorities demonstrate that the Principal road network in Lincolnshire is in a better state than the average rural authority, whereas the Non-Principal and Unclassified road networks are in a worse state than the average rural authority. The LCC Highways team continue to target improvement in these areas and to maximise the service efficiency, so that the condition of the assets is maintained and, where possible, improved.

The current strategy of an accelerated improvement on the Unclassified network remains on track.



Contract Refresh

The Contract Refresh procedure has been completed for the Highway Works/Professional Services and Traffic Signal contracts. The process required the Client and the Contractor/Consultant to review service delivery and identify contract improvements should an offer of extension be made and accepted by the parties.

The outcome of the contract refresh procedure was resolved at the Executive meeting held on the 7 November 2023 where the following recommendations were agreed:

- The Highway Works contract provider (Balfour Beatty Living Places) is offered a six-year extension from 31 March 2026 to the maximum permitted extension (as advertised in the original procurement documentation), taking service delivery to the 31 March 2032 on revised terms.
- The Professional Services Contract provider (WSP) is offered a two-year extension from 31 March 2026, taking service delivery to the 31 March 2028. This would leave four years available of the maximum permitted extension.

- The Traffic Signals Provider (Colas) is not extended, and a new re-procurement process has commenced.

Highways Works (Balfour Beatty)

The Highway service continues to focus on the reactive service delivery. The scale of demand, resource requirements and commercial pressure within the contract are challenging, but all parties involved (including the supply chain) are making the required improvements. A series of “Day in the Life” sessions have been held with the operational reactive gangs to help identify and implement further service improvements. These improvements will be implemented jointly between LCC and Balfour Beatty over the coming months. Combined with this improvement activity, the construction of a new Operational Control Hub within the LCC Highways office has been completed. The control hub monitors live data of gang performance, feedback on operational issues and is responsible for identifying service improvements. The control hub is the focal point for any Highway incidents when wider team input and management decisions on the network are required.

Councillor nominated Community Volunteering Days

As part of the original bid commitments from the Highway Works, Professional Services and Traffic Signal delivery partners, there have been 35 schemes completed to date, and guidance, designs and costs have been issued for another seven that are due to commence in 2023/2024 to assist Parish Councils and Community Groups.

Schemes this year have included various types of works, including the clearing of a memorial garden, painting a village hall, painting play parks, and providing an accessible path at a school for wheelchair users to access their nature area. The schemes carried out have all been extremely well received and many compliments have been received from the applicants, as well as from members of the community.

The 3 main contractors (Balfour Beatty, Colas and WSP) have been involved in the schemes and we also have had additional volunteering from some of our sub-contractors and major scheme delivery providers.

Grantham Southern Relief Road

Phase 1 from the B1174 running towards the A1 was completed in 2016.

Phase 2, which is the new graded separated junction onto the A1, was completed in 2022.

Phase 3 is the final phase of the project and is the largest and most complex to deliver. It consists of a five span viaduct carrying the road over the East Coast Mainline railway and the River Witham. Works commenced in April 2021, and much of the project has progressed well with sections already open. There have, however, been issues with the viaduct design with regards to piling and embankment stability. As a result, the bridge has been lengthened approximately 70 metres towards the East to avoid the area where the poor ground is situated. This has resulted in project delays, pushing the completion date to 2025. The project will also incur significant cost increases, which are being developed in conjunction with the design solution. A full investigation is underway to understand how this has occurred and where the liability rests. Notwithstanding, the bridge has progressed with the pier

foundations completed and the piers themselves installed. Piling works for the extended bridge has also now commenced. Works are now progressing towards the next milestone which will be the installation of the beams commencing towards the end of 2023 through to Summer/Autumn 2024.

North Hykeham Relief Road

When complete, this new road will link the A15 Lincoln Eastern Bypass with the A46 Western Bypass at Pennells Roundabout to create a full ring road around Lincoln. The project also aims to:

- Assist the sustainable economic growth of Lincoln and Lincolnshire.
- Maximise accessibility to Lincoln.
- Improve journey times and road safety in Lincoln.

In December, LCC was informed that the project had achieved programme entry approval from the DfT, which also secured £110m towards the project. A key decision to appoint Balfour Beatty as the Design and Build contractor was approved on the 5 April 2022, who in turn appointed a design consultant, Ramboll. The project has developed well in completing data acquisition, ecological surveys and preliminary design. Public engagement events were carried out through this period; these were positive events, and the output has been fed into the scheme design. The planning application has been developed and was recently submitted. It is expected that this will be brought to the Planning Committee for determination in Spring 2024. During this period, the project team will commence the development of the legal orders documentation for submission, should the project receive planning permission.

Spalding Western Relief Road (SWRR)

Section 5 (Northern Connection) – In February 2018, South Holland District Council (SHDC), in collaboration with LCC, were successful in securing £12m from the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) for delivering this section of the SWRR. Since then, a further £8.13m has been sourced from the HCA.

Works commenced in January 2022 with the construction of the two piling platforms to allow the c1600 number piles to be installed to support the bridge over the rail line. These piles are now complete, and so are the pile caps. In addition, the new roundabout on Spalding Road is complete and open to traffic. The abutments and piers have been constructed and the bridge beams were successfully installed over the rail line on the 21 and 22 October 2023. During this period the installation of the vertical light weight fill embankment has also commenced. Works are programmed to be completed in Summer 2024.

Lincolnshire Coastal Highway

LCC investigated potential improvements to the A158 across the county from the A1 to the North Sea coast, known as the 'Lincolnshire Coastal Highway'. This looked at the options for intervention along the route. In identifying improvements to the Highway, consideration was given to being future-ready, building in capacity to support growth, investigating options across a range of modes, building in resilience, and lower longer-term costs for infrastructure management.

A Horncastle bypass concept paper was completed, which identified expected costs and benefits. Due to the DfT scoring mechanism, the benefits are very low in comparison to the cost and therefore, would not attract any central government funding. This project is therefore currently not being progressed but is included in the Council's pipeline of projects to consider in the future.

A Skegness Relief Road concept paper has also been completed, which indicates a route that attracts a poor/very poor 'Benefit to Cost Ratio' score, meaning that it is unlikely to attract third party funding should a funding opportunity be presented.

A feasibility of an Orby bypass has been completed, indicating a very poor 'Benefit to Cost Ratio' score, meaning that it is unlikely to attract third party funding should a funding opportunity be presented.

Levelling Up Fund Projects (LUF)

LCC submitted a bid to central government under the LUF initiative, this consisted of the following projects:

- A16/A151 Springfield roundabout capacity improvement.
- A16 Greencell roundabout (Spalding Power Station) capacity improvement.
- A16 Marsh Lane Roundabout.
- Boston Active travel scheme.
- Spalding Active travel scheme.

In October 2021, it was announced that the bid had been successful. Since the announcement, the projects have progressed through detailed design with some on-site or nearing that stage.

Marsh Lane Roundabout and Boston Active Travel projects are progressing well. Most of the works are complete with the final roundabout works and carriageway reconstruction remaining. The works remain on target for completion at the end of 2023.

Works at Springfield Roundabout have commenced with the initial phase being to remove the roundabout splitter islands, which are being done at night. Following this, the contractor will focus predominantly on the southwest quadrant, with the vast majority of works being completed with just lane reductions and not using temporary traffic lights. Works are expected to be completed in Autumn 2024.

Greencell Roundabout continues through detailed designs as per the programme, which aligns with a July 2024 start date.

Phase 1 for the Spalding Active Travel scheme on the A151 is complete. Detailed design progress for phase 2, requires approvals from the Environment Agency. These works are planned for Summer 2024.

Grantham Future High Street Fund

South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) were successful with their Future High Street fund bid, which included two projects which impact the highway. These include Station Approach five-arm junction and the Market Place. The Station Approach project entails improving the pedestrian facilities to make the flow of pedestrian movements coming from the station into Grantham town centre a more pleasing experience. At the moment it is very industrial; therefore, the project will remove barriers, improve the form of the pedestrian islands, and install conservation street furniture amongst some more general maintenance elements. The Market Place project will lift the existing carriageway stone setts, so they are the same level as the existing footway stone setts. This, combined with the removal of street furniture, will allow for more events to be held in the marketplace while not impacting the stability of the carriageway.

Due to cost inflation, the SKDC have been considering the affordability of the projects. As such, the Market Place is going through detailed design as originally planned, however, the Station Approach project is currently being priced as a reduced scope project. Should these be affordable to the District Council and an acceptance of risk ownership be in place, then the project will likely progress to Scrutiny Committee in March 2024, before an Executive key decision in April 2024, to allow a construction start date in June 2024.

It should be stressed that these are not county-led projects, and therefore, the risk of delivery remains with the District Council.

Sincil Bank

The City of Lincoln Council (CoLC) were successful with their Towns Fund Bid, which included, amongst other things, the Sincil Bank regeneration scheme. This project includes embedding a one-way system and residents' parking facilities that will complement the potential residents parking Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). The project also entails a significant sum of public realm improvement to enhance the townscape.

Due to increased construction costs, the original intention of the project has been reduced in scope. This new outline was completed in July 2023 and provided to CoCL for consideration with the Town Fund Board. The proposals have been reviewed by the Town Fund Board in September 2023, who were supportive of the project. Detailed design continues for the project in addition to public engagement later this year and next. Works are planned to commence in Spring 2024.

Dolphin Lane

This a joint funded project between LCC and Boston Borough Council (BBC) which originated from the District's Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is a public realm scheme that will improve the pavement with new stone setts that are in keeping with the surrounding environment. This will connect directly to the Market Place, which has the same type of stone setts.

The works are now complete and have been well received by the public.

Transport Services

At this time of year, activity moves away from arranging new educational travel provision for the academic year starting in September; this peak of activity tends to last until October half term and the focus then becomes targeting cost savings, especially the removal of short-term contracts.

The Callconnect app rollout is a key focus for the service, alongside planning the use of public transport related funding – more information is provided below.

Newly recruited staff have started in the following roles, which are all aligned to the approved new staff structure for the service:

- Travel Projects Officer & one out of two Projects Officers, funded through BSIP capacity funding for two years.
- Senior Officer Data, Systems and Performance.
- Business Change Manager to drive change projects and initiatives across the service.

The remaining ten permanent vacancies in the operations team are now going to be targeted for recruitment again.

The passenger transport industry continues to face numerous pressures, for both bus and taxi suppliers. The Council is finding that taxi contract prices continue to remain relatively stable, but they remain high compared to previous years. Driver shortages have also stabilised, so there is greater resilience in the industry.

The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership provided grant funding from the Labour Market Support Fund towards a Professional Driver Development Programme. It initially focused on HGV drivers, but since March 2023, has extended to include PSV drivers to support local bus operators.

The Council's passenger transport supplier market continues to grow, albeit slowly and only with new taxi operators choosing to work with the Council, as opposed to bus operators. We now have more than 400 operators with whom we contract with, through our dynamic purchasing system; the majority of these are taxi operators.

Public Transport

The government has recently announced new funding for Local Transport Authorities, diverting money that would have been spent on HS2 projects, into the new transport strategy called Network North. Lincolnshire has been awarded £4.37m for 2024/2025 of Network North's funding, which is to be used in line with our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) aspirations to improve bus services in the county. This funding is in addition to the £2.1m granted to Lincolnshire through BSIP+ funding and will provide a real boost to supporting bus services in the county.

Alongside the Network North Funding, DfT has announced that the £2 fare cap will remain at £2 and not rise to £2.50 as originally planned. The announcement also sees the cap extended until December 2024, rather than ending in October 2024.

The nature of the BSIP process requires us to update our plan annually, with the latest iteration of the document having been submitted to the DfT on 31 October 2023. The updated plan responds to feedback given by the DfT on our original unsuccessful plan, focusing on smaller schemes, generating passenger growth through meaningful bus priority measures, improvements in bus infrastructure, and bus service enhancements.

The overall picture of public transport is much healthier than it has been over the past 12-18 months. Services are now very stable, and reliability has improved considerably, with driver shortages no longer impacting on delivery across the county.

Bus Passenger Travel

The government's £2 fare cap initiative is providing bus services with greater levels of patronage and encouraging growth in many areas of the county with some corridors seeing healthy growth in the last nine months.

Lincolnshire's Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service, Callconnect, continues to see excellent levels of passengers utilizing the service. On average, weekly patronage levels are at 98-99% of pre-COVID levels, showing passengers have high levels of confidence in the service.

The rollout of the app-based booking system is continuing across the county; 17 of the 34 services have been transitioned to the Callconnect app. Of these 17, areas that have had the app for over six months are seeing up to 60% of all bookings made through the app. This demonstrates the desire amongst passengers to self-serve where possible. The remaining areas of the county are on schedule to be completed by the end of March 2024.

Educational Travel

As with all local authorities in England, we continue to focus on managing the cost pressures in educational travel provision, arranging travel provision for 19,000+ pupils per day. Whilst we are seeing contract prices stabilise, they will not reduce, creating a new baseline in the industry and for the Council's budgets. From November 2023, we have been able to understand the educational travel budget position more clearly for 2023/2024.

The cost pressures are not solely related to contract prices, however. We continue to experience high expectations of parents/carers and the complex needs of passengers, alongside more parents/carers applying for travel provision due to the cost implications for their households. Working closely with Children's Services, we are also experiencing school placement sufficiency issues, which has an impact on the number of pupils eligible for travel provision.

Mechanisms to avoid increased costs and make savings are being delivered as part of the three-year transformation programme and focus on the following:

- Implementation of a new Travel Options function, enabling and empowering pupils to use alternative travel modes to taxis, from travel training Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils to maximising opportunities for sustainable travel. A development plan is being established now that all vacant posts in this team have been recruited. This includes collaborative work with Adult Care and Community Wellbeing to support adults with independent travel training, and with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) to deliver joint lessons for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) pupils. Since August, we have successfully travel trained six pupils; a further 11 pupils are currently in training, and 57 are on the waiting list. Planning work is underway to promote travel training more widely to increase uptake.
- Re-procurement of all contracts during the three years (2021-2024) in geographical areas using reverse e-auctions. This includes the contracting of provision requirements to replace short-term contracts that have been put in place from July to October due to the start of the academic year – this is an annual cycle.
- Route optimisation activity as part of preparing for the re-tendering of all contracts, ensuring all possible efficiencies are maximised.

In order to manage and monitor key measures in educational travel, a management information dashboard is being created, with significant support from corporate teams in data services and performance. The initial data from the dashboard was presented at the October meeting of Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

IT SERVICES

LCC's IT team continue to deliver substantial volumes of change in support of Council priorities. This currently includes the removal of OpenText (IMP) the document storage system, which will save circa. £2.6m over five years, and extensive work to replace the critical 999 response systems for Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

The IT strategy has recently been rewritten and the proposals for the re-procurement of the core IT contracts will shortly be making their way through our governance processes. Whilst the contracts are not due to be replaced until March 2026, work has commenced due to the significant scale of the task. Supplier engagement meetings were held in October 2023.

Approximately 5,000 PCs/laptops will be replaced over the forthcoming 18 months to ensure colleagues have equipment that is effective and supports them in their roles. LCC has received good value from the existing equipment, however, it no longer adequately supports all of our colleagues.

The team continue the work to improve our cyber security against a background of ever-increasing worldwide threats. The Council's first permanent Head of Cyber security is currently being recruited and will spearhead this work in the near future.

One department, Legal Services, is yet to migrate to Office 365 in the cloud, but this will be completed by the end of December 2023. This will mean that all LCC staff have constantly up-to-date and improving office software.

The Council will implement its first Artificial Intelligence (AI) system in Quarter 4 of 2023, which will automate the answering of common reasons for calling the council, often at peak times e.g. School Admissions. The same technology will also improve the LCC website. General AI is becoming available to all staff on the Internet and a policy is being put in place to ensure it is used safely, ethically, and responsibly. This presents the opportunity for staff to save time by using AI “prompts” (instructions to an artificial intelligence engine) to write documents, generate images etc. and IT will provide training for colleagues to leverage these capabilities.

LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND UPDATE

The following report details the latest position regarding the various elements of the Lincolnshire Broadband Programme. Please note that any figures quoted in this report are accurate at the time of writing but are subject to change as projects progress.

Contract 3 – BDUK/Quickline/LCC

The original contract was to provide Ultrafast Broadband (defined as download speeds >100Mb/s) via Fixed Wireless Access technology to 8K premises across rural areas, prefixed by postcodes LN and DN. At this point in time, a total of 7191 premises have been upgraded with the remainder due to be completed in this calendar year.

As this contract has progressed, significant advances have been made in Fixed Wireless Access Broadband (FWA). The potential range and download speeds have increased during the contract life span and we are now deploying 5G based FWA. We have recently witnessed field tests where download speeds of 400Mb/s were achieved at a distance of 17.9km from the transmitting mast. Higher speeds have also been achieved at a distance of 20km in other trials carried out by Quickline.

This greater improved capability does open up huge opportunities to allow us to provide very fast broadband to more remote areas, and ongoing trials and developments are looking to achieve close to gigabit download speeds across the same distances. This 5G technology lends itself to a wide range of additional opportunities across the county, and discussions are ongoing with Quickline and BDUK in an effort to progress the deployment of this technology to the very hard to reach areas.

Despite the original contract requiring coverage to be provided to 8K premises, the reality is that we can now reach several times more than that figure with very high-speed connectivity.

Project Gigabit

Project Gigabit is the government’s Building Digital UK (BDUK) project to deliver gigabit-capable broadband to rural areas deemed non-commercially viable to existing providers.

Where Lincolnshire is concerned, the county has been broken down into two 'Lots', Lots 10 & 23.

Lot 10 went to Tender in June 2023 and is now closed and being evaluated (Lot 10 includes rural areas around Lincoln, moving south and west into Nottinghamshire). There are circa 10.5K eligible premises in this county within this Lot.

Lot 23 (the remainder of Lincolnshire, moving north, as far as East Riding). The eligible premises count for Lincolnshire Lot 23 is 75.3K and went to Tender in mid-October, with the contract being awarded in April 2024.

It is worth noting that whilst Project Gigabit does include all rural premises not covered or planned to be covered by commercial investment within the next three years as being eligible, the BDUK aspiration is that approximately 85%-90% are likely to be upgraded by the successful providers in both Lots 10 & 23. The remainder are highly likely to be deemed too expensive to reach with full fibre connectivity. Clearly, this leaves a gap, and the Broadband Team is engaged with BDUK and providers in an effort to persuade BDUK to accept other technologies such as 5G FWA as described above, as an alternative to leaving these premises without any high-speed connectivity. Currently, Project Gigabit funding will only allow for gigabit-capable connectivity and the only technology accepted by BDUK as being capable of meeting this condition is full fibre. It is our view and with the support of colleagues in other areas that 400Mb/s to 500Mb/s download speeds are infinitely better than existing speeds and leaving these areas without this opportunity makes no sense, particularly as the capability of these alternatives are improving rapidly. The Broadband Team have mapping and analysis that is being utilised to try to understand those premises that are most likely not to be included, and when the actual deployment plans for each Lot are visible to us, it is intended to start addressing the remaining premises in tandem with Project Gigabit.

Commercial Deployment of Full Fibre

Commercial investment is moving rapidly across the county and well above what we would have envisaged two years ago. Market forces will determine the commercial operators' level of activity in any location.

Coverage levels are currently - Ultrafast (>100Mb/s) = 64.5%, Gigabit-capable = 63.5%.

We expect in excess of 250K premises to be upgraded by commercial investment by the end of 2025 and at the time of writing, we have no less than ten commercial providers deploying full fibre in the vast majority of our urban clusters. Those urban areas not currently undergoing fibre deployment will be in the future plans of at least one of these providers and in many cases, more than one provider will be available to end users, thus providing a competitive environment that offers both choice and affordable packages to those taking up the services.

However, we are already seeing consolidation across the industry. Virgin Media's recent acquisition of UPP, an organisation who are very active in the county, is an example of this and moving into the future, it is a reasonable assumption that we can expect to see more of this.

The Broadband Team meet regularly with all providers to understand their plans, their build progress and more importantly to assist in removing/reducing barriers to successful deployments.

This level of build, whilst very welcome, does bring with it a degree of disruption to our streets and highways, and the LCC Highways Team meet regularly with providers to address issues and minimise levels of disruption.

Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme

Despite the scheme now being on hold temporarily in terms of new communities applying, there are a significant number of ongoing schemes that BDUK has allowed to progress or are in deployment/completed. The scheme is on hold to allow BDUK to finalise the 'eligible' premises data for Project Gigabit, but it is hoped that the scheme will be resurrected as a part of being able to upgrade the very remote areas described previously.

We continue to work with communities to encourage their involvement in this scheme and it is pleasing to note that a number of communities have successfully been upgraded already with several thousand more premises in the planning/build phases.

However, perhaps a little more difficult to understand is that a number of areas, whilst showing initial interest, have subsequently failed to follow through and sign up for the scheme. This is despite considerable effort from providers, supported by the Broadband Team. One of the major advantages of this scheme is the service level agreement that exists where the provider has to complete within 12 months of a community agreement.

4G/5G Technology

Firstly 4G, coverage in urban areas continues to improve as the four main mobile network operators (MNOs) expand their network to deal with capacity. As a part of this growth in coverage, the Broadband Team, working with LCC Highways has facilitated the improvement of 4G coverage across the main tourist areas of Skegness, via Small Cell technology deployed via our street lighting. This relationship will see similar activities carried out across a number of other urban areas over the next 12 months or so.

Additionally, the four MNOs have formed a fifth organisation where they collaborate and allow the use of each other's infrastructure to improve rural connectivity. This scenario is further improved by their involvement in BDUK's 'Shared Rural Network' project where additional infrastructure is publicly funded in rural areas that experience poor or non-existent coverage. This project will run across the next two to three years and will certainly enhance rural connectivity.

Secondly, 5G, we are currently seeing significant expansion of 5G infrastructure across our larger rural clusters and 5G mobile is now widely available in some of our larger towns. 5G technology, whilst offering faster speeds, is more about its greater data handling capacity in built-up areas. This allows for additional services and applications via the Internet of Things (IoT).

We are aware that the presence of 5G masts does cause some concern to residents, but it should be noted that the frequencies being used by 5G, fall well within what is known as non-ionising radiation and therefore, is not deemed a risk to anyone living in the vicinity. This is backed up by Ofcom and industry safety experts.

Aside from the obvious potential of 5G mobile, the LCC Broadband Team has been actively engaged with industry experts and providers to understand the possibilities this technology can offer in the agri-tech, offshore energy, and supply chain sectors. We are aware of significant innovation that is ongoing in these various sectors, but to date, commercial infrastructure does not really exist in this county in these sectors. The Broadband Team, working with 5G experts at Quickline Communications, have established that we are able to deploy private 5G networks to these business sectors that will allow innovation to work and deliver huge benefits in a real-world scenario. Whilst this is something that we can collaborate with Quickline to facilitate, it should be emphasised that commercial viability would need to exist. For example, we are able to provide a private 5G network in the Food Enterprise Zones and indeed the farms and food processing areas in the south of the county, but a real business-led demand and commitment would need to exist.

Beyond this, we are leading a bid with colleagues in North East Lincolnshire Council, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Hull City Council for potential funding under the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport's (DCMS) 5G Innovation Trial. A submission has been sent in and we await further news.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from: Councillor Daniel McNally - Executive Councillor for Waste and Trading Standards

TRADING STANDARDS

During the summer, the Trading Standards Service participated in a national project checking trade websites for legal compliance. This year, the project has focussed on the Home Improvement and Vehicle Sales and Servicing Sectors. Each website is audited against a checklist of legal requirements or the best practice in complaint resolution.

Once audited, details of each check made and actions necessary to achieve legal compliance are shared with the business. Checks made include ensuring pre-contract information legally required is provided before payment details are requested, the cost of the contract, distance selling rules, contract terms, payment, and complaint handling.

In total, 42 websites have been audited by Trading Standards Officers. Of those two (5%) were found to be in breach of six or more legal duties and a further 12 (29%) were found to have breached more than three. The most common failure identified is related to the prominence of legally required information, relating to the name and address of the trader (38%) and the provision of cancellation rights under distance selling rules (36%).

Follow up audits will be made later in the year to determine if advice has been followed, or if further intervention is required.

Working in partnership with Lincolnshire Police, the Trading Standards Service have secured 13 temporary closure orders in the first six months of the financial year, against premises involved in the sale of illicit tobacco products and illegal disposable vapes. The majority of those orders have required the premises to remain closed for the maximum period of three months. 28,350 illicit cigarettes, 8.85kg of illicit hand rolling tobacco and 4,256 illegal vapes have been removed from the marketplace.

Trading Standards have worked with underage volunteers to make 20 attempts to purchase vapes resulting in five sales, a 25% failure rate. 20 attempts were made to purchase alcohol or tobacco products resulting in two further sales (a 10% failure). Officers have provided advice where appropriate, and premises will be retested in the future.

Trading Standards Officers have undertaken food safety inspections at 150 premises and taken 132 food samples, with a focus on non-declaration and contamination of food with allergen ingredients, such as peanuts and milk, the speciation of fish and the alcohol content of spirit drinks. Adverse results are dealt with by way of revisits, advice and repeat sampling.

Officers have provided business advice covering a wide range of food standards matters, including ingredient labelling, food supplements, gluten-free labelling, and the labelling of

food prepacked for direct sale. We have worked with businesses to sample, relabel, and certify foods for export from Lincolnshire producers.

WASTE

Waste Services faced some operational challenges in the autumn when the Energy from Waste (EfW) facility experienced some unplanned shutdowns due to mechanical malfunction. The plant was offline for three weeks and was unable to process 6,000 tonnes of waste which meant that the Waste Team had to find alternative locations for the material to be processed. This task was particularly difficult as a large EfW had gone offline in Europe and spare processing capacity quickly disappeared. However, the team managed to source several different disposal locations, which meant that the 6,000 tonnes would not go to landfill. This is excellent news as the environmental and financial benefits of avoiding landfill are considerable, and also means that we have a full year projection of below 1% of waste sent to landfill, which is well below our 5% target.

The rollout of separate paper and card wheely bins continues with South Kesteven being the latest district council to receive the purple lidded bins. The bins will start to be emptied after Christmas and will further contribute to the excellent material, which can be recycled into the highest quality paper. This produces an annual income in excess of £1m, which will help to offset the initial investment of the project and provides financial support to budgets within Waste Services, which have increased significantly in recent times.

The Waste Team who have worked on the paper and card project will soon begin working on other initiatives, which are being introduced across the country to encourage a clearer approach to recycling. "Simpler Recycling" has recently been announced by government as a national strategy for waste management. The proposed simpler, common-sense approach to recycling means people across England will be able to recycle the same materials, whether at home, work, or school, putting an end to confusion over what can and cannot be recycled in different parts of the country. In Lincolnshire, we are fortunate in that we already meet most of the criteria after having taken a proactive approach to waste recycling for many years. Therefore, the most significant change we will have to make is to enable the weekly collection and disposal of food waste by 2026. We will be working closely with our district council partners as part of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, to enable food waste bins to be collected weekly, and overall, this should create a big improvement in recycling rates and should also create some financial savings if food is disposed of more effectively.

The government are also introducing new legislation called Extended Producer Responsibility, whereby packaging producers will have to pay the full costs of dealing with the waste they produce from when it is placed onto the market. This will ensure that local authorities receive payments for packaging materials to cover the cost of collection, treatment, and recycling with the objective that producers will become more environmentally sustainable.

These will be significant challenges ahead, but we are confident that in meeting them we will produce a cleaner environment for our residents, whilst minimizing the financial cost of the changes.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2022

Statement from: Councillor Sue Woolley - Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners

NHS LIAISON AND INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

What is next for Integrated Care Partnerships research project?

In September I was approached by the Integrated Care System (ICS) network in partnership with the Local Government Association to take part in a one hour interview as part of a new research project called 'What is next for Integrated Care Partnerships.' The purpose of the research is to understand how ICSs in England are taking forward their Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), what their local ambitions are and how ICPs add value in improving health and wellbeing outcomes. The ICS network and LGA were particularly keen to find out more about what is happening in Lincolnshire, considering we are one of the few systems nationally that are coterminous between the council and NHS, and to understand how partners across our ICS are working together to improve health outcomes.

A report on the research findings, including a case study on Lincolnshire, has been produced detailing the ambition and learning to support ICSs to think creatively about how to drive and develop their ICPs.

Ministerial Panel Discussion

In October I was invited to participate in a Ministerial event at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) as part of their 'Integrated Care Systems Week.' The purpose of the week was to raise awareness within the DHSC of the vital role of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and to give DHSC colleagues an opportunity to hear from people directly involved in ICSs about the work being done around the country.

I took part in an informal ministerial panel discussion with a number of other ICS leaders, the Minister, and the Director General of NHS Performance and Policy. The conversation focused on the opportunities and challenges presented by ICSs, our experience of the first year of statutory ICSs and the importance of partnership working.

I used this opportunity to emphasise that, whilst being a coterminous area brings benefits in terms of decision making, it does not make sense to have both a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). There is a risk of duplication with the additional layers potentially diverting resources and capacity. I pressed the point that areas such as Lincolnshire should be given greater local flexibility to use the HWB to fulfil the remit of an ICP.

Interview with NHS Confederation

In mid-August, a Senior Policy Adviser from the NHS Confederation, leading on Integration with a particular focus on social care, held a one-hour discussion with Glen Garrod and myself to seek our views on our system's current integrated care strategy status, and whether there

is the potential to align with the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-2024 planning process. The discussion initially focused on BCF planning and the potential to help with the further development of longer-term integration and transformation plans or to act as a catalyst for these. This was in the context of the national focus on joint planning and delivery of longer-term outcomes in the BCF planning guidance national conditions, along with an announcement from NHS England regarding winter resilience. We explored the potential to shift the focus of winter pressures away from short term and time limited solutions to something that helps to tackle wider goals in prevention, including shoring up provision in social care.

We shared several examples of how we work in Lincolnshire where integrated health and social care is aiding patient flow. We particularly focused on preventative or support focused work. The NHS confederation will be producing a report for publication later in the year to provide examples of best practice and various support offers that may be in place to help. Both Glen and I were proud to be able to share and champion the work we are doing across our system.

Visit by Department of Health and Social Care

On 1 November 2023, John Turner and I hosted a successful visit by representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), including the Deputy Director for System Delivery. The visit was organised at the request of DHSC to learn more about how, as a coterminous area, we are working as an integrated care system. During the visit, the DHSC representatives met with colleagues from the county council, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board, district councils and the voluntary and community sector. A wider range of topics and examples of integrated working were shared including services for children and young people, personalisation, mental health transformation, winter planning and intermediate care.

We were able to use the opportunity to raise the profile of Lincolnshire and promote how well partners from across the health and care system are working together to meet the needs of our communities. The feedback from the DHSC has been very positive and they have asked us to share further information on several of the areas discussed.

REGISTRATION AND CORONERS

Coroners Service

In my September statement, I announced that we had approval from the Chief Coroner to fill the position of Area Coroner for Lincolnshire. Following the selection exercise, I am pleased to announce that Jayne Wilkes will be appointed as HM Area Coroner for Lincolnshire. Jayne is a welcome addition, bringing vast knowledge and experience to the service.

The Coroners Service has experienced another busy year with 3,000 deaths being referred in the last 12 months, which is comparable to last year's referrals. Performance improvement continues to be a key focus of the service, and this year for the first time the service is expecting to hear 600 inquests, and the service continues to drive down the number of older

cases which now stand at their lowest levels since the start of 2020 and has decreased by over 40% since this time last year.

We continue to await a decision from the Ministry of Justice on our business case to create a Greater Lincolnshire Coroners Service. Once a decision has been made implementation is now expected in 2024.

Registration Service

The registration service continues to expand its ceremony offering. Moving into 2024, more wedding and civil partnership options will be available than ever before. In addition, the service now offers Renewal of Vow and Baby naming ceremonies and will be developing its Citizenship offer across the county. Ceremonies continue to be popular within Lincolnshire with over 2,300 marriages and civil partnerships due to take place this year, and Citizenship Ceremonies increasing by 20% on last year's numbers.

New online functions will be introduced allowing residents to prepay for certificates when they book their appointments online through the council website. Excellent take up of online services continues with over 90% of ceremony payments and the vast majority of registration appointments being made online. We will be going even further in 2024 with the introduction of online wedding and civil partnerships bookings and a new ceremony planner allowing couples to customise their wedding choice.

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Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive

Report to:	County Council
Date:	1 December 2023
Subject:	A Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and Consultation Activities

Summary:

This report asks the Council to consider feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and support:

- the terms of a proposed devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire;
- a draft proposal for the creation of a new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority to give effect to the devolution deal; and
- the carrying out of public consultation to inform a later decision whether the Council should submit a formal proposal to the Secretary of State under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council considers the report to the Leader of the Council attached as Appendix 1, feedback from OSMB, and support:

- 1) the devolution deal document attached at Appendix A;
- 2) the draft proposal for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority attached at Appendix B ("the Proposal") for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023;
- 3) the carrying out of public consultation on the proposal in accordance with paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Executive Councillor Report and the Consultation document at Appendix C; and

- 4) delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the draft proposal or consultation arrangements. This delegation is to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and is conditional upon agreement to such amendments by the other Constituent Councils.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Not to support the draft proposal.

This is not recommended because to allow for the maximum amount of devolved powers and funding (a “Level 3” deal), the legislation requires that a Mayoral Combined County Authority must be established in the area. There is no guarantee that a devolution deal and the associated funding would be available to the area in the same way in the future.

2. Not to support consultation upon the proposal or to delay consultation.

Neither of these options is recommended as failure to consult would mean that a key requirement of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act not being met and that the proposal could not be put forward to Government, preventing the delivery of the significant additional funding and powers that devolution and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority would bring.

The timeline to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority by Mayoral elections in May of 2025 requires a consultation on the proposal to be completed by early 2024. Any delay would not allow for the area to meet this timeline.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The recommendations support and inform decision making in considering whether to:

- progress the steps required to deliver on a historic devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.
- ensure that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

1. Background

- 1.1. Devolution provides an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of powers and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up communities. It also provides the opportunity for some current local authority powers to be exercised on a wider footprint.
- 1.2. In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, agreed to engage with government officials to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire; agreed in principle for devolution to a mayoral county combined authority for Greater Lincolnshire; and for continued engagement with key stakeholders to put Greater Lincolnshire in as strong a position as possible to secure a deal.
- 1.3. The report to that meeting set out the stages when Members would be asked to formally consider progress at key decision points including:
 - i. Seek a deal and enter into negotiation with government (December 2023 report)
 - ii. Consult on a draft devolution proposal following negotiations with Government (this report)
 - iii. The final proposal and to establish a mayoral county combined authority (future report).
- 1.4. This report details the second decision point for Council and provides for consideration of a draft proposal for the creation of a new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority to give effect to a Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal.
- 1.5. Decision making to agree the draft proposal and to consult on the draft proposal is an executive function of the Council. In accordance with the process set out in the December 2022 Council report, the Leader of the Council is seeking the support of the Council before reaching a decision.
- 1.6. The attached report and appendices set out the proposed decision and advice to the Leader of the Council and steps required to implement the deal and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act - as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.
- 1.7. The report recommendations also enable the upper tier councils to progress the next stages of the process including ensuring that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal.

1.8. Council is asked to consider and support the proposed decisions as set out in the report and the appendices to the report including:

- Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire;
- Draft proposal for a Greater Lincolnshire mayoral combined county authority and for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire;
- Consultation on the draft proposal; and
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA).

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

Members attention is drawn to the equality implications detailed in the executive councillor decision report and the Equality Impact Assessment accompanying the report.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

Members attention is drawn to the implications detailed in the executive councillor decision report.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

Members attention is drawn to the implications detailed in the executive councillor report.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. Devolution would provide upper tier councils with an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of new powers and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up Greater Lincolnshire.
- 3.2. This report enables the Council to consider the proposed arrangements for devolution and consultation to inform future decision making.

4. Legal Comments:

Members attention is drawn to the legal comments detailed in the executive councillor decision report.

5. Resource Comments:

There are no direct resource implications associated with this paper. Members attention is drawn to the resourcing comments detailed in the executive councillor decision report.

6. Consultation**a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

Not applicable.

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes.

c) Scrutiny Comments

not applicable

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

This paper relates to agreement to enter into negotiation based around the complementary Devolution document attached as appendix A. Subsequent policy change and / or service delivery will be subject to their own risk and impact analysis.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

1. Report to Leader of the Council 1 December 2023 - To consider and approve a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and commence consultation activities	
A	Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire
B	Draft proposal for a Greater Lincolnshire mayoral combined county authority and for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire
C	Consultation on the draft proposal
D	Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

8. Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Background Paper	Where it can be viewed
Report to Council December 2022 A Devolution Deal for Lincolnshire	Agenda for Council on Friday, 9th December, 2022, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)
Levelling Up White Paper	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023	https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155

This report was written by Matthew Garrard, Head of Policy, who can be contacted at matthew.garrard@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive

Report to:	Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council, Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning
Date:	1 December 2023
Subject:	To consider and approve a Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and commence consultation activities
Decision Reference:	I030594
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

This report asks the Leader of the Council to:

- approve the terms of a proposed devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire;
- approve a draft proposal for the creation of a new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority to give effect to the devolution deal; and
- approve the carrying out of a public consultation on the proposal in accordance with the arrangements proposed in paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Report and in the Appendix C to inform a later decision whether the Council should submit a formal proposal to the Secretary of State under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Recommendation(s):

That the Leader of the Council:

- 1) approves the devolution deal document attached at Appendix A;
- 2) approves the draft proposal for the creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority attached at Appendix B (“the Proposal”) for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023;
- 3) approves the carrying out of public consultation on the proposal in accordance with paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Report and the Consultation document at Appendix C; and
- 4) delegates authority to the Chief Executive to approve any minor amendments to the draft proposal or consultation arrangements. This delegation is to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and is conditional upon agreement to such amendments by the other Constituent Councils.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Not to approve the draft proposal.

This is not recommended because to allow for the maximum amount of devolved powers and funding (a “Level 3” deal), the legislation requires that a Mayoral Combined County Authority must be established in the area. There is no guarantee that a devolution deal and the associated funding would be available to the area in the same way in the future.

2. Not to consult upon the proposal or to delay consultation.

Neither of these options is recommended as failure to consult would mean that a key requirement of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act not being met and that the proposal could not be put forward to Government, preventing the delivery of the significant additional funding and powers that devolution and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority would bring.

The timeline to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority by Mayoral elections in May of 2025 requires a consultation on the proposal to be completed by early 2024. Any delay would not allow for the area to meet this timeline.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The recommendations enable the council to:

- progress the steps required to deliver on a historic devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.
- ensure that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

1. Background

- 1 Devolution provides an opportunity to seek the transfer of a range of powers and budgets from Government that can be targeted to local need, used to boost growth in the local economy and level up communities. It also provides the opportunity for some current local authority powers to be exercised on a wider footprint.
- 2 Across the country, devolution is moving important choices about local investment, infrastructure and training from Government to local decision makers. Significant devolution arrangements already exist in core cities like Manchester, Sheffield and Birmingham and more recently new devolution deals have been developed with neighbouring areas including Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, East Riding and Kingston upon Hull.

- 3 The levelling up white paper sets out the Government’s ambitions to expand devolution across England by 2030. It set out three levels of devolution, with the maximum levels of devolved power and funding only being available to areas that put in place the strongest governance and accountability arrangements.
- 4 The white paper has now been enshrined in legislation through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and provides a framework for devolving powers to local economic geographies.
- 5 Councils and businesses in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and collaborating to tackle common challenges that can hold back growth. There are a multitude of projects already underway across Greater Lincolnshire and many of our communities have benefited from investment through the Towns Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Funding.
- 6 However short-term funding pots are not sufficient to achieve strategic change for the people that live and work in Greater Lincolnshire. Councils in Greater Lincolnshire have been working collaboratively to secure devolution for our area, to deliver the leadership required to address unique long-term challenges across Greater Lincolnshire, maximise the area’s opportunities to deliver future prosperity and to ensure that Greater Lincolnshire’s residents and businesses do not miss out or fall behind other areas.
- 7 In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, agreed to engage with government officials to secure a level 3 devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire on the basis of the devolution prospectus *Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Growth | Energy | Food*. The prospectus set out the Councils’ aspirations to achieve the greatest benefits of devolution for Greater Lincolnshire and options to enhance governance arrangements through the creation of a new organisation – a Combined County Authority, chaired by a directly elected Mayor.
- 8 Through extensive negotiations with government departments, the upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council secured an ambitious £750 million devolution deal with government on 22 November 2023.
- 9 The devolution deal sets out the areas of common ground between the ambitions in the Greater Lincolnshire Prospectus and the powers and budgets available for devolution from the Government at this time, this includes:
 - A Mayoral Investment Fund of £24 million per annum for 30 years to invest in infrastructure and skills development totalling £720m.
 - One off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire’s priorities.
 - £2m capacity funding over 3 years
 - £1m skills for job funding
 - Local control over the Adult Education Budget from 2026
 - A consolidated, multi-year transport fund, providing increased financial certainty

The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal is attached as Appendix A to the report and the Leader of the Council is asked to approve the Deal by way of ratification to meet the government's expectations.

- 10 Following the conclusion of the devolution negotiations and in order to make the deal a reality it will be necessary for Greater Lincolnshire to initiate a statutory process to create a Combined County Authority to which the powers and funding identified in the deal will be devolved.
- 11 The first stage in this process is to develop a devolution proposal. The proposal document builds on the deal to set out how devolved powers and funding will be used to improve economic, social, and environmental wellbeing for some or all people who live and work in the area. The proposal document is a formal part of the statutory process for the creation of a Combined County Authority.
- 12 This document, would then be consulted on with the public in Greater Lincolnshire. Subject to the results of the consultation and a further decision by each of the upper tier councils, a finalised proposal document would be submitted to Government to initiate the process for the making of secondary legislation to establish the Combined County Authority and devolve the powers and funding to Greater Lincolnshire. The draft of a proposal for proposed consultation is attached at Appendix B to the report.

A Proposal for a Combined County Authority and Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire

- 13 The devolution proposal has been developed from an agreed policy backdrop. The 10 local councils across Greater Lincolnshire have a shared vision for the future, to realise the potential of the Greater Lincolnshire economy to benefit the people who live and work here.
- 14 The proposal would unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire.
- 15 The proposal sets out how local councils, business, government and education working together can address long term challenges and deliver on economic opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire through:
 - Local decisions and long term investment in infrastructure to turbo charge business growth and tackle low business productivity, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards
 - Long term strategic planning and investment to protect our environment and unlock high quality housing in our communities that meets the needs of a younger workforce and supports those in later life.
 - Local commissioning of high quality skills, training and pathways to attract and retain younger workers, meet the significant skills needs of our key industries and capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire

- A stronger voice regionally and nationally to make the case for more investment on Greater Lincolnshire’s priorities including the UK Food Valley, energy, ports and logistics, delivering on the potential of the area from the Humber to The Wash.
 - Managing water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area’s unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.
- 16 Many of the areas benefitting from devolution have gone on to negotiate additional deals with the Government that build on their initial success. If the proposal is supported the upper tier councils would seek further devolution in the future and a number of additional areas where this could be achieved are set out in the proposal.

Formalising how we work together – a combined county authority

- 17 Local Councils already work collaboratively across Greater Lincolnshire. The proposal would see greater responsibility being passed from Government making it necessary to formalise these arrangements and to make them open and accessible.
- 18 This would be achieved through the creation of a Mayoral Combined County Authority in 2024 which would provide greater coordination, visibility and transparency for work across Greater Lincolnshire. It would enable focus on the things that will make the biggest difference to the lives of residents and the businesses within Greater Lincolnshire.
- 19 A mayor would be elected by residents in 2025 and work with the members of the proposed Combined County Authority to deliver the purpose and outcomes set out within the proposal. They would establish strong relationships with businesses, skills providers and other stakeholders to understand and address local challenges. They would also act as a champion for Greater Lincolnshire at regional and national levels, ensuring that our voice, and our needs are heard in Government.
- 20 Upper tier councils have worked collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils and the two police and crime commissioners to develop governance arrangements for a proposed Combined County Authority. These arrangements would ensure transparency of decision making, effective collaboration between all parties and a strong local voice.
- 21 The majority of proposed powers and budgets would transfer to the Combined County Authority, with a small number of powers vested in the mayor. The proposed governance arrangements would see the three constituent (upper tier) authorities having voting rights on all matters, with an intention that representatives from City, District and Borough councils are given voting rights on most things.

- 22 Section 4 of the proposal document in Appendix B sets out the proposed governance arrangements in more detail and the proposal document also includes a powers table which is indicative of the functions that will be conferred on the Combined County Authority and how they will be exercised by the Combined County Authority.
- 23 Importantly the proposal is not about reorganising what is already in place and will not involve merging or reorganising local councils. The Combined County Authority would replace the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. It would be a small strategic body overseeing the effective delivery of growth priorities, working collaboratively with local councils and other stakeholders to improve outcomes for Greater Lincolnshire and ensure joined up decision making.

Process for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire

- 24 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 sets out the formal, legal process that must be followed in order to establish a Mayoral Combined County Authority and for powers and budgets to be devolved. This includes the Secretary of State assessing the proposal against a number of statutory tests before deciding whether to accept the proposal. These tests require that before making legislation that would establish the Combined County Authority, the Secretary of State must consider that:-
- to do so is likely to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of some or all of the people who live or work in the area,
 - to do so is appropriate having regard to the need (i) to secure effective and convenient local government, and (ii) to reflect the identities and interests of local communities, and
 - its establishment will achieve the purposes specified by the constituent councils in the proposal.

The proposal is considered to contain the necessary information to enable the Secretary of State to conclude that these tests have been met.

- 25 If the proposal is accepted it will form the basis from which the Secretary of State will develop a draft Statutory Instrument which will be submitted to the Council for approval before the Combined County Authority is established in law. The proposal document therefore differs from the deal document. While the deal document records the devolution offer the government has made to the constituent councils and the shared purposes of the constituent councils in agreeing that offer, the proposal document contains the detail on those matters covering the functions and powers to be conferred and the workings of the Combined County Authority which will be included in the Statutory Instrument. Further detail will be contained in the Combined County Authority's constitution which is a matter for the Combined County Authority.

- 26 As part of this statutory process a formal consultation must be undertaken on the devolution proposal. Subject to the necessary decisions being in place, it is intended that this activity will formally commence on 4 December 2023 for Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council and for North Lincolnshire Council at the point that their decision becomes effective in accordance with their Constitution. The consultation will end on 29 January 2024. The consultation questionnaire will be available both digitally and in paper format and be accessible from a range of partner locations. Easy read materials will also be available.
- 27 The opportunity for the public to have their say will be amplified throughout the consultation period through direct messaging, email, social media, and traditional media. Residents and businesses will be able to learn about the devolution proposal through a range of documents and associated press releases before filling in the survey. Consultation activity will include:
- 18 face to face public engagement sessions held across Greater Lincolnshire
 - A series of stakeholder engagement events with the education, voluntary and community sectors, business and partners
 - Targeted efforts to reach those with protected characteristics and/or seldom heard groups by working with representative organisations, groups and use of established forums.
 - Consultation literature and response forms available in libraries and other public buildings.
- 28 The consultation will be hosted on the Lincolnshire County Council Let's Talk consultation platform. This will enable the three upper tier councils to receive regular feedback on public opinion, and for consultation engagement plans to be reviewed on a regular basis to seek a representative response.
- 29 Following completion of the consultation period, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council will review the consultation findings and consider appropriate amendments to the proposal document. This will be examined further through each council's governance arrangements before a decision is made for whether to ask the secretary of state to lay the statutory instrument to secure devolution for Greater Lincolnshire.

30 The case of. R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning [1985] 84 LGR 168 established the principles for a lawful consultation, namely:

- Proposals are still at a formative stage - A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers.
- There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration' - The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response.
- There is adequate time for consideration and response- There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. In the absence of a prescribed statutory period, there is no set timeframe for consultation, though it is considered that the proposed consultation period is sufficient in this case. The adequacy of the length of time given for consultees to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation.
- 'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made. Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account.

Legal advice has been received that the consultation process and documents set out at Appendix C meet the requirements of a lawful consultation subject to conscientious consideration being given to the results before further decisions are taken.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

An initial draft equality impact assessment (EqIA) has been completed in respect of the proposal. It is attached as Appendix D and due regard must be given to the implications identified in it. The EqIA will continue to be evaluated and updated as necessary throughout and following conclusion of the public consultation.

The EqIA shows the wide and varied population of Greater Lincolnshire and that a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire can have a positive impact on a wide number of protected characteristics groups in a variety of ways including:

- The proposal will reduce barriers to upskill the local labour force across all age groups and reduce the productivity gap which GL faces nationally.
- The power to be able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities.
- The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries, as there will be increased opportunities to train.

- There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to develop a representative workforce
- Improved digital infrastructure will also give people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access.
- Improved transport infrastructure will provide GL residents with reliable means of getting from A to B, whether this be to school, work or socially, throughout the region.
- An improved transport system will also give the older generation greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence.
- The ambition is to also improve accessibility to public transport for those who currently don't feel it meets their needs and requirements.

The EqIA also clearly identifies some possible negative implications which will need due consideration before full implementation of the changes that arise as a result of devolution in Greater Lincolnshire including:

- Across many areas, budgets and decisions will move from Government to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA. Within Employment and Skills for example, no specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills. It is a possibility that this could inadvertently benefit one group over another. Therefore, due consideration and process must take place prior to implementation of any policy to ensure that this risk is reduced as much as possible.
- When striving to improve digital connectivity there is a risk that those who aren't currently confident with the technology could be left further behind and feel more excluded and subsequently increase the gap that is currently exists. Therefore, it is crucial that this is researched further so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills to enable people of all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.

Public consultation will be used to seek a representative sample of responses to the plans set out within the devolution proposal. A wide range of engagement methods will be utilised to obtain views. This includes a series of public events, direct engagement with representative groups, and extensive information sharing through a wide range of media channels. The feedback from the consultation will be used to review the content of the EqIA and recommend amendments to the proposal where needed.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The devolution proposal does not include for the transfer of health powers or budgets but the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA could address some of the determinants of poor health across the area in particular through new approaches to support the people that live and work here to train for and access high skill high wage jobs.

Through the devolution of wider powers a new Greater Lincolnshire MCCA would be able to support delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy including developing better access to services - in its role as local transport authority, - integrating physical activity into strategic planning, enabling provision of good quality, safe housing and addressing poor standards of housing and the level of appropriate housing required.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

The devolution proposal does not include for the transfer of police and crime functions or community safety powers or budgets but recognises that safer communities are key to the Government's Levelling Up Missions.

The proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA provides membership for the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for Lincolnshire and Humberside to reflect their public safety role in the operation of the MCCA and the future prosperity of Greater Lincolnshire.

3. Conclusion

In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, agreed to engage with government officials to secure a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire, agreed in principle for devolution to a mayoral county combined authority for Greater Lincolnshire and for continued engagement with key stakeholders to put Greater Lincolnshire in as strong a position as possible to secure a deal.

A devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire has now been secured. This report sets out the steps required to implement the deal and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act - as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.

The recommendations enable the upper tier councils to progress the next stages of the process including ensuring that appropriate consultation is undertaken, and comments are sought from stakeholders and are considered prior to consideration of approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

4. Legal Comments:

The Constituent Councils of Greater Lincolnshire have secured a devolution deal with the government. That deal is stated to be conditional on ratification by the Councils and the first recommendation if approved would meet that condition.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (“the Act”) provides the basis for the creation of new type of combined county authority. This is distinct from a combined authority that can be created under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Whilst the Council has agreed a devolution deal with Government, the creation of a new combined county authority is subject to public consultation, the submission by the Constituent Councils of a formal proposal to Government, the approval of the proposal by the Secretary of State and the making of secondary legislation.

The second and third recommendations set out in this Report initiate the first stage of this process by approving a proposal and the carrying out of the necessary public consultation. The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Leader of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

The creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority is expected to lead to substantial additional funding being made available to be spent within the combined county authority area on a range of different projects and schemes that will help promote economic growth and improve outcomes for the people who live and work across the region. Furthermore, securing a devolution agreement would mean the area is better placed to maximise any further devolution opportunities that may emerge in future, as has happened in other areas.

In the short-term, the devolution deal includes initial funding for 2024/25, which will be provided by Government towards the cost of establishing the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority as well as ongoing capacity funding in future years. The Council also makes a financial contribution to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. As these functions would be integrated into the Combined County Authority, it is envisaged that the County Council would continue to contribute via a different payment mechanism but within the current envelope (£0.452m).

It should also be noted that the Council’s funding base is directly linked to the economic performance of the area, therefore the achievement of stronger economic growth could lead to the generation of additional spending power through a stronger tax base over the long-term.

Supporting the recommendation will enable the three upper tier councils to consult on the proposal. This includes the provision of legal assurance and analysis of the consultation responses to inform future decision making which will be funded jointly and contained within existing budgets and using internal resources wherever possible.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

This report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 30 November 2023 and the comments of the Board will be reported to the Leader of the Council

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

As detailed in the body of the report

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report:	
Appendix A	Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire
Appendix B	Draft proposal for a Greater Lincolnshire mayoral combined county authority and for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire
Appendix C	Consultation on the draft proposal
Appendix D	Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Background Paper	Where it can be viewed
Report to Council December 2022 A Devolution Deal for Lincolnshire	Agenda for Council on Friday, 9th December, 2022, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)
Levelling Up White Paper	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023	https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155

This report was written by Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director Corporate and Matthew Garrard, Head of Policy who can be contacted at lee.sirdifield@lincolnshire.gov.uk and matthew.garrard@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal

Subject to ratification of the deal by all partners and the statutory requirements referred to within this document, including, public consultation, the consent of councils affected, and parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of this Deal.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



**North
Lincolnshire
Council**



Signature Page

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Jacob Young MP

Minister for Levelling Up

Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Leader, Lincolnshire County Council

Cllr Robert Waltham MBE

Leader, North Lincolnshire Council

Cllr Philip Jackson

Leader, North East Lincolnshire Council

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Introduction

1. Greater Lincolnshire holds an important place in the past and future of the UK. Comprising the traditional communities of Lindsey, Holland and Kesteven, it has been at the heart of major events throughout our history including the Roman occupation, the English Civil War, the founding of America, scientific discovery and invention. Known as 'Bomber County' during the Second World War, Greater Lincolnshire is proud of its RAF heritage.
2. The area's great natural assets and habitats, including miles of coast stretching from the Humber to the Wash and vast areas of productive agricultural land provides the opportunity for the area to make a significant contribution to the UK's future. From the world-leading offshore wind energy sector and manufacturers in the north to the centre of the UK's agricultural heartland in the south, Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of our nation as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security.
3. The Government has set itself a mission that, by 2030, every part of England that wants a devolution deal will have a devolution deal with powers at, or approaching, the highest level of devolution, with a simplified, long-term funding settlement. The 2022 Levelling Up White Paper makes clear the case for devolution as the engine room of improved productivity and reduced regional disparities. Devolution will be critical to delivering our twelve headline levelling up missions by strengthening local leadership to act more flexibly and innovatively to respond to local need, whether on transport, skills or regeneration.
4. In the Levelling Up White Paper, the Government published for the first time a devolution framework, which set out a clear menu of options for places in England that wish to unlock the benefits of devolution. This framework places a strong emphasis on the importance of high profile, directly elected local leadership, strong local governance, and joint working across sensible and coherent economic geographies. The most comprehensive package is a Level 3 deal, for areas with a single institution over a sensible geography, with the strongest and most accountable leadership, such as a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) or a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography with a directly elected mayor. The Level 2 offer is for devolution to single local government institutions without a directly elected mayor, such as a combined authority or combined county authority covering a functional economic area or the whole county geography. The Level 1 offer is for local authorities with looser joint working arrangements, such as a joint committee model.

5. This document sets out the terms of an agreement for a Level 3 devolution deal between the Government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and North Lincolnshire Council (hereafter “the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA” or “the MCCA”), subject to the coming into force of any relevant provisions in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (where necessary) (“the Act”), ratification of the deal by the Councils and the statutory requirements for making the secondary legislation implementing the deal. This document describes both the offer of functions and funding from the Government, and the reforms and measures that Greater Lincolnshire will need to deliver. Central to this is the election of a directly elected mayor across Greater Lincolnshire, to champion the area’s interests, deliver on local priorities, and be accountable to local people. The statutory requirements for implementing the deal include public consultation, the councils consenting to the secondary legislation implementing aspects of the deal, and Parliament approving it. Once this legislation is approved and made, the devolution deal will be confirmed.
6. Across Greater Lincolnshire, local councils have a shared vision of the future for Greater Lincolnshire’s 1.1 million residents where they have good lives, with independence, wealth and good health. Where communities are connected and working together make a vital contribution to the nation’s food security, supply chains and provide clean energy to power the UK’s homes and economy.
7. Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of the UK as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security. It has a vital role in global trade, securing the nation’s supply chains in key industries:
 - Food, fish, seafood and food manufacturing: Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley. It supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, and 18% of poultry. It has a total agricultural output of over £2 billion in 2019, with a seafood processing and trading cluster worth over £1.5 billion to the economy. Greater Lincolnshire will become a world leading food cluster. It has the potential to help the UK become a science superpower through its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology and innovation.
 - Energy, decarbonisation and net zero: Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK’s offshore renewable energy generation, and with at least 25% of the UK’s energy production it plays a crucial role in enabling the nation to become a net energy exporter by 2040. The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are pivotal to the UK achieving net zero. They are already worth £1.2 billion per annum to the

economy, employing over 12,000 people. Greater Lincolnshire has a fundamental role leveraging investment in the North Sea expanding renewable capacity and innovate in carbon capture.

- Ports, logistics and supply chains: Greater Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. Benefiting from prime deep water locations, its ports and connectivity advantages have supported the growth of a UK-leading logistics cluster, serving industry sectors including renewables, advanced manufacturing, food manufacturing and energy. The UK economy is highly dependent on the maritime sector, with 95% of goods exports and imports moved by sea, including nearly half of the country's food supplies and a quarter of its energy supply. Greater Lincolnshire is supporting the next phase in the evolution of its ports and the competitiveness of its logistic sector that underpin trade and national supply chains.
8. Growth is fundamental to levelling up Greater Lincolnshire and delivering future prosperity. The public and private sectors in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and are already collaborating to tackle common challenges that until now have held back growth. Further powers, funding and flexibility from Government will accelerate progress to address:
- the need to capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities;
 - low business productivity affecting investment and earning potential which can be addressed by raising skills level;
 - pockets of unemployment and economic inactivity;
 - the need to manage water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area's unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture;
 - a population ageing above the national average which will lead to disproportionate demand for care and health services, and a reduced labour market;
 - the attraction and retention of younger workers to maintain a viable workforce for future growth;
 - the costs of rurality and the need to improve connectivity through road, rail, digital and energy distribution infrastructure.
9. The constituent councils of the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Government are hereby minded to agree a historic mayoral devolution deal which will provide powers and funding to enable the Greater Lincolnshire area to

unleash its full economic potential and in doing so level up, raise living standards for its communities and make a full contribution to the UK economy. The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal shows how levelling up can be done in practice – with clear alignment to the headline Levelling Up missions and long-term, devolved funding underpinning it.

10. The Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal will unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work there. The Government recognises that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This agreement is the first step in a process of further devolution. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to deepen their devolution arrangements over time on the same basis as existing Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs), subject to Government agreement.
11. The Government commits to using the platform of this deal to work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in addressing key local challenges and opportunities, including the delivery of infrastructure and investment to boost growth and create high skill high wage jobs, tackling productivity and skills gaps to spread opportunity, unlocking transformative regeneration and housing opportunities, and working together to tackle climate change.
12. As an MCCA, Greater Lincolnshire will be a key partner of central government to drive regional growth and productivity, joining the existing MCAs in engagement with the Government from the date of this deal.

Summary of the Devolution Deal between Government and the Local Authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council

The Government and Greater Lincolnshire are minded to agree a devolution deal which will provide the area with new powers and funding to increase opportunities and living standards through inclusive growth and productivity improvements.

A devolution agreement is contingent upon Greater Lincolnshire proceeding through the steps necessary to meet the governance criteria required for a Level 3 devolution deal.

This devolution agreement includes:

- The formation of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and the election of a directly elected mayor to provide overall vision and leadership, seek the best value for taxpayer's money, be directly accountable to the area's electorate and to receive new powers on transport, housing and skills.
- Control of a £24 million per year allocation of investment funding for 30 years, 50% capital and 50% revenue, to be invested by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to drive growth and take forward its priorities over the long term.
- £20 million capital funding to drive place-based economic regeneration in Greater Lincolnshire, to be allocated over the current spending review period, subject to a business case process.
- £2 million of Mayoral Capacity Funding to support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in the early stages of this deal.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) planning and delivery at a strategic level from 2025/26, subject to funding, policy and delivery considerations at the next Spending Review.
- New powers to shape local skills provision to better meet the needs of the local economy and local people, including devolution of the core Adult Education Budget, as well as input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
- New powers to drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes including compulsory purchase powers and the ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations subject to consent requirements.
- £8.36 million for the building of new homes on brownfield land and £228,000 capacity funding to bring forward a pipeline of housing projects, both in 2024/25 subject to a business case process.
- New powers to improve and better integrate local transport, including the ability to introduce bus franchising, control of appropriate local transport functions.

- The mayor will be responsible for a consolidated local transport settlement for the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, which Government will provide Greater Lincolnshire MCCA at the next Spending Review.
- Department for Transport will work in partnership with a new rural transport group to be established by the mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility challenges.
- Government will support Greater Lincolnshire in seeking a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so their priorities can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding their local network.
- Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero will provide observer representation on the Humber Energy Board, through which they will support the development of a Net Zero Strategy.
- Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members of a new Coastal Partnership to ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice.
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will consider the role of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in ensuring an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes. They will meet annually with the UK Food Valley Programme Board and work with the MCCA to deepen engagement with SMEs in food and drink manufacturing.
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will endorse the creation of an Enhanced Partnership to pilot the development of a forum for flood resilience, adaptation and management of the water system in a whole systems approach.
- Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and a subset of Department for Culture, Media and Sport's arm's length bodies will establish a collaborative partnership to share expertise and insight across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy.

More detail on these commitments is given in the main body of the document below. Further powers may be agreed over time and included in future legislation.

Governance

Introduction

13. Councils across Greater Lincolnshire have a long history of working together to tackle societal challenges and improve living standards and levels of prosperity. By working together, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, together with the seven district councils across Greater Lincolnshire, business and key stakeholders have developed options for a devolution deal for the economic geography of Greater Lincolnshire. This has been informed by:
- a. Collaboration across all 10 councils in Greater Lincolnshire to develop a long-term vision for Greater Lincolnshire in order to deliver a better future for the communities, visitors, and businesses of Greater Lincolnshire.
 - b. Business Engagement through the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to gauge the interest, understanding and desire for devolution from local business.
 - c. Involvement of all 10 councils in Greater Lincolnshire including discussions with council leaders and a series of meetings of chief executives to refine proposals for devolution to meet the needs of all parts of the historic county.
14. There is a strong partnership with all councils in Greater Lincolnshire who are clear that devolution will boost prosperity for people and businesses across the whole area.

Governance Model

15. As part of this deal Greater Lincolnshire intends to adopt the Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) model which is provided for by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (the “Act”).
16. By pursuing an MCCA, Greater Lincolnshire unlocks the benefits of a level three devolution deal which brings a substantially greater level of additional powers, influence and funding to Greater Lincolnshire, to accelerate growth and improve prosperity.

17. A key advantage of a single institution, such as the MCCA model, across a functional economic geography is its joint governance arrangements for key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development, and regeneration, which allow for strategic prioritisation across its area and integrated policy development. In addition, a directly elected mayor provides greater leadership, local accountability and decision-making power, working in partnership with the combined county authority itself, local councils and other key stakeholders.
18. It is intended that the first mayoral election for the MCCA will be held in May 2025. The new mayor will be elected by the local government electors for the areas of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council (“the constituent councils”). Mayoral terms will last 4 years.
19. The MCCA institutional model includes upper tier authorities only as of right. Both the Government and the constituent councils place high importance on the MCCA working collaboratively with the seven district and borough councils across Greater Lincolnshire (“the district and borough councils”) and ensuring that they have a voice in the MCCA.
20. This document indicates how this is expected to work in some critical respects, while the constituent councils continue to work with the district and borough councils in the area to develop the detail of the arrangements for appropriate district and borough council input to the MCCA as its detailed constitution is developed.

Membership of the MCCA

21. As the Act enables, the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will comprise the following members with voting rights conferred by the Act.
- The elected mayor
 - 6 constituent members, consisting of a Lead Member for each constituent council (expected to be the Leader or their nominee), and one further member appointed by each of the three constituent councils from its elected members

In addition, the MCCA will be able to appoint non-constituent and associate members. The maximum number of non-constituent or associate members will not exceed the number of constituent members. It is intended that the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will appoint up to six non-constituent and associate members, which could see:

- 4 non-constituent Members, who will be elected members from the district and borough councils to be appointed by the MCCA following nomination in accordance with paragraph 23 below.
 - 1 non-constituent Member who will be one of the two Police and Crime Commissioners (“PCC”) for the area. They will be able to substitute for one another as appropriate.
 - 1 further non-constituent/associate member, to be appointed by the MCCA
22. Each constituent member and each non-constituent member from the district and borough councils will be able to have up to 2 substitute members who will have the same rights, including voting rights, as the members for whom they are the substitute.
23. The district and borough councils within Lincolnshire have an important role to play in levelling up Greater Lincolnshire and delivering the shared vision for the area. It is expected that a joint committee of these councils will be formed and that this joint committee will be designated by the MCCA as a nominating body for the purposes of nominating four non-constituent Members of the MCCA. The term of office for non-constituent members would be a matter for the MCCA constitution, but it is expected that non-constituent Members would be appointed annually, with membership rotated among the district and borough councils. The same joint committee could be used to nominate other elected members from the district and borough councils to other places on forums of the MCCA, including Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees.
24. The Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for Lincolnshire and Humberside have a valuable role to play in the operation of the MCCA and the future prosperity of Greater Lincolnshire. Safer communities are key to the Government’s Levelling Up Missions, and so the MCCA will ensure that it engages appropriately with both PCCs as the leaders elected to represent public safety in Greater Lincolnshire. With that in mind, it is expected that one PCC will at any given time be a non-constituent Member of the MCCA. PCCs will be able to nominate each other as the substitute member as appropriate, and both PCCs would be able to attend and participate in MCCA meetings and have access to all meeting papers.
25. To retain and build upon the mature public and private sector partnership working already taking place across Greater Lincolnshire, it is proposed that the remaining non-constituent/associate Member could be appointed by the MCCA from a sector that has strategic relevance to the powers devolved to the area. The MCCA may invite representatives from other sectors to attend (and speak) at any Mayoral Combined Authority meeting.

Voting rights

26. Constituent Members of the MCCA and the mayor must have full voting rights. non-constituent members are non-voting unless the MCCA resolves to give them a vote on any issue, within the restrictions set out in the Act. It is expected that the non-constituent Members will be granted voting rights in accordance with paragraphs 27 and 28 below.
27. The MCCA constitution will specify a number of matters where voting will be reserved to constituent members and non-constituent members will not be granted a vote. Reserved matters are expected to include the mayoral budget and constitutional matters, matters relating to the current functions of the constituent councils and those transport functions that transfer to the MCCA. Other than on reserved matters it is expected that non-constituent members from the district and borough councils will be granted the right to vote where permissible.
28. Subject to appropriate constitutional arrangements, the PCC non-constituent member may be given a vote by the MCCA on non-reserved matters considered by the MCCA that relate to the PCC's remit.
29. As well as the voting rights described above, it is expected that certain decisions of the MCCA will have consent requirements attached to them in which district and borough councils' consent will be required as a condition of the decision. These expected consent requirements are described in paragraph 40 below.

Functions

30. Functions contained in the deal document will be devolved to the MCCA by the Government, subject to Parliamentary approval. Some of these functions will be exercisable by the mayor and some by the MCCA.
31. No local authority functions are being removed from any local authority in the area, other than transport functions, as agreed with the constituent councils. Where other local authority functions are conferred on the MCCA they will be held concurrently with the local authorities in the area to ensure joined up decision making. Arrangements for the concurrent exercise of the functions will be a matter for agreement between the MCCA and the constituent councils as appropriate.
32. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be given powers in relation to:

- Economic development and regeneration functions, including the preparation of an economic assessment for the area; to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions and to carry out strategic economic planning that clearly articulates the area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.
- Adult education and skills functions;
- Transport functions, including responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan and to set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the mayor;
- Housing supply, regeneration and place-making functions, along with provision of housing and land, land acquisition and disposal and the development and regeneration of land functions;
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for all functions;
- Data sharing with the constituent councils in areas relating to the MCCA functions
- Power to establish joint arrangements
- A functional power of competence

33. The directly elected mayor for the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will autonomously exercise the functions set out below with personal accountability to the electorate, devolved from central government and set out in legislation. These functions will be:

- Functional power of competence
- Power to establish mayoral joint committee(s)
- Housing and regeneration:
 - Power to designate a Mayoral Development Area leading to the setting up of a Mayoral Development Corporation (subject to consent requirements below);
 - Housing and land acquisition powers (subject to consent requirements below) to support housing regeneration, infrastructure and community development and wellbeing, unlocking housing opportunities and accelerating business growth across Greater Lincolnshire.
- Finance:
 - Power for the mayor to set a precept on council tax to fund mayoral functions (resulting from the setting of the mayoral budget as set out below);
 - Power to charge business rate supplement (subject to ballot);
- Transport:
 - To draw up a local transport plan and strategies (subject to the consent requirements – see paragraph 38 below);
 - Bus franchising powers;
 - Ability to pay grants to bus service operators;

- Power of direction over the KRN.

Arrangements for exercise of mayoral functions

34. The Act sets out how the mayor can exercise their functions.

35. The mayor must appoint a member of the MCCA as deputy mayor.

36. The mayor can arrange for the exercise of their functions by:

- The deputy mayor
- A constituent member of the MCCA
- Where regulations allow, a committee of the MCCA consisting of persons appointed by the mayor whether or not members of the MCCA.

37. The mayor may also choose to establish Advisory Boards to advise them on matters relating to the exercise of their functions.

Conditions on the exercise of mayoral functions

38. The mayor will be required to consult the MCCA on their strategies and this will be subject to the following conditions:

- The MCCA will be able to amend the mayor's budget if 2/3rd of the constituent members (or substitute members) entitled to vote agree to do so or, if a 2/3 majority cannot be reached, if 3/6 constituent members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 Lead Members entitled to vote agree to do so.
- The MCCA will be able to amend the mayor's Transport Plan if 2/3rd of the constituent members (or substitute members) entitled to vote, agree to do so.

39. The following decisions will require the consent of the Lead Member (or a substitute member acting in their place), of any relevant constituent council, in whose area the decision will apply:

- a. Designation by the mayor of any area of land as a Mayoral Development Area leading to the establishment (by Order) of a Corporation (the consent of the relevant planning authority in whose area the decision will apply is also required as included in paragraph 40).
- b. Compulsory purchase of land or buildings by the mayor or the MCCA under any powers (the exercise of compulsory purchase powers will also require the consent of the relevant planning authority as included in paragraph 40).

- c. Any decision by the mayor that could lead to a financial liability falling directly upon that constituent council.
- d. Such other matters as may be contained in the MCCA constitution, including the adoption of policies and strategies.

40. As well as the requirement for lead member consent in accordance with paragraph 37 the following decisions will also require the consent of any local planning authority in whose area the decision will apply:-

- a. Designation by the mayor of any area of land as a Mayoral Development Area leading to the establishment (by Order) of a Corporation
- b. the exercise of compulsory purchase powers

41. The mayor and the other MCCA members will be required to work together. Specifically:

- a. The mayor will provide overall leadership and chair combined county authority meetings;
- b. Members of the MCCA may also act to support and advise the mayor in the exercise of mayoral functions;
- c. The MCCA may establish an independent remuneration panel to recommend allowances payable to the mayor.

Arrangements for exercise of MCCA functions

42. Unless and until delegated through the MCCA's constitution all MCCA functions that are not mayoral functions will be exercised by the full MCCA and not by any board or committee on its behalf. This includes the adoption of all plans, policies and strategies other than those set out in paragraph 38.

Voting arrangements

43. The allocation of voting rights is dealt with in paragraphs 26 to 29 above. Proposals for decisions by the MCCA may be put forward by the mayor or any MCCA constituent member. The mayor will have one vote as will other voting members of the MCCA. Any questions that are to be decided by the MCCA are to be decided by simple majority of the members present, entitled to vote and voting, unless otherwise stated in this document or provided for in legislation and that majority must include the vote of the mayor.

44. In addition, for the following decisions the majority of members must include the Lead Member (or substitute member) from each constituent council:

- a. Approving the MCCA's budget (excluding decisions which relate to the mayor's budget);
- b. Setting a levy

45. For a decision to carry out a regeneration scheme in an area of a constituent council(s) (with appropriate consultation of a district or borough council where relevant) the majority of members must include the Lead Member (or substitute member) from the relevant constituent council(s).

Delegation

46. The delegation of decision-making within the MCCA will be a matter for the MCCA in approving its constitution. However, the upper tier councils recognise the value of widening involvement in the work of the MCCA and ensuring a range of voices are heard within the MCCA.

47. It is expected that the MCCA will establish a number of decision-making committees or boards aligned with different elements of the devolution deal. It is envisaged that the following committees or boards would be established:

- Transport
- Skills and Employment
- Business and Infrastructure

48. These committees would contain constituent Members, non-constituent Members and Associate Members of the MCCA or their substitutes, together with a number of co-opted members which could include other elected members of non-constituent councils.

49. In addition to decision-making boards/committees the MCCA will have the power to establish advisory boards/committees. It is envisaged that a Greater Lincolnshire Economic Advisory Group/Panel could be established as one means of ensuring a strong voice for business.

Accountability

50. The MCCA must appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and one Audit Committee in line with requirements set in regulations including on membership and voting. The MCCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have the power to scrutinise decisions of and hold to account both the mayor and the MCCA. The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) cannot include the mayor or a member of the MCCA.
51. For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) it is expected that 2 members will be nominated from each constituent council: In addition, there are expected to be a total of 4 members nominated collectively by the district and borough councils on each Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Further detail on the approach to nomination of those representatives will be developed in consultation with the district and borough councils in the area. The constituent councils will also consider whether and how best to ensure that the business voice and other relevant stakeholders are represented effectively on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s).
52. The chair and vice-chair of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be appointed by the MCCA following a proposal put to them by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in question. The chair shall not be a member of a registered political party of which the mayor is also a member.
53. The MCCA must arrange for the appointment of an Audit Committee, at least one member of which must be an independent person. Membership of the Committee taken as a whole will be required to be proportional by reference to the balance of political parties prevailing among members of the constituent councils taken together at the time the MCCA appoints the members to the Committee or such other requirements as are required by the regulations.
54. For the Audit Committee it is expected that two members will be nominated from each constituent council. Further members will be appointed to the Audit Committee based on appropriate best practice guidance such as that issued by CIPFA on the composition of audit committees. Further detail on the approach to nomination of further representatives will be developed in consultation with the district and borough councils in the area and included in the proposal to be consulted.
55. As a local government institution with devolved powers, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be subject to the English Devolution Accountability Framework ('the Framework'). The Framework applies to all English institutions with devolved powers. In line with the Framework, the Government, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and other areas with devolution deals will work together to put in place mechanisms

to ensure that local leaders and institutions are transparent and accountable, work closely with local businesses, seek the best value for taxpayers' money, and maintain strong ethical standards.

56. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA should also have regard for the Government's Scrutiny Protocol, which develops the standards and best practice to make sure that scrutiny committees in areas with devolution deals can meet this unique challenge. This is to empower local residents and provide them with the confidence that devolution is leading to improvements in their area.

Working with Others

57. In order to fulfil its role in giving strategic direction to the Greater Lincolnshire area the mayor and the MCCA will work closely with stakeholders in the area including the constituent councils and borough and district councils. The mayor and MCCA will also have formal powers to delegate functions or exercise them formally with other local and public authorities.

58. Where existing functions or resources currently held by the constituent councils are to be exercised concurrently or jointly with the mayor or the MCCA the detail will be agreed between the mayor/MCCA and the constituent councils. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may exercise functions in relation to its area and may exercise functions outside its area, subject to and in accordance with statutory provisions.

59. The MCCA will explore opportunities for further collaboration with its neighbouring councils, including and especially, any future Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (howsoever named) and pan-Humber working arrangements. The MCCA may invite representatives from other partner councils to attend (and speak) at any MCCA meeting.

Role of the LEP

60. The Levelling Up White Paper announced the Government's intention to support the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership functions and roles into local democratic institutions. On 4 August 2023 Government confirmed its previous 'minded to' decision to withdraw central government support (core funding) for Local Enterprise Partnerships from April 2024 and transfer their functions to local and combined authorities. This deal confirms the integration of LEP functions into the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, subject to agreement of an integration plan by the constituent local authorities and its subsequent endorsement by Government.

61. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be supported to take on relevant functions and roles of the Local Enterprise Partnership in line with published guidance and any agreed interim arrangements. To date the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) has made a significant and valuable contribution to shaping the Greater Lincolnshire economy and the private sector which it represents. Building on these achievements and integrating these important functions into the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will create more integrated, better aligned and empowered local institutions with the tools they need to unlock economic growth and level up at a local level.
62. All parties will work together to ensure the strong, diverse and independent local business voice is maintained, with the business voice to be represented within the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and with advisory boards representative of the geographies and composition of their local communities. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will ensure that any business advisory board or equivalent structure is meaningfully involved in local decision making, maintaining a culture of constructive challenge and scrutiny with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA assurance framework, and is representative of local business communities.
63. Government funding for integrating LEP functions will be subject to future spending decisions by individual departments and business planning.

Growth Hub

64. The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub in Greater Lincolnshire plays an important role working with local authorities in the area to provide access to a range of grants, expert advice and programmes to support SMEs to grow and boost the local economy. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will continue to provide Growth Hub Services working in collaboration with businesses, local partners, stakeholders and local authorities across the county, subject to future funding from Government.

Implementation

65. In line with the process set out in the Act, the constituent councils will produce a devolution proposal based on the deal. They will publicly consult on that proposal with local communities and business and any other interested stakeholders. They will consider the outcomes of the consultation before deciding whether to revise and/or submit the proposal, alongside a summary of the consultation responses to the Government, for consideration.

66. Implementation of the proposal is subject to the statutory requirements and process set out in the Act together with the Secretary of State being satisfied that the required statutory requirements have been met, the consent of each constituent council being provided, and parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation.
67. As institutions mature, they can gain greater responsibility, and Greater Lincolnshire will be able to deepen its devolution arrangements over time, subject to Government agreement and appropriate accountability arrangements. Councils in Greater Lincolnshire view these arrangements as a starting point for further devolution.
68. As part of deepening devolution, the trailblazer devolution deals recently concluded with Greater Manchester MCA and the West Midlands MCA include single funding settlements which give the flexibility and independence needed to deliver locally whilst providing assurance of MCA performance through a single outcomes-based accountability framework. The Government's ambition is to roll a single settlement funding model out to all areas in England with a devolution deal and a directly elected leader over time.

Finance and investment

69. The constituent councils will create a fully devolved funding programme covering all budgets for devolved functions (the “Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund”), accountable to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA.
70. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will use the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund to deliver a programme of transformational long-term investment. The Government agrees to allocate £24 million per annum for 30 years, 50% capital and 50% revenue, which will form part of the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund. This will be subject to five-yearly gateway assessments to confirm that the investment has contributed to economic growth and levelling up. Once the Order is made conferring establishing the MCCA and the council has its Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may have access to the Investment Fund prior to the election of a directly elected mayor, subject to the agreement with the Government of suitable caps.
71. In recognition of the economic opportunities presented by Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, Government will make a further investment in Greater Lincolnshire to drive place-based economic regeneration through a £20 million capital funding pot to be allocated over the current spending review period, subject to a business case process. Priority schemes will cover highway and public transport improvements, green jobs, UK Food Valley, and water management.
72. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have the flexibility to secure private and public sector leverage. As per local government guidance, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also be able to use capital receipts from asset sales as revenue funding for public service transformational initiatives.
73. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be given powers to borrow for its new functions, which will allow it to invest in economically productive infrastructure, subject to an agreed cap with HM Treasury. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will agree overall debt limits with HM Treasury. These limits are subject to review as set out in the debt cap agreements. The MCCA will update HM Treasury about any deviation from its underlying borrowing plans in order to support HM Treasury in its duty to monitor and forecast changes in the fiscal aggregates. Debt The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also provide information, explanation and assistance to support the Office for Budget Responsibility in its duty to produce economic and fiscal forecasts for the UK economy.
74. The costs of establishing the MCCA will be met from the overall resources of the MCCA. To support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in its early stages of this deal,

the Government will provide Mayoral Capacity Funding of £500,000 in 2024/25, £1 million in 2025/26, and £500,000 in 2026/27. This will be provided on the basis that the establishing legislation has been made and the Assurance Framework confirmed with the Government. Any future capacity funding will be subject to Spending Review, in line with arrangements for other devolution deals. Additional activities or capital allocations from Government will be supported by revenue allocated to the MCCA in line with practice for existing areas with a Level 3 devolution deal.

75. The elected mayor will have the power to issue a precept on local council tax bills to help pay for the mayor's work. This precept can only be raised for mayoral functions.
76. The elected mayor will have the power to introduce a supplement on business rates for expenditure on a project or projects that will promote economic development in the area, subject to a ballot of affected businesses.
77. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be the lead local authority for the planning and delivery of the UKSPF (or 'the Fund') from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remains the same. The Greater Lincolnshire area's core UKSPF allocation will be subject to a future Spending Review and reconfirmation of overall UKSPF policy and delivery arrangements from 2025/26. If the delivery model remains the same as the previous Spending Review period, it is anticipated that the MCCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates in the area, with wide flexibility to invest and deliver according to local needs. In carrying out this role, it will need to engage constituent councils, district and borough councils and other local partners to ensure that the needs of residents can be effectively addressed.
78. The Government understands that Greater Lincolnshire currently has, and will in the future have, interest in applying for funding and other opportunities made available. This includes but is not limited to the Levelling Up Fund. This deal does not preclude participation in these processes where the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA meet the relevant criteria.

UK Infrastructure Bank

79. The UK Infrastructure Bank ("the Bank") will increase infrastructure investment across the UK by partnering with the private sector and local government to help tackle climate change and support regional and local economic growth. The Bank can offer advice and support to local actors, including the Greater Lincolnshire

MCCA, to help deliver on their objectives, including driving investment into net zero infrastructure and innovative local projects. It can also act as a convenor, bringing together local actors for collaborative projects, and where appropriate identifying where projects can be aggregated to achieve greater impacts.

Skills and Employment

80. Both the Government and constituent councils are committed to a whole system approach to employment and skills across Greater Lincolnshire, which helps everyone to be able to gain the job that they want and helps employers to raise productivity and create better jobs that are key to raising living standards.
81. The leading sectors in the Greater Lincolnshire economy have the potential to create high skill, high wage jobs that can level up Greater Lincolnshire. The Government and constituent councils are responsive to the needs of employers, recognising the requirements that employers have to operate productively. Through this deal they will support the provision of:
 - a. entry level training and support which helps people into employment.
 - b. access to the right training in the higher-level skills that Greater Lincolnshire's key business sectors need in order to build on their competitive advantage.
 - c. productivity and innovation support to Greater Lincolnshire's key business sectors so that they continue to create the jobs of the future.
82. This deal will support Greater Lincolnshire in ensuring that: there is a pipeline of motivated and competent employees who want to develop their career in the area; training meets the needs of employers; and support makes it as easy as possible for people to gain and remain in employment.

Adult Education

83. Greater Lincolnshire has significant predicted economic growth across its key sectors. This is however set against a backdrop of significant rurality, declining adult participation (20% reduction between 2016 and 2021), lower level 4 attainment (34% of 25-34 year olds compared to 48% nationally), a cohort of the population with no qualifications and the risks (and opportunities) posed by the growth in automation. Thus, widening participation and attainment is Greater Lincolnshire's number one priority.
84. The Government will fully devolve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to Greater Lincolnshire from academic year 2026-2027 subject to readiness conditions and Parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation conferring the appropriate functions. Funding for Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) will also be devolved and will be ring-fenced.

85. Prior to full devolution taking place, the Government will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support their preparations for taking on the relevant functions and will make implementation funding available for Greater Lincolnshire but this will be subject to the availability of appropriate central funding including in the next Spending Review.
86. Upon devolution of AEB, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be responsible for making allocations to providers in accordance with the conditions imposed on them, including ministerial directions, and the outcomes to be achieved. The Government will not seek to second guess these decisions, but it will set proportionate requirements about outcome information to be collected in order to allow students to make informed choices.
87. The Government will inform the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA on which basis the existing methodology operates to calculate the size of the grant to be paid to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA for the purpose of exercising the devolved adult education functions.
88. The Government will discuss with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, and other areas with, or which are planning to secure, devolved adult education functions, any proposed changes to its methodology for calculating devolved areas' grants. Any discussions will be undertaken in a timely manner and before decisions are made.
89. In order to proceed with devolution, the Government needs to be assured of the following readiness conditions:
 - a. The Secretary of State for Education and appropriate accounting officer are assured that Greater Lincolnshire MCCA is operationally ready to administer the adult education budget and is satisfied the required statutory tests have been met.
 - b. Parliament has legislated to enable transfer to Greater Lincolnshire MCCA of the current statutory duties on the Secretary of State to secure appropriate facilities for further education for adults from this budget and for provision to be free in certain circumstances.
 - c. Agreement to a memorandum of understanding between the Department for Education and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA that provides appropriate assurance that the named parties will work together to ensure the future financial stability of the provider base, including for sharing financial risk and managing provider failure.
 - d. Learner protection arrangements are agreed between parties.

90. The Department for Education will continue to work with Greater Lincolnshire to commission a local programme of Skills Bootcamps, to be informed by future spending agreements.

Skills and employment

91. Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) will set out the current and future skills needs of the area and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects. LSIPs will build a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and further education providers and allow provision to be more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets.

92. Working with the designated Employer Representative Body, and utilising and sharing the local labour market intelligence and analysis developed¹¹, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will support and provide input into the LSIP for the area.

93. Greater Lincolnshire will work with the Department for Education to maximise the number of care leavers in employment. This will include encouraging local authorities and public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire to provide ring-fenced apprenticeships and work-experience opportunities for care leavers; working with DfE's delivery partner for the care leaver covenant (Spectra) and working with local businesses to encourage them to offer employment opportunities to care leavers.

94. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be considered alongside other areas with a Level 3 devolution deal at future Spending Reviews with regard to the devolution of skills funding.

Labour Markets

95. The Government recognises the challenges facing Greater Lincolnshire with a coastal and rural economy experiencing a complex range of issues relating to digital coverage, productivity, upskilling, in-work progression, and connectivity.

96. There is a need to develop and deliver targeted local programmes through devolved funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Adult Education Budget to address the unique and diverse challenges across the region. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will continue to be expected to work in partnership with local Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus and

regional DWP Strategic Partnership Managers to develop local programmes that meet local needs and complement national employment provision.

97. The Government and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also work together to better target employment support by understanding and utilising publicly available local labour market intelligence and analysis. As part of the development of the economic framework, the Government is committed to working together on the Greater Lincolnshire's strategic priorities and supporting the development of the region's economic framework.
98. The Department for Work and Pensions and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work together on Greater Lincolnshire MCCA's strategic priorities for employment through:
 - enhanced engagement by way of membership of the joint Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education Mayoral Combined Authority Advisory Group.
 - continuing regular engagement with DWP Strategic Partnership Managers, the regional Employer and Partnership team in Jobcentre Plus, and strategic labour market partnership teams.
99. The Department for Work and Pensions will also consider what role the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA could have in the design and delivery of future contracted employment programmes.

Career Education and Advice

100. The Government recognises the significant unique opportunities that are developing across Greater Lincolnshire and that, to ensure maximum benefit of the AEB allocation and the area's economic growth, a more place-based and industry led approach to careers education is developed for both adults and young people. Ensuring access to high quality careers, advice and guidance is a crucial element of the Government's long-term ambitions around social mobility, raising aspiration and securing the future workforce our economy needs.
101. In support of this objective, Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Local Authority partners have worked closely on the development of the Greater Lincolnshire's Career Hub. With the folding in of relevant LEP functions as announced in August 2023, the Government and partners within Greater Lincolnshire wish to ensure that there remains a shared focus on careers education and advice for young people. This is particularly crucial given the specific challenges faced in Greater Lincolnshire. This is particularly crucial given the ageing population of Greater

Lincolnshire and the need to increase awareness of new high skill high wage career opportunities across the area and the pathways available to residents to achieve a good quality career. The Department for Education will therefore seek to work with the Department for Levelling Up, Greater Lincolnshire and other relevant partners to support the continuity of activity within the Careers Hub.

102. To ensure a more place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally, the Government supports Greater Lincolnshire to work with local stakeholders to align careers provision with devolved AEB activities.

Housing and Land

103. Delivering sustainable growth requires development sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and housing to be delivered at a pace which supports economic growth. Recruiting and retaining a younger workforce to offset the ageing population and deliver future growth requires Greater Lincolnshire to have the right housing in the right locations and access to high quality housing is important to improving the health outcomes and life chances of residents across Greater Lincolnshire.
104. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have broad powers to acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to invest to deliver housing for the area.
105. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have land assembly and compulsory purchase powers, subject to the agreement of the constituent councils where the relevant land is located, and to the consent of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
106. The directly elected mayor will have the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral Development Corporations, which will support delivery on strategic sites in Greater Lincolnshire. Where relevant, this power may be exercised only with the consent of the constituent member(s) who represent the area in which the Development Corporation is to be established, and the consent of the local planning authority, if relevant. All members of the Combined County Authority appointed by the constituent councils, or substitute members acting in place of those members, whose local government area contains any part to be designated as a Mayoral Development Area and the consent of the relevant planning authority, including any national park planning authority if their area contains any part to be designated as a Mayoral Development Area.
107. The Government recognises the region's priority to transform town centres and the need to unlock underutilised brownfield land to create vibrant, exciting and connected urban neighbourhoods to support regeneration and address non-viability of sites. Greater Lincolnshire will be awarded £8.36 million of capital funding in 2024/25 to support the building of new homes on brownfield land, subject to sufficient eligible projects for funding being identified.

108. To support Greater Lincolnshire to identify and bring forward a pipeline of housing projects, Government will also provide £228,000 in capacity funding in 2024/25.
109. The devolution of locally-led brownfield funding to areas with a Level 3 deal is a part of the devolution framework. Subject to the agreement of appropriate Brownfield funding with HMT in the next SR, Greater Lincolnshire could expect devolution of locally-led brownfield funding into future years, in line with the position outlined in the devolution framework.

Working with Homes England

110. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Homes England are committed, with the support of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), to working collaboratively – combining their skills and capacity – to unlock the barriers to affordable housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for the region. This will be underpinned by a clear Action Plan setting out workstreams, timescales and milestones, as well as respective roles and responsibilities.
111. Homes England and the Government will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Housing Programme.
112. Homes England, DLUHC, and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will also collectively explore how wider measures – including viability assessments and the planning system – could better support Greater Lincolnshire MCCA's plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply, and in partnership test how Homes England through its strategic plan could assist in this.
113. Homes England will continue working in partnership with local planning authorities, including North East Lincolnshire Council, where Homes England and DLUHC will use the tools available to support the regeneration of and reuse of Brownfield land in Grimsby, through a place based approach focusing on housing delivery in the town centre and adjacent Alexandra Dock.

Transport

114. Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography combining urban, rural and coastal areas. Whilst constituent councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure, the area has few motorways or dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality.
115. As an area vital to supply chains and specialising in logistics, investment in strategic infrastructure is critical to drive business confidence and to support residents to travel to new high skilled, high wage jobs.
116. Despite its geographical challenges, Greater Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand-responsive transport, developing innovative services that it intends to expand further to create a transport network which breaks the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap.
117. The Government and constituent councils recognise the vital role of rail across Greater Lincolnshire, especially for passengers to access work and skills, and for visitors to Greater Lincolnshire. Passenger services coexist with significant freight movements on the networks. Strong road and rail networks are essential enablers for business growth. The A1 and the Trans Midlands Trade Corridor alongside East-West movements by rail are recognised as vital connections for the growth of ports, in particular the Humber and East Midlands freeports.

Network North

118. As set out in the recent Network North announcement:
- The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £4.7 billion announced as part of Network North to transform local transport in areas in the North and Midlands outside of the big city regions.
 - The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £1 billion funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North and Midlands.
 - The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £5.5 billion funding to fix potholes in the North and Midlands announced as part of Network North.

Powers of the Local Transport Authority and Local Transport Plans

119. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will become the Local Transport Authority for the new combined county authority area and take on the associated responsibilities and local public transport powers.

120. As part of becoming the LTA, responsibility for an area-wide Local Transport Plan (LTP) will be conferred on Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and exercised by the mayor. The Greater Lincolnshire MCA will develop a provisional area-wide LTP by March 2025 to be finalised by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA once established. Spending Review is expected in 2024; in developing its case for local transport investment DfT will be engaging the local transport sector. As such, we will look to draw on any emerging evidence base and strategy Greater Lincolnshire is able to make available by that time. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be expected to ensure its LTP aligns with best practice in transport planning including any revised LTP guidance, and to update their LTP as necessary.

Local and Regional Partnership Working

121. Greater Lincolnshire's geography falls into two Sub-national Transport body areas – Transport for the North and Midlands Connect – the membership of which brings important benefits to the region. Greater Lincolnshire is seeking full membership of both Midlands Connect and Transport for the North. The Government is committed to working with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to explore membership options for both STBs by 2025, when the MCCA is established.

122. The Government recognises that local and regional level organisations are often best placed to make practical changes required to meet shared strategic objectives on local economic growth and decarbonisation, ensuring that local communities and businesses are engaged. Transport for the North and Midlands Connect will develop their Regional Centres of Excellence, which will offer bespoke capability support to all Local Transport Authorities in their STB areas. This provides the opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with Midlands Connect and Transport for the North to establish if Greater Lincolnshire would benefit from capability support.

123. As set out in the National Electric Vehicle Strategy, the Government recognises the aspirations of Greater Lincolnshire to improve public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, which would increase the uptake of electric vehicles and reduce carbon emissions by supporting all motorists in making the switch. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA may also access support from STBs in the region, which have received Government funding to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy. These EVCI strategies will provide a robust plan of charging needs in Greater Lincolnshire and can be used to underpin any public sector funding proposals including applications for the LEVI Capital Fund. They will also help local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire to develop their own strategies to scale up the rollout of public charge-points in their areas. The

constituent councils within Greater Lincolnshire have also received £7,976 million in capital funding from Government's Local EV Infrastructure Fund and a further £1,288 million revenue funding to increase their capability to plan and deliver public, on-street EV infrastructure. Through the LEVI Fund, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to utilise the LEVI support body for further assistance and upskilling of EV officers.

124. For Greater Lincolnshire, other alternative low carbon fuels, such as hydrogen, will play an important role, particularly for large vehicles that require longer ranges and faster refuelling. The constituent authorities will work with the Sub-national Transport Boards and the mayoral rural transport group to explore this.

Consolidated Local Transport Settlement

125. The directly elected mayor will be responsible for a multi-year consolidated local transport settlement for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA which Government will provide following the next Spending Review. Local transport funding will be consolidated in line with the principles set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and Funding Simplification Doctrine. The quantum of funding and the number/remit of individual funding lines will be agreed through the next Spending Review Process, however we anticipate this will build on the current Level 3 offer of consolidating highways maintenance funding and integrated transport block.

Local Highways Networks

126. Greater Lincolnshire will set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the mayor. This will allow the most important local roads to be managed in a strategic way to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and introduce traffic management measures to, for example, improve public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure across Greater Lincolnshire. The constituent councils will remain the highway authority for their area responsible for the management and operation of the local highway network. The mayor will hold a power of direction allowing them to direct member highway authorities in the exercise of their highway powers with regard to the KRN.
127. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be able to enter into agreements with Government, other Local Authorities and National Highways, including to determine shared priorities for its strategic route network roads and KRN.
128. The Government supports the aim for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with National Highways and Midlands Connect on identifying priority interventions on the A1 and the western A46 around Lincoln:

- a. The A1 corridor is a nationally significant freight artery linking the North and Scotland with London and the South East. The route is particularly vital for connections to major ports on the East Coast, including Felixstowe, Grimsby, Immingham and then Dover (via the M25). The A1 corridor also has a key economic role within the East Midlands, particularly for agri-food, logistics, manufacturing, and tourism, with very significant levels of proposed housing (up to 100,000 units) and employment growth – in addition to the potential ‘Step Fusion’ Facility at the West Burton Power Station site in Nottinghamshire. The A1 through the East Midlands is a dual carriageway ‘A’ road characterised by sub-standard junctions and right turn movements, accident blackspots and a lack of resilience or alternative routes during closures.
 - b. The circulatory road around Lincoln is a recognised priority to serve the Humber Ports and East Coast visitor attractions. Significant local investment has been placed on resolving key areas on the eastern side of the city through the construction of the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and the emerging North Hykeham Relief Road. Strategic improvement works are required on the western side of the city between North Hykeham Roundabout and Carholme Road Roundabout. These required improvements consist of both capacity increases and Active Travel provisions to safely cross the A46 to connect outlying communities.
 - c. The Trans Midland Trade Corridor (A15/A46) north of Lincoln is of national significance as a strategic north-south transport and economic corridor connecting the Humber ports in the north to the wider network in the south via the A46 and A1 at Newark. The current performance of this corridor holds back productivity and is also a barrier to future growth. Delivery of upgrades and improvements to this key arterial route will enable faster, safer, reliable and resilient connectivity to regional, national and international markets.
129. Unless otherwise agreed locally, all operational responsibility for highways will remain with the constituent councils. However, where practical we would expect the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work towards streamlining contractual and delivery arrangements across the region. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA should consider how highways across the region are managed, which may include developing a single strategic assessment plan for local highways in the area, in partnership with constituent councils.

Rural bus services

130. The mayor of Greater Lincolnshire will establish and chair a rural transport group alongside existing Level 3 combined authorities, that will lead the national debate on transport in mayoral rural areas. The group will champion innovation and work in partnership with the Department for Transport to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility challenges.
131. DfT and Greater Lincolnshire recognise the challenges that rural areas face in the delivery of high quality, sustainable bus services. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will develop a strategy and spending plan proposal to DfT in relation to future funding opportunities to develop a rural bus pilot that is intended to act as a policy test bed for other rural areas.

Bus Enhanced Partnerships

132. As the Local Transport Authority, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be responsible for:
- Bus Service Improvement Plans
 - Enhanced Partnerships
 - Subsidised bus services
 - Concessionary fare schemes
- And will, where practical, streamline engagement with bus operators and seek efficiencies in their future contractual and delivery arrangements across the combined area.

Bus Franchising

133. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be empowered to exercise franchising powers in the Transport Act 2000, including the power to consult on franchising without seeking permission from the Secretary of State.

Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs)

134. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will receive a proportion of the £1 billion funding for Bus Service Improvement Plans in the North and Midlands.
135. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with constituent councils to deliver against the existing Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP). Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work towards integrating the existing BSIPs in the area.

Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG)

136. In line with the commitment in the National Bus Strategy, the Government is working on the reform of BSOG. The Government will devolve powers for the payment of BSOG to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA.
137. As the Local Transport Authority Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will have powers to run travel concession schemes. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will explore enhanced concessionary fares schemes, including elements for rail and young persons.

Rail

138. Rail services provide vital connectivity for passengers with services connecting communities and growing economic opportunities. Rail freight is nationally significant, with a quarter of the UK's freight passing through Greater Lincolnshire. The Government will support Greater Lincolnshire in seeking a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so that their priorities can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding their local network. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, alongside existing Level 3 combined authorities, will be considered a priority for these agreements which will provide the ability to influence the local rail offer. Local priorities will need to be coordinated and compatible with surrounding areas and the needs of the national network. Priorities locally include:
- d. Cleethorpes to Manchester (South Pennine Corridor) line speed improvements are a priority for Greater Lincolnshire. Transport for the North is supportive of the ambition. Further work involving Northern Rail and Trans-Pennine Express is required to develop the business case.
 - e. Cleethorpes to London service is a priority for Greater Lincolnshire, providing access to opportunities and supporting a growing economy. The Department for Transport is considering the case for direct London North East Railways services to and from both Cleethorpes and Grimsby to London, with an opportunity to implement them should the business case be value for money, and funding be available to address timetabling, infrastructure and operational factors.
 - f. DfT are aware that Midlands Connect have developed a business case for line speed improvements between Lincoln and Nottingham, which may realise the potential for journey time savings on the route.

139. The Government recognises the importance of rail freight across Greater Lincolnshire, enabling access to the ports and as part of the national network.

Active Travel

140. To ensure consistency in the quality and safety of schemes, Active Travel England (ATE) will provide support to ensure walking and cycling schemes are designed and delivered to high standards, including compliance with Local Transport Note 1/20 (LTN 1/20). The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with ATE to improve the design quality of all active travel schemes funded by Government and those that are locally funded. All cycling and walking schemes funded by Government must be approved by ATE as complying with LTN 1/20.

Net Zero and Climate Change

141. As part of its Net Zero Strategy and Net Zero Growth Plan, the Government recognises that devolved and local government can play an essential role in meeting national net zero ambitions. Local leaders in the Greater Lincolnshire area and elsewhere are well placed to engage with all parts of their communities and to understand local policy, political, social, and economic nuances relevant to climate action. This is why the devolution framework grants places the opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's net zero targets.
142. The Local Net Zero Forum, chaired by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Local Government Association, is cross-government and brings together national and local government senior officials. Through representative organisations on the forum such as the Local Government Association (LGA), Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Core Cities and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) – Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will get the opportunity to discuss local net zero policy and delivery issues in the round.
143. Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry but there is a need to ensure that this is supported by infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity and pipelines that are required to deliver growth. In the delivery of new infrastructure, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will balance environmental, social and economic considerations.
144. The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) set out a comprehensive approach to scaling up the hydrogen economy, and in the British Energy Security Strategy (2022) Government doubled its ambition to up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. Greater Lincolnshire is committed to establishing one of the UK's first net zero carbon industrial clusters by 2040, which aims to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions as well as developing blue and green hydrogen infrastructure and production.

Energy Networks

145. The Government recognises the need to increase Greater Lincolnshire's electricity network capacity to meet future electricity demand. We are committed to ensuring that local bodies such as combined authorities, including the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, have a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero, alongside other local areas as appropriate.

146. The Government is considering the role of local energy plans, including their role in supporting strategic network investment, working closely with Ofgem as part of its ongoing governance review into local energy institutions and its proposals on regional energy system planning.

Heat networks

147. The Government has confirmed its intention to establish heat network zoning in England. Under the zoning proposals, Zoning Coordinators within local government will be able to designate areas as heat network zones where heat networks are going to be the most cost-effective way to decarbonise heating and hot water within the zone. Local authorities will have powers to require certain buildings to connect to heat networks within the zones. This will enable the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to assume the role of heat network Zoning Coordinator for its locality and play a key role in the delivery of heat decarbonisation infrastructure. The Government is committed to have heat network zoning in place by 2025.

148. The Government will support the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA alongside other local authorities across England to take forward heat network zoning, including collaboration with the private sector on developing heat networks within zones and to help capitalise on unique local opportunities to utilise all available low carbon heat sources, including geothermal energy.

Buildings

149. The Government commits to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the Government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.

150. This work will involve inviting the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to work with the Government through the relevant representative organisations to consider if such an approach could accelerate the meeting of net zero goals and provide better value for money.

Green Jobs

151. Through the Green Jobs Delivery Group, we are working to ensure that workers, businesses and local areas, including Greater Lincolnshire, are supported

through the net zero transition. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA now has the opportunity to deliver green skills interventions at a local level through having a greater role in delivering the Adult Education Budget and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

152. Greater Lincolnshire either incorporates or adjoins some of the greatest opportunities or threats to energy and natural resources this country possesses. It witnesses the largest polluting estuary in the UK (CO₂), one of the most stretched natural water systems in the UK and possesses a portfolio of carbon-based power generation plants. However, it is also home to some of the most innovative thinking on carbon capture, nuclear fusion, water management and energy distribution.
153. Greater Lincolnshire offers opportunity to contribute to UK PLC explicitly through Carbon Capture Storage and Usage and potentially hosting a geological disposal facility; ensuring security of energy supply; reducing costs of energy creation and distribution; Creating Competitive Advantage for its indigenous businesses through new product development and business models.
154. The Government is aiming to reach a policy decision in 2023 on whether to support blending of up to 20% hydrogen by volume into the GB gas distribution networks. If the decision to proceed with blending is positive, Government will look to start the legislative and regulatory process to enable blending, as well as the process to make any physical changes to gas networks that are required. Given timelines, Government does not anticipate blending at a commercial scale to commence before 2025-2026 at the earliest.
155. To further contribute to Government's ambition of capturing and storing 20-30 MtCO₂ per year, Government will continue to develop the Track-1 and Track 2 clusters to increase the benefits they can deliver. Government will launch a process this year to begin further expansion of Track-1 clusters, beyond the initial deployment, identifying and selecting projects to fill the available storage and network capacity anticipated to be available in and around 2030. Additionally, Government has concluded that Viking transport and storage (T&S) system, based in Humber, along with the Acorn T&S based in Scotland, due to their maturity, remain best placed to deliver Government's objectives for Track-2, at this stage, subject to final decisions, due diligence, consenting, subsidy control, affordability, and value for money assessments. Government will set out the process by which capture projects for Track-2 will be selected in due course.
156. The Government is committed to the commissioning of studies to determine the infrastructure improvements that would be needed if a geological disposal facility

were to be sited in Greater Lincolnshire, including flood defences and transport links.

Humber

157. The Humber is one of the UK's most significant industrial areas with several distinctive assets which play an important role for the UK economy. The economy has great potential built around clean energy generation, manufacturing, and globally strategic ports which play on the vital role of the Estuary as an international trading gateway and which benefit from Freeport status and the incentives that brings in supporting trading businesses, attracting inward investment and jobs, as well as wider economic activity to the area.
158. The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero will provide observer representation on the Humber Energy Board, through which they will support the development of a Net Zero Strategy to accelerate the green energy transition across the Humber industrial cluster. This Net Zero Strategy will inform a detailed investment plan for the region, underpinned by strong collaboration between public and private sector partners across the Humber.

Environment, Food, Water and Climate Change

159. Greater Lincolnshire is the second largest county area in England, with a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh, high grade farmland and the only AONB in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds. It is home to the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and the new Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve.
160. With coastal and low-lying regions, water management is a crucial aspect of climate resilience, and Greater Lincolnshire has ambitions to become a rural innovation testbed for energy and water management. Managing water as an asset, is important to the area's communities to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding across a low land area and also to meet unique demands for water that support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.
161. Food production, processing and logistics accounts for a significant proportion of employment, and the location for two of the environmental land management schemes provides the area with a head start in the transition towards a successful nature recovery network.

Environment

162. Lincolnshire County Council has been appointed by Defra SoS as the authority responsible for preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the Greater Lincolnshire area. LNRSs will agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing habitat for nature; and map proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. Defra has confirmed total planned funding of £388,000 for financial years 23-24 and 24-25 to cover the costs of strategy preparation, including the required stakeholder engagement. The Government will work closely with responsible authorities to ensure they are supported in preparing their LNRS, including by making available Defra group expertise and data and agrees to consider the role of Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in the LNRS process following establishment of the new body.
163. The Government will ensure that over time locally identified environmental priorities are incorporated into new environmental land management schemes where appropriate.

164. Government encourages Greater Lincolnshire to play a leadership role in attracting private investment into nature's recovery within its area. Greater Lincolnshire will be invited to join a natural capital investment Community of Practice, providing access to information, best practice and learning from the Local Investment in Natural Capital programme, and networking opportunities to support building of local capability.
165. Government welcomes Greater Lincolnshire's ambitions in climate adaptation (in particular in developing (i) a Coastal partnership and (ii) a strategic approach to land use). Defra looks forward to further understanding Greater Lincolnshire's ambitions.

Coastal Partnership

166. Government and partners in Greater Lincolnshire have held the ambition to form a strategic coastal partnership since the publication of a joint report in 2015. The MCCA will convene a Coastal Partnership which will ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice and consideration to ensure that tourism and economic development can take place in parallel with the restoration of the natural and historic environment. Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members. The Coastal Partnership will run from the Wash into the Humber.
167. The remit of the Coastal Partnership will be to explore and develop solutions around:
- Using access to nature and cultural heritage as part of schemes to improve public health.
 - Climate Change Adaptation using the national Climate Change Risk Assessment to take a strategic approach to land use.
 - Interpretation, protection, enhancement and promotion of historic and archaeologically significant sites, structures, monuments, places, areas and both seascapes and landscapes, developing the local economic opportunities they provide, whilst maintaining their contribution to local identity and community.
 - Achieving local benefits for the key wildlife sites along the coast – maintaining their importance for tourism and the minimisation of the recreational disturbance of nature.
 - Monitoring and understanding national energy infrastructure along the Lincolnshire Coast (Hornsea 1 & 2, Viking Link, Theddlethorpe, LOR, Humber Freeport, etc) and co-ordinating advice to mitigate environmental

impacts.

168. This work will contribute towards developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies and growing the national Nature Recovery Network.

Food

169. The Government recognises the nationally significant role that Greater Lincolnshire plays in maintaining food security. The region produces one eighth of England's food and has nationally significant clusters in food production, food processing, fresh produce and seafood processing. Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley an initiative which seeks to provide economic benefit to the area based on the food sector's strength whilst also strengthening domestic food supply. Through this deal the Government recognises the ambitions of the Food Valley and supports the benefits that it will bring.

170. Given the particular importance of food production from Greater Lincolnshire to UK food security, DEFRA agrees to consider the role of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in ensuring both sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research.

171. Government will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to deepen engagement with food and drink manufacturing SMEs in the region, to discuss growth opportunities for SMEs in the sector and share best practice.

UK Food Valley programme board

172. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will convene a UK Food Valley Programme Board with senior level representation from organisations including the MCCA, the major food manufacturing businesses in Greater Lincolnshire, and academia. The board will produce a clear and measurable strategy for UK Food Valley. Defra will meet annually with the board to discuss key topics of value to its members.

173. The remit of the board will be to deliver the UK Food Valley strategy by exploring, developing, and commissioning solutions around:

- a. Giving domestic businesses and inward investors the confidence to invest, notably:
 - i. Identifying areas in which the UK is a big net importer of food where domestic production could be sustainably and competitively expanded.

- ii. Taking R&D out of the lab into the field or onto the factory floor, by supporting the innovation to commercialisation journey, increasing skills to adopt innovative technology in industry and by prioritising higher level skills activity in the sector.
- b. Ensuring that industry is supported to invest by addressing key enablers of business expansion, notably:
- i. Supporting commercial investment in the industry to increase production volumes and modernisation through globally competitive investment incentives including agri-tech, food manufacture, and aquaculture.
 - ii. Supporting the industry with a positive planning framework and premises supply strategy to support businesses from start-ups looking for their first food grade unit, to multi-nationals investing in large scale sites. The MCCA will prepare and deliver an investment programme which provides the right combination of developable sites and ready-to-use business premises for the food sector in the area.
 - iii. Supporting food chain investment with modern infrastructure including access to sustainable energy and water supplies; high speed digital connectivity; and transport infrastructure. Defra will support the board in its aims by being an active champion of the sector across government.
 - iv. Provide specialist food chain innovation to accelerate technology innovation, commercialisation, and adoption. Defra will support this aim by providing updates and information around programmes and incentives for the agricultural sector to diversify into high value food production.

Water

174. Defra will endorse the creation of an Enhanced Partnership, utilising the existing Lincolnshire Flood and Water Management Partnership framework, to pilot the development of a forum for flood resilience, adaptation and management of the water system across all sectors and in a whole systems approach. The enhanced partnership will help Greater Lincolnshire become a testbed to explore and develop options for how flood risk management from all sources, including relevant adaptation activities linked to water sustainability, can best be addressed and accelerated at the local level. This could include:

- Sharing of best practice approaches and learning on integrated water management to inform government reforms to local flood risk management planning.
- Ensuring commitments within the Enhanced Partnership Plan are agreed and signed up to by all partners, to drive the development of Enhanced

Partnership Schemes, within which obligations and delivery timescales on all partners will be agreed by the group, maximising the likelihood of successful delivery.

- Creating the enabling environment needed to develop a place-based flood risk and water sustainability strategy, provide the influence required to develop investment plans to fulfil that strategy, and ensure implementation of those plans, at the required timescales. This will not change the role and responsibilities of existing Risk Management Authorities or existing statutory duties to produce Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.
- Providing a single contact point for engagement with other groups such as agri-food, energy, manufacturing and transport, to facilitate a whole systems approach to utilities and infrastructure coordination and planning.

Culture and Tourism

175. Greater Lincolnshire has a high-quality and varied visitor economy offered across city, coast and countryside. Up to 50 miles of coastline, an area of outstanding natural beauty, and hundreds of visitor attractions contributed to the overall value of £2.62 billion in 2022, supporting over 28,000 jobs.
176. Home to the Red Arrows, Lincoln Castle and Cathedral, rural landscapes including the Isle of Axholme and the Lincolnshire Wolds dotted with market towns and limestone villages, as well as the vibrant coastal resorts of Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe and Skegness – the UK's fourth most popular holiday resort – the area has a rich heritage, cultural and leisure offer. The growth of the visitor economy in Greater Lincolnshire has enormous potential to deliver local economic growth, create local jobs and help drive productivity.
177. Placemaking initiatives in locations like Grimsby, Lincoln, Boston and Grantham have shown the potential of ALBs to deliver transformative programmes in partnership with local authorities, businesses and the third sector. Grimsby's industrial maritime heritage has significant potential for investment and reuse as a new economic focus and source of pride in place, with a Heritage Action Zone providing a legacy of cultural activity from which to develop new initiatives. Lincoln's Cornhill Quarter development, has also showcased the impact of High Street Heritage Action Zones spring-boarding regeneration in partnership with business.

Culture

178. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and a subset of DCMS ALBs will establish a collaborative partnership, supported by DCMS, to share expertise and insight across (some or all of) culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy (as applicable), in order to maximise the impact of funding and policy decisions taken within Greater Lincolnshire by members of the partnership.
179. A key area of focus for the partnership will be for the MCCA and ALBs to share information on their priorities and plans across the relevant policy areas. This will facilitate a shared understanding among the partnership of potential opportunities for alignment, recognising that culture, heritage, sport and the visitor economy all play a strong role in supporting places and communities to thrive – and that this effect is maximised when individual decisions take into account the wider context of other plans and decisions being made for an area.

180. All partnership members will retain their autonomy for individual decision-making. The partnership does not prejudice ALB decisions around national grant funding processes or their national priorities. ALBs will also seek to use the partnership to deliver their national priorities, which will remain paramount. The scale of each ALB's involvement in the partnership will be dependent on the specific context and degree of alignment identified between individual priorities. DCMS will be involved in discussions as appropriate.
181. The partnership will be reviewed annually, and subject to future capacity and appetite may be renewed up to a five-year period.

Tourism

182. VisitEngland and the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with the accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership for the region to help further develop the region's visitor economy. This collaborative work, across those areas set out in the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan, could include harnessing the region's potential to grow domestic and international visitor spend, encouraging visits throughout the year rather than just during the traditional tourist season, and engaging with the work of the proposed Strategic Coastal Partnership for Greater Lincolnshire given the links between this and tourism development.

Digital

183. The Government is committed to supporting Greater Lincolnshire's digital connectivity ambitions, including through the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy, which was published in April 2023 and sets out a strategic framework for the development, deployment and adoption of 5G and future networks. This includes working closely with places to encourage investment in advanced wireless connectivity and increase its adoption across the local economy and public services.
184. As set out in the National Cyber Strategy 2022, the Government is committed to strengthening the capability of local authorities such as Greater Lincolnshire to buy and use connected places technology securely. In May 2021, the National Cyber Security Centre published the Connected Places Cyber Security Principles, a foundational step in supporting the cyber security of the UK's connected places. Since then, the Government has continued to develop its support of local authorities deploying and managing connected places technologies and in 2022 the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology published the Secure Connected Places Playbook. The Playbook was designed in collaboration with local authorities and helps them to get their cyber security foundations right whilst setting a strong cyber security culture. The Government hopes to continue to work with local authorities such as the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support the secure and sustainable adoption of connected places technologies. Bolstering the UK's Cyber Ecosystems remains a high priority for the Government.
185. The Government recognises that high quality digital connectivity is crucial for future economic growth and productivity in the region. The private sector will continue to lead on the rollout of broadband and mobile infrastructure, with DSIT supporting delivery in less commercially viable areas. The Government will engage with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA on a regular basis, on delivery plans in the region, particularly where they involve hard to reach rural areas. The Government is committed to achieving nationwide coverage of gigabit capable broadband by 2030 and to ensuring that rural areas are not left behind including in Greater Lincolnshire. Procurements covering Greater Lincolnshire are scheduled to launch in 2023, and regular Project Gigabit programme updates will be provided demonstrating progress in delivering for communities across the area.

Innovation, Trade and Investment

186. The Government is committed to supporting places to realise their entrepreneurial and innovation potential, underpinned by ambitious measures set out in the Levelling Up White Paper.
187. Greater Lincolnshire has a long history of innovation and is known for nationally significant sectors in food-tech and agri-tech, defence and low carbon energy. However, productivity and levels of innovation in Greater Lincolnshire remain one of the lowest in the UK.
188. Greater Lincolnshire MCCA intends to build on existing structures to develop a new place-based Innovation Board, which will bring together local leaders with representatives from research organisations and industry to develop a clear innovation strategy for the MCCA and provide a single voice to strengthen engagement with government and its delivery bodies.
189. In addition, The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to explore opportunities for closer long-term collaboration in strengthening their local innovation capacity.
190. The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) will work closely with devolution deal areas, including Greater Lincolnshire, to make it easier for businesses to access the information, advice and support they need, drawing on DBT's global and sector offer.
191. DBT recognises Greater Lincolnshire's high ambition to leverage the opportunities presented by the food sector. Greater Lincolnshire will engage DBT early in the implementation of this devolution deal on matters that impact business growth.

Public Service Reform

192. The Government supports the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA in its ambition for public service reform, including a focus on creating safe, healthy, resilient communities. The Government commits to working with the region and partners to explore initiatives to improve delivery of public services, such as how best to support residents with multiple complex needs. Where appropriate, and as part of its levelling up agenda, the Government will also consider devolving further powers to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to support public service reform, in relation to the statutory duties held by its constituent councils.

Data

193. Good quality data is essential for understanding local need and the place-specific issues affecting people in an area. As set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and the Government Statistical Service's Subnational Data Strategy, the Government is working to improve the dissemination of subnational statistics to empower local decision makers, including in Greater Lincolnshire, to use data-led evidence to respond to local priorities.
194. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will work with the Government to understand the existing barriers to data sharing and better use of data in their area, and explore where improvements to the quality of, or access to, data could support them in achieving Greater Lincolnshire's local ambitions. As part of this, the Spatial Data Unit (SDU) will work with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to help support data capability, including in data science, and will engage with Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to further understand its needs and priorities.

Relocation of public bodies

195. The Government is committed to relocating roles out of Greater London and closer to the policy issues they are addressing. Relocation will benefit communities across the UK, bringing more diversity of thought into policy making leading to better-informed policy, built on an understanding of the impacts across the UK and drawing on a more diverse range of experiences, skills and backgrounds. The Government will continue to work with departments to consider the potential for any future relocations of Civil Service roles to the Greater Lincolnshire region as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

Resilience and Public Safety

196. Government, the local area and the PCCs have agreed for the PCCs to be a non-constituent member of the MCCA to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety between the MCCA and the PCCs.
197. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, in partnership with the Government, will work with the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and Fire and Rescue Service to agree an appropriate arrangement to ensure close collaboration and productive joint working on public safety between the elected mayor of the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the FRAs. In addition, the MCCA will work with local partners, including the FRAs, PCCs and the Home Office to identify the appropriate long term governance model for fire and rescue services in its area, which meet the principles of good governance set out in the Fire Reform White Paper.
198. The UK Government will work to significantly strengthen Local Resilience Forums by 2030, as described in the UK Government Resilience Framework. This will include a clear role for Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the mayor in local resilience and civil contingency planning, preparation and delivery.
199. This is subject to the conclusion and full consideration of the Stronger Local Resilience Forums pilot programme in 2025/26, and Greater Lincolnshire MCCA having a strong working relationship with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum.

Commitments Underpinning the Deal

200. The constituent councils will work with the Government to develop a full implementation plan, covering each policy and commitment agreed in this deal, to be completed ahead of implementation. This plan must be approved by the Government prior to delivery. Any issues of concern with the subsequent delivery of this deal will be escalated to ministers and leaders to resolve, in keeping with the letter and spirit of devolution.

201. Together with Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire councils to the north, Government and Greater Lincolnshire recognise that optimising the Humber's economic potential will require strong local leadership, and the public and private sector on both banks of the Estuary working together, with Government acting as a supportive partner. In the period from the signing of this deal and before the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA is formally established, Greater Lincolnshire's constituent authorities therefore commit to (i) reaching agreement with Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Government and appropriate local stakeholders on a strong and enduring approach for pan-Humber working, and (ii) ensuring that the levers in this deal, and more widely, support this. They also commit to working cross-Humber to produce a Humber Economic Plan and accompanying Investment Strategy, prior to the first inaugural election of the Greater Lincolnshire mayor. These strategies will establish a collective vision for the Humber economy and increased focus on specific priorities that will establish a new trajectory for growth. These priorities would include supporting the Green Energy Estuary transition, the establishment of a successful freeport, attracting greater private sector investment to the area, and ensuring communities across the Humber benefit from the proceeds of growth.

202. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA will be required to evaluate the impact of the Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and the Government will jointly commission an independent assessment of the economic benefits and economic impact of the investments made under the scheme, including whether the projects have been delivered on time and to budget. This assessment will be funded by the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, but will be agreed at the outset with DLUHC and HM Treasury, and will take place every five years. The next five-year tranche of funding will be unlocked if the Government is satisfied that the independent assessment shows the investment to have met the objectives and contributed to economic growth. The gateway assessment should be consistent with the HM Treasury Green Book, which sets out the framework for evaluation of all policies and programmes. The assessment should also take into account the latest developments in economic

evaluation methodology. The Government would expect the assessment to show that the activity funded through the scheme represents better value for money than comparable projects, defined in terms of a benefit-to-cost ratio and considered in the strategic context of local ambitions for inclusive growth across the whole geography.

203. As part of the implementation of the deal, the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and Government will agree a process to manage local financial risk relating to the deal provisions.
204. Prior to the implementation of the deal, Government will work with the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA to give the public and stakeholders – including Parliament – a clear understanding of: the powers and funding that are being devolved to the combined authority, where accountability sits as a result of this deal; and how decisions are made.
205. The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA and its members will continue to adhere to their public sector equality duties, for both existing and newly devolved responsibilities.

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GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

November 2023



Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Proposal

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Defined terms

This document has been prepared by Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, working collaboratively with the City, District and Borough Councils in Lincolnshire.

Our Proposal delivers for Greater Lincolnshire

More money, more say, better results for Greater Lincolnshire

Investing in Greater Lincolnshire

- £24 million per annum for 30 years to invest in infrastructure and skills development totalling £720m.
- Multi year transport budget with greater flexibility to spend the money on local priorities.
- Funding for adult education to prioritise spending on the needs of people and businesses rather than national priorities.
- One off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire's priorities.

A stronger voice for our area

- A new Mayor, elected by residents to champion the needs of the area and to make a strong case to the Government for more investment and to pilot new ideas in Greater Lincolnshire.
- A Combined County Authority providing local accountability, transparency and capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills and economic development.
- Enhanced working relationships with government departments to protect our coastline, natural and historic environment and boost tourism.
- A new role leading the national debate on transport for rural communities to address challenges across ours and other areas.

Turbo charging business growth

- Long term funding of the infrastructure that key local business needs to grow and create jobs.
- Identify and agree key route network to speed up the movement of goods and passengers through and around Greater Lincolnshire.
- Government, research and industry brought together to boost business innovation that leads to more high skill high wage jobs.
- A new approach to managing water that supports local business needs and protects communities and business from flooding.

Delivering our potential - Humber to the Wash

- Decarbonise the UK's largest industrial estuary and deliver green jobs across Greater Lincolnshire in carbon capture and storage, nuclear fusion, water management and energy distribution
- National recognition for the UK Food Valley supporting a new generation of high skill jobs and businesses across the food chain.
- Maximising the potential of the Humber Freeport to create jobs.
- Improved transport links across Greater Lincolnshire and provide a trade corridor to the East Midlands freeport and beyond.

High quality skills and jobs

- Careers support that showcases the great opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire and helps people to get a high skill high wage job here.
- Training in higher-level skills delivered in Greater Lincolnshire to boost access to high wage jobs in our growth sectors.
- The adult education budget invested in courses that help people to achieve a fulfilling future and deliver the skills that our local businesses need to innovate and expand.
- Provide extra help to those young people that need it the most, including help for care leavers to get a job.

Unlocking housing through enhanced infrastructure

- Investing in high quality homes, locations and services to retain a younger workforce and support those in later life.
- Investment from Homes England to bring forward the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of local communities.
- Supporting regeneration of areas, providing sustainable and affordable housing solutions for our future workforce.
- A single Local Transport Authority to develop public transport improvements that connect people with homes, work, leisure and learning.

Invest in
infrastructure

Boost business
growth and
innovation

More high skill
high wage jobs
in key sectors

Provide training
for new jobs

Housing in the
right place

Improve
transport links

Introduction

Greater Lincolnshire's devolution deal is ambitious

The three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council secured an ambitious £750 million devolution deal with government on 22 November 2023. The deal signifies unprecedented investment into the area and provides a catalyst for economic growth and improved outcomes for residents and people working in the area.

This is a time of considerable opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire and this Proposal is designed to unlock significant long-term funding and give local leaders greater freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities for residents and those who come to Greater Lincolnshire for work or leisure.

We are at the heart of delivering on vital national growth sectors – through the UK Food Valley, our Freeport and our market leader role in offshore renewables. At the same time, we have a clear focus on delivering against the Levelling Up agenda and transforming our city towns and resorts. Devolution is essential to complement those initiatives through local powers, influence and decision making.

The key sectors of our economy are of strategic importance to the UK. Greater Lincolnshire has a unique place in the future success of the UK as a source of clean energy, carbon capture opportunities, and food security. It has a vital role in global trade, securing the nation's supply chains in key industries:

- **Food, fish, seafood and food manufacturing:** Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley. It supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, and 18% of poultry. It had a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019, with a seafood processing and trading cluster worth over £1.5bn to the economy. Greater Lincolnshire will become a world leading food cluster. It has the potential to help the UK become a science superpower through its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology and innovation.
- **Energy, decarbonisation and net zero:** Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK's offshore renewable energy generation, and with at least 25% of the UK's energy production it plays a crucial role in enabling the nation to become a net energy exporter by 2040. The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are pivotal to the UK achieving net zero. They are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy, employing over 12,000 people. Greater Lincolnshire has a fundamental role leveraging investment in the North Sea expanding renewable capacity and innovating in carbon capture.
- **Ports, logistics and supply chains:** Greater Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. Benefiting from prime deep water locations, its ports and connectivity advantages have supported the growth of a UK-leading logistics cluster, serving industry sectors including renewables, advanced manufacturing, food manufacturing and energy. The UK economy is highly dependent on the maritime sector, with 95% of goods exports and imports moved by sea, including nearly half of the country's food supplies and a quarter of its energy supply. Greater Lincolnshire is supporting the next phase in the evolution of its ports and the competitiveness of its logistic sector that underpin trade and national supply chains.

However, Greater Lincolnshire is not without its challenges. Public spending per head is below average when compared against the UK. The economy has an over-reliance on seasonal jobs, whether that is in tourism or agriculture. The area has carbon-rich heavy industry which is critical to the UK, but sees challenges in terms of the green agenda. Skill levels lag behind our neighbours and the rest of the UK with only 29% of our working age residents having a level 4 qualification or above. This is 32% lower than nationally. Whilst upper tier councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure, the area has few motorways or dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. Costs are often higher and greater investment is required. Greater Lincolnshire also has an aging population which has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK since 2020. There is a need to both attract and retain a younger workforce and residents to enable local economies to thrive.

Elsewhere in the UK devolution has helped to improve economic performance. Areas with devolution arrangements often have additional opportunities to access new funding and initiatives enabling them to outperform those areas who are yet to enter into devolved arrangements. Now is the time for Greater Lincolnshire to catch up with the most successful areas of the UK. This will be achieved through strong local leadership and a more targeted approach to skills and training, local transport, infrastructure development and regeneration.

Government has offered a range of different devolution models with the benefits reflecting the strength of local leadership. We believe that through a directly elected Mayor Greater Lincolnshire would demonstrate strong leadership and unlock the full benefits of devolution.

We propose creating a Combined County Authority with an elected Mayor to bring together key partners in a long-term arrangement to manage devolved powers and some existing local transport powers across Greater Lincolnshire. Through the proposed Combined County Authority senior councillors from Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council will work collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils within Lincolnshire and a new Mayor elected directly by residents. Local business and the police and crime commissioners would be key partners at the table informing decision-making and ensuring the right choices are made for Greater Lincolnshire.

The Combined County Authority would direct long-term infrastructure investment, investment in local communities to help them to thrive and investment in green growth, delivering food and energy security to the UK and putting Greater Lincolnshire in a position where it can be at the forefront of renewable and clean energy technologies and production and be a world-leading provider of food, seafood and associated technological innovation. It would also support improvements in the nations supply chains and maximise the strategic advantages of our ports, transforming them into the most smart, clean and efficient port clusters in the world.

Establishing a Combined County Authority is a formal, legal step, allowing upper tier councils across the area to work more closely together on key priorities such as economic development, regeneration and transport. The proposed Combined County Authority would seek to:

- Increase employment opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire
- Improve business productivity
- Deliver efficient services and derive benefits from working at scale
- Build strong relationships with government to draw down more funding and powers in the future
- Greater control over public spending to achieve the maximum benefit
- Develop long term plans to enable faster decision-making and improved performance
- Speed up decision-making

The creation of a Combined County Authority would not result in the merger or take-over of councils in the area. They would continue to deliver valuable local services to Greater Lincolnshire residents with some powers used concurrently by local councils and the proposed Combined County Authority. Transport powers would be brought together with the proposed Combined County Authority becoming the Local Transport Authority for Greater Lincolnshire.

Under this Proposal the three upper tier councils, along with the city, district and borough councils in Greater Lincolnshire would continue to play an important role in relation to the powers and funding that is devolved to the area. These authorities will have specific consenting rights in respect to some of the powers held by the CCA and / or the Mayor, ensuring a strong local voice in decision making. The Police and Crime Commissioners for Lincolnshire and Humberside would also play an active role in the CCA, ensuring that the needs of local communities relating to public safety are represented.

Over the coming months local councils will be working with Government to bring forward a number of improvements for communities across Greater Lincolnshire. This will see investment in infrastructure to support travel and to create opportunities for businesses to grow and new jobs to be created.

Delivering our ambitions

Greater Lincolnshire is a diverse area made up of rural land, urban centres of differing sizes, coastal communities, and market towns. The rurality can make it difficult for some of our communities to access service centres, presenting barriers to employment, health and wellbeing.

Urban centres such as Lincoln, Grantham and Boston provide significant employment opportunities and transport linkages, with around 325,000 people living in these centres. In these areas, 15% of children live in low income households, with 71% of people being economically active across sectors such as advanced manufacturing, food and logistics and public services. However, there are clusters of deprivation where residents suffer from fewer opportunities around work and health.

Our urban industrial centres such as Scunthorpe and Grimsby are built around heavy industry, including oil, gas, chemicals, steel, mining and renewables. Around 253,000 people live in these areas and face challenges in having the skills needed to take up employment in these and emerging industries, resulting in pronounced areas of economic activity and low social mobility. 29% of adults in Greater Lincolnshire's urban centres have no qualifications. Improved targeting of skills and education provision will help to close these gaps.

Greater Lincolnshire benefits from over 50 miles of coastline, with many coastal communities being home to around 29,000 people. The area is at risk of flooding, there is limited infrastructure and often poor-quality housing. These areas see low wage, low skill seasonal employment, high levels of deprivation and lower than average educational attainment levels but will benefit from the targeted investment that the devolution Proposals present.

Much of Greater Lincolnshire is sparsely populated with large areas of open countryside and farmland, interspersed with market towns and hamlets. Over 300,000 people live in rural settings across Greater Lincolnshire, which are often a long way from urban centres. These areas often have lower levels of deprivation but lack the infrastructure to connect them both digitally and physically. This is against a backdrop of younger people moving out of these areas, and older people moving in, placing pressure on service delivery.

Much like our places, the Greater Lincolnshire economy is diverse. It sees 48,735 businesses, with 25% of all employment being in microbusinesses. Greater Lincolnshire contributes £26bn to the UK economy and accounts for £1.36bn of exports. Greater Lincolnshire covers 7,997 sq. km and is more than six times the size of Greater Manchester City Region.

Greater Lincolnshire's low levels of productivity and shrinking working age population create challenges for economic growth and the supply of skilled workers into the economy. The area lags behind the national skills picture with only 25% of the resident population aged 16 plus holding qualifications at level 4 or higher in 2021, compared to 34% nationally. Access to both higher and further education is hampered by poor digital connectivity, limiting the development of the skill-base needed within the population.

The journey for Greater Lincolnshire is not from a standing start. Councils and business in Greater Lincolnshire have a strong history of working together and are already collaborating to tackle common challenges that until now have held back growth.

There are a multitude of projects already underway across Greater Lincolnshire and many of our communities have benefited from investment through the Towns Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Funding - both of which help to address levelling up challenges within Greater Lincolnshire.

However short-term funding pots are not sufficient to achieve the strategic level of change that Greater Lincolnshire needs to see. Our ambitions for devolution seek to deliver the leadership required to address unique long-term challenges across Greater Lincolnshire and maximise the area's opportunities to deliver future prosperity.

The purpose of this Proposal is to provide the powers, funding and flexibilities required to accelerate progress to address long term challenges and opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire It supports levelling up across the area with a focus improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire. It would see local decision makers creating the conditions for more high wage, high skill jobs, and provides a catalyst to improve learning, training, and pathways into those jobs, raising living standards and levelling up through:

- Local decisions and long term **investment in infrastructure** to **turbo charge business growth** and tackle low business productivity, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards
- Long term strategic planning and investment to protect our environment and **unlock high quality housing in our communities** that meets the needs of younger workforce and supports those in later life
- Local commissioning of **high quality skills**, training and pathways to attract and retain younger workers, meet the significant skills needs of our key industries and capitalise on economic opportunity through better alignment of skills, employment, and career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire
- **A stronger voice regionally and nationally** to make the case for more investment on Greater Lincolnshire's priorities including the **UK Food Valley, energy, ports and logistics, delivering on the potential of the area from the Humber to The Wash.**
- Managing water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding, and meet the area's unique demands for water to support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.

Over the next 10 themes, we set out what we would seek to deliver across our key priority areas to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people who live and work in Greater Lincolnshire if this Proposal is approved.

1: Infrastructure which supports the movement of people, goods, and ideas

Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography combining urban, rural and coastal areas. Whilst constituent councils have made significant investment in local infrastructure a step change is needed to deliver the strategic infrastructure critical for growth and jobs.

To level up Greater Lincolnshire we will prioritise investment in infrastructure that can boost growth in key sectors of our local economy, this includes the UK Food Valley, Energy, Ports and logistics, all of which have been identified as priorities for the Greater Lincolnshire and wider UK economy.

As an area vital to supply chains and specialising in logistics, transport infrastructure is essential to maximise the benefit and growth of these sectors.

Identify and agree new key route network to accelerate the movement of goods and passengers through and around Greater Lincolnshire and work with the Government to secure improvements to key priorities for growth identified within the network, including:

- Regionally the Trans Midland Trade Corridor is recognised as a priority and north of Lincoln it is of national significance as a strategic north-south transport and economic corridor connecting the Humber ports in the north to the wider network in the south via the A46 and A1 at Newark. The current performance of this corridor holds back productivity and is also a barrier to future growth.
- The A1 corridor, and its links to the A16, A17 and A52, also has a key economic role within the East Midlands, particularly for agri-food, logistics, manufacturing and tourism, with very significant levels of proposed housing (up to 100,000 units) and employment growth – in addition to the potential ‘STEP Fusion’ Facility at the West Burton Power Station site growth.
- The circulatory road around Lincoln is also a recognised priority to serve the Humber Ports and east coast visitor attractions.

A multi-year transport infrastructure settlement will provide greater funding certainty to deliver local priorities for road, rail, freight and public transport to boost growth in the Greater Lincolnshire economy and keep our residents moving. The settlement will enable us to plan for road maintenance and potholes over the longer term, with delivery of these functions provided by the constituent councils and funding distributed proportionate to existing budgets.

Investment in both physical and digital infrastructure is critical to drive business confidence and green growth, but often relies on bids to government and its various agencies.

Bidding processes are frequently based upon nationally set priorities, there is limited certainty over future funding and locally determined priorities are not necessarily joined up or met.

We will work with Midlands Connect and Transport for the North which received Government funding to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure strategy. For Greater Lincolnshire, other alternative low carbon fuels, such as hydrogen, will play an important role, particularly for large vehicles that require longer ranges and faster refuelling. We will work with the Sub-national Transport Boards and a new Mayoral rural transport group to explore this.

We will encourage further investment in digital infrastructure such as ultrafast broadband and 5G that the area needs for the future, ensuring rural areas are not left behind.

2: Modern transport services that connect people to learning, business opportunity, jobs, and services

Greater Lincolnshire has few motorways, dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. These reduce the opportunities to travel to work, to learning and leisure, and contribute to greater inequality.

Despite the geographical challenges we face, Greater Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of demand responsive transport, developing innovative services that we intend to expand further as we create a transport network which breaks the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap.

A rural transport group will be established that will lead the national debate on transport in Mayoral rural areas, chaired by the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire. The group will bring together other rural combined authorities to champion innovation and work in partnership with the Department for Transport to identify pilot projects to address rural connectivity and accessibility.

Locally our Proposal would create a single Local Transport Authority for Greater Lincolnshire. This would establish clear transport policies to guide future investment in all forms of transport including bus, cycling and walking to improve travel choices across the area.

The Mayor and members of the combined county authority will work together across Greater Lincolnshire to develop a joined up local transport plan for our area that addresses our challenges and guides future transport investment through a consolidated transport budget.

Recognising the challenges that rural areas face in the delivery of high quality, sustainable bus services, we will develop a rural bus pilot to connect communities and residents to training and employment. Subject to a funding Proposal to Government the pilot will act as a policy test bed for other rural areas.

We will also work to integrate existing bus service improvement plans to streamline contractual and delivery arrangements for bus services across the area. We will explore bus franchising and provide local accountability for spending of the Bus Service Operators Grant.

Rail freight is nationally significant, with a quarter of the UK's freight passing through Greater Lincolnshire. Increasing rail capacity is important to expanding businesses in Greater Lincolnshire and to avoid lack of capacity acting as a constraint on future growth.

Rail services provide vital connectivity for residents with services linking communities and providing access to higher education and leisure activities. Passenger services will, by the nature of our large and predominantly rural area, be less well used than in major urban areas and this could lead to decisions being taken by operators on the basis of simple market forces.

Greater Lincolnshire needs a much stronger voice to articulate the local context to influence and inform provision.

We will seek a new rail partnership with Great British Railways, once established, so that our priorities for passengers and freight can be taken into consideration in future decisions regarding the rail network. The Government will consider Greater Lincolnshire alongside existing devolution areas as a priority for these agreements which will provide the ability to influence local rail services.

Priorities locally include:

- Cleethorpes to Manchester (South Pennine Corridor) line speed improvements are a priority for Greater Lincolnshire. Transport for the North is supportive of the ambition. Further work involving Northern Rail and Trans-Pennine Express is required to develop the business case.
- Cleethorpes to London service is a priority for Greater Lincolnshire, providing access to opportunities and supporting a growing economy. The Department for Transport is considering the case for direct London North East Railways services to and from both Cleethorpes and Grimsby to London, with an opportunity to implement them should the business case be value for money, and funding be available to address timetabling, infrastructure and operational factors.
- Line speed improvements between Lincoln and Nottingham, to deliver journey time savings on the route are important for growth in our historic city and for the visitor economy along the east coast.

3: Investing in high quality homes and communities

The provision of high quality, affordable and well-connected housing is essential to meeting the current and future needs of Greater Lincolnshire residents, as well as the success of our economy.

We need to have the right housing in the right locations to recruit and retain the younger workforce that our businesses need to grow, to offset a shrinking labour pool and our significant ageing population. New and existing residents expect housing to be high quality and energy efficient and this is also important for improving health outcomes and life chances of residents, particularly in our coastal and more vulnerable communities.

Delivering new high-quality housing requires development sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and requires a new approach which enables housing delivery at a pace linked to economic growth. It requires wider infrastructure investment such as from power suppliers whose plans do not always adapt quickly enough to local need and the commercial realities of site development whether for housing or other uses. We will strengthen communication between local areas and the energy providers.

We will develop a meaningful role in planning our future energy system for net zero and explore how local energy plans could steer strategic network investment in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with government to explore the potential benefits of and design options for a place-based approach to delivering retrofit measures, as part of the government's commitment in the Net Zero Strategy to explore how we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level where this provides the best approach to tackling climate change.

The cost of delivering major housing schemes in Greater Lincolnshire, mitigating against risks of flooding and addressing gaps in utility supply, mean that there are numerous uneconomical/unviable sites and subsequently fewer homes are available for our communities. Funding is required to intervene, bridge, de-risk and accelerate housing and employment sites.

We will work with Homes England to overcome viability challenges and the barriers to housing delivery, regeneration and wider housing growth through the development of a pipeline for our area and a clear action plan for delivery. Homes England and the government will explore the potential for investing in the delivery of this pipeline through current and future funding streams, including the Affordable Housing Programme.

With Homes England and the Government we will identify how wider measures - including viability assessments and the planning system - could better support Greater Lincolnshire plans to increase much needed rural affordable housing supply, and in partnership test how Homes England through its strategic plan could assist in this.

Combined County Authorities and Mayoral Development Corporations (MDCs) have powers to acquire, develop, hold and dispose of land and property and have powers to facilitate the provision of infrastructure and have been instrumental in unlocking growth in other areas.

The directly elected Mayor will have the power to designate a Mayoral Development Area and to create Mayoral Development Corporations, which will support delivery on strategic sites in Greater Lincolnshire. The Mayor and combined authority will also be able to use powers of compulsory purchase to support development, where they have the consent of constituent councils and local planning authorities.

Where appropriate we will acquire and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration, including investing £8.4 million in brownfield developments.

Culture, heritage, sport and the visitor economy all play a strong role in supporting places and communities to thrive – and this effect is maximised when individual decisions take into account the wider context of other plans and decisions being made for an area.

We will establish a new collaborative partnership, supported by Government and VisitEngland, to share expertise and insight across culture, heritage, sport, communities and the visitor economy in order to maximise the impact of funding and policy decisions, supporting 28,000 workers in the culture and tourism industry.

4: Raising awareness, inspiration and access to support our residents to train and upskill for the job they want

Greater Lincolnshire has a clear vision for our future where our residents benefit from the significant career opportunities presented across our geography and we are pivotal in providing food, energy and supply chain security for the UK.

There are fantastic career opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire, but often the pathways to achieve a good quality career are unclear.

In order to meet the significant skills demands predicted from our game changing sectors we will support our residents to understand, and access, a variety of pathways into these highly skilled career opportunities no matter their age or starting point.

We want to inspire young people in Greater Lincolnshire to seek a career here by raising awareness of the range of new industries and exciting opportunities which many of them do not know about.

We want all people living in Greater Lincolnshire to be able to access a high quality careers service so that they can receive information, advice and guidance to access training and development opportunities available to succeed in their career goals.

They are often unaware of what is available, finding the skills system difficult to navigate because of the inconsistent and the "stop start" nature of the funding, often from multiple pots and agencies. Having a single long-term strategic approach aimed at all ages will enable us to overcome those challenges and take people through these arrangements seamlessly.

We will provide long term funding to the Greater Lincolnshire Career Hub to provides high quality, local industry led, face to face careers information, advice, and guidance for all ages.

We will work with the government and partners within Greater Lincolnshire to ensure a shared focus on careers education and advice for young people. This is particularly crucial given the ageing population of Greater Lincolnshire and the need to increase awareness of new high skill high wage career opportunities across the area and the pathways available to residents to achieve a good quality career locally.

We will convene local, regional and national stakeholders to bring business, careers and skills together and align careers provision with devolved adult education commissioning activities to ensure a more place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally.

5: Growing skills capacity for the future

A proportion of our working age population left school with few, if any, qualifications, often working in seasonal and casual roles. We have lower levels of young people progressing into a traditional higher education pathway, with families needing or choosing to earn rather than learn.

We will reverse this trend by connecting learning to the career opportunities across Greater Lincolnshire, getting more young adults to develop the skills and qualifications that are needed most:

- Providing clean energy for UK homes through a multitude of decarbonisation projects and the growth of our world leading offshore wind farms will only be possible if we can develop a skilled workforce for the future
- We need a pipeline of young people and adults to drive forward the rapid technological innovation in the food sector; whether that be seafood, poultry or fresh produce
- Our ambition to secure the nation's supply chain through our ports and transport network can only be realised if our residents know about, and are able to access, the bespoke technical training required.

We will take responsibility for the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) from academic year 2026-2027. This will provide the freedom to flex and focus funds on local skills and training priorities in a way which is difficult to achieve with regional or national commissioning.

Devolution of this funding will provide certainty to local providers when they take a risk to address local problems without being sure that there will be a long-term market for that provision. Devolution of AEB will also enable us to fund specialist providers, linking to key industries and being flexible to different opportunities (eg the construction phase of major investments will require different levels and skills of staff to the operational phase) and to ensure that learners have the building blocks needed to progress and succeed in higher level learning, leading to better paid jobs.

Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) offer level 3 qualifications designed to help improve job opportunities and could lead to applicants earning a higher wage. Funding for these courses will also be devolved as part of a local joined up approach to learning.

We want the provision of skills in Greater Lincolnshire to be flexible and able to respond to gaps in the labour market, particularly where these restrain growth in our game changing sectors. We intend to build on our expertise to provide a more responsive skills offer that meets the needs of business and residents.

We will work with the Government, employers and education providers across Greater Lincolnshire to deliver on Local Skills Improvement Plans that sets out the current and future skills needs of employers and how local provision needs to change to help people develop the skills they need to get good jobs and increase their prospects.

As a member of the joint Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education Mayoral Combined Authority Advisory Group we will work together on our strategic priorities for employment and develop the links between job centres and very local job opportunities.

6. Investing to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs

Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's offshore energy production, hydrogen production and innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry. This offers significant opportunities for local businesses and supply chains to expand and create more high value jobs for Greater Lincolnshire's residents. Growth in these technologies and industries requires new infrastructure such as the energy grid capacity, water supply and pipelines.

We will work with the government to commission studies for infrastructure improvements that would be needed across the whole of Greater Lincolnshire to support growth in green jobs, major energy production sites and a geological disposal facility if it were to be sited in Greater Lincolnshire, including flood defences and transport links.

Greater Lincolnshire's energy and low carbon sectors are national leaders, and our geology provides significant opportunities for further growth. Taking advantage of these opportunities requires input from several different government departments and from global business, higher education, and local authorities.

We will use a commitment from Government to bring these stakeholders together to agree a plan for developing the unique infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire to transform the energy intensive industries which are typically found in northern Lincolnshire, enable carbon capture and storage and other green growth as long as it is compatible with the natural environment. The Humber Energy Board would have a key role to play in this.

With these in place we will establish the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040 which will capture and store around 10% of UK carbon dioxide emissions and develop blue and green hydrogen infrastructure, production and associated technology.

Growth in green industries across Greater Lincolnshire is also dependent upon having a skilled workforce that can help business to innovate and expand, creating more high skill high wage jobs. As we establish the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster, we will provide residents with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to obtain new green jobs and be part of what has been described as the next industrial revolution.

Through a greater role in delivering devolved funding streams and devolution of the Adult Education functions and administration of funding from 2026, we will train people at a local level in the skills needed to obtain green jobs.

7. Investing to take advantage of our unique natural environment in a responsible way, whilst protecting our communities from climate change impact

With coastal and low-lying regions, our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high risks from flooding impacting on homes, communities and limiting coastal tourism to the warmer seasons. Inland our ambitions for the UK Food Valley, UK food security and growth in green industries are dependent upon the supply the water needed for agriculture and the growing demand for water for decarbonisation.

Water management is a crucial aspect of both climate resilience and economic growth for Greater Lincolnshire.

We will establish a new enhanced partnership for water that works with Government and seeks to protect the country from food shortages caused by floods and droughts. Our partnership will co-commission flood prevention and water management programmes to support agriculture, tourism, green growth and new housing.

The Greater Lincolnshire Coast is home to important nature reserves including the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast National Nature Reserve, the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and a variety of sand dunes, saltmarsh, mudflats and freshwater marshes (some of which attract Site of Special Scientific Interest status), which support many breeding and wintering birds, natterjack toads, special plants and insects.

It is also an important energy centre – with the Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery, gas power stations at South Killingholme, Immingham and South Humber, the Viking Link interconnector with Denmark and the Orsted offshore windfarm hub which includes the Hornsea 1 & 2 sites. Hornsea 1 is the largest offshore wind farm in the world.

Government and partners in Greater Lincolnshire have long held the ambition to form a strategic coastal partnership to manage the relationship between nationally significant energy infrastructure and the protection of the natural environment and achieving local benefits for the key wildlife sites along the coast – maintaining their importance for tourism and the minimisation of the recreational disturbance of nature.

We will convene a Coastal Partnership which will ensure that the nature, culture and heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast are given a voice and consideration to ensure that tourism and economic development can take place in parallel with the restoration of the natural and historic environment. Relevant government departments and their arm's length agencies will attend as full members. The Coastal Partnership will run from the Humber to The Wash.

Greater Lincolnshire is a largely rural, low-lying landscape including nationally important natural treasures such as lime woods, chalk streams, saltmarsh and the only area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds. Farmland forms an important part of our working rural landscape. Its protection for agricultural use is hugely important for a significant proportion of jobs in food production, processing and logistics across the area and our ambitions to deliver on UK food security.

Devolution provides the opportunity to work even more closely with Government to identify environmental priorities that could be incorporated into new environmental land management schemes – such as protection for top grade farmland across the UK Food Valley in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with DEFRA and the farming community to develop a new approach that ensures an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research.

Our long-established and collaborative Local Nature Partnerships with a tradition of working co-operatively provide us with the opportunity to accelerate the drive towards nature recovery, to tackle both climate change and biodiversity loss.

We will work with government and local partners to implement a local nature recovery strategy to promote a balance between biodiversity and growth, strategic natural flood prevention and enable creation of new habitats to offset developments and to attract private investment into nature's recovery within our area.

8: Driving innovation, enterprise and adoption of new technologies

Greater Lincolnshire has a long history of innovation and is known for nationally significant sectors in food and agri-tech, defence and low carbon energy. We want to keep up the momentum of our advancement in renewables, robotics, digital logistics, seafood processing and food agri-tech by increasing the level of innovation, investing in our innovation eco system and by attracting and placing more graduates to work across our growing clusters and contribute to the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

We want more businesses across Lincolnshire to access innovation programmes and be supported to compete for funding through streamlined processes that can unleash further creative innovation in our key sectors and places.

We want more people to progress into further and higher education and more businesses to take up the opportunities of working closely with a college or university on innovation and technology. We will promote and build on the Graduates into SMEs schemes, further reinforcing the links between education and knowledge transfer whilst also addressing cost and return within smaller business enterprises.

Innovation and growth in our game changing sectors of Food and agri-tech, low carbon energy and decarb, ports and logistics and Defence will add significant economic value to UK plc and the local area. However, Greater Lincolnshire has a high population of micro businesses, who whilst agile and entrepreneurial, often do not have the capacity to engage in innovation competitions and can find bidding for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and other innovation competitions restrictive and a constraint on innovation in fast moving industries.

Our analysis shows that there are significant business investments in innovation which in turn will often drive their supply chain's own investment in innovation. These investments are underpinned by programmes such as productivity Hub, Catapult, Made Smarter, and Freeport Innovation Partnerships. Businesses can also access research and development tax credits, and their motivation to innovate can be driven by legislative changes rather than by business leaders identifying productivity gains. The picture of innovation support and motivation is complicated.

We will develop a new place-based Innovation Board, which will bring together local leaders with representatives from research organisations and industry to develop a clear innovation strategy, and provide a single voice to strengthen engagement with government and its delivery bodies, and ultimately improve access to support and explore opportunities for local businesses. This will develop closer long-term collaboration with The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and other Government agencies.

The government recognises the nationally significant role that Greater Lincolnshire plays in maintaining food security. The region produces one eighth of England's food and has nationally significant clusters in food production, food processing, fresh produce and seafood processing. Greater Lincolnshire is home to the UK Food Valley an initiative which seeks to provide economic benefit to the area based on the food sector's strength whilst also strengthening domestic food supply.

Greater Lincolnshire is home to Europe's largest food agri-tech, automation and robotics research cluster, attracting businesses which are investing heavily in automation. Recognised by the Department for Business and Trade as a High Potential Opportunity (HPO), to design, manufacture and commercialise automation and robotics technologies, growth in these tools will reduce the need for hard to fill low wage seasonal jobs in agriculture and replace them with high skill high wage roles. The area is leading national efforts to reduce carbon emissions from food production and manufacturing, with a focus on how new technology and skills, new energy sources and production processes can be used to reduce the carbon emissions from production, processing, transport, and storage of food.

We will support further growth in the agri-tech sector through an agricultural growth zone, creating a centre to support agriculture and developing a skills pipeline to attract the next generation into the industry. We will work with the Government to ensure an appropriate balance between sustainable food production and climate and environment outcomes, including considering possible place-based research and to deepen engagement with food and drink manufacturing SMEs

We will establish a UK Food Valley Board focus to support the sector and attract the right skills needed to deliver new food chain automation and digital technology and wider innovation within the food valley that supports the UK's ambition to become a science superpower. The board will produce a clear and measurable strategy for UK Food Valley. Defra will meet annually with the board to discuss key topics of value to its members.

9: Increasing employment opportunities through recruitment pathways and work-based training into higher skilled employment

We want to maximise the potential of all of our residents in Greater Lincolnshire supporting them whether they are leaving one sector to retrain in another, moving from economic inactivity into training or work, or to train to progress in their existing employment.

As society changes, we know that many jobs across Greater Lincolnshire will be affected in some way, either by being made obsolete, or by the role changing through the introduction of new technologies. It is vital that we develop pathways that help businesses and the workforce to overcome barriers to accessing the wide range of training that Greater Lincolnshire has to offer.

Unlocking the potential and harnessing the knowledge and experience of our residents who are not currently working can also help grow our economy. We need to offer more support to get those of working age to be economically active and provide an appropriately skilled and available labour pool.

We will collaborate with the local Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus and regional DWP Strategic Partnership Managers to develop local programmes that meet local needs and complement national employment provision.

We want the provision of skills in Greater Lincolnshire to be flexible and able to respond to gaps in the labour market, particularly where these restrain growth in our game changing sectors. To address some of our employment and skills issues and opportunities, we will commission activity which complements, but is not funded by, mainstream programmes.

We will support Greater Lincolnshire businesses by providing Skills Bootcamps to quickly raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles.

We will develop and deliver targeted local programmes through devolved funding streams such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Adult Education Budget to address the unique and diverse challenges across the region.

10: Creating a 'whole system' approach to getting more people into better paid work

Everyone, irrespective of their background, should be able to get the help that they need to get the job that they want. Greater Lincolnshire is a diverse area where social mobility is extremely polarized. This means that people born into low-income families, regardless of their talent, or their hard work, do not have the same access to opportunities as those born into more privileged circumstances.

The constituent councils in Greater Lincolnshire are responsible for caring for the most vulnerable in society, and evidence shows that young people who leave care and transition into good quality employment will often thrive successfully.

All public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire create jobs, and can support young people leaving care to achieve a positive start to their careers and adult life.

We will work with the Department for Education to maximise the number of care leavers in employment. This will include encouraging public bodies across Greater Lincolnshire to provide ring-fenced apprenticeships and work-experience opportunities for care leavers. We will also work with DfE's delivery partner for the care leaver covenant (Spectra) and local businesses to encourage them to offer employment opportunities to care leavers.

Beyond the Deal

If our Proposal is supported, we will be only the second Mayoral Combined County Authority to be established in the UK and one of 11 Mayoral areas.

We will use this as a platform to broaden and deepen devolution opportunities for our area. We will seek additional powers, funding and influence to address identified and emerging challenges, maximising available opportunities that come our way, continually maintaining and building momentum.

The proposed Combined County Authority would work with government and partners across the Area to strengthen collaboration, improve outcomes for the people who live and work across Greater Lincolnshire and demonstrate the ability to take on further powers to deliver for residents and business. This includes seeking to become a rural testbed for future government policy, putting Greater Lincolnshire firmly at the front of the queue for investment that is tailored to our needs.

We will be seeking to work collaboratively with Government at the earliest opportunity to:

- Strengthen transport connectivity, building on the potential offered by Network North and the consolidation of the existing core local transport funding into a multi-year integrated settlement
- Strengthen the local visitor economy, creating an attractive and vibrant cultural and creative sector
- Accelerate the creation of a nationally recognised cluster of innovation-focused defence companies, making Greater Lincolnshire the first-choice destination for defence related industries
- Co-commission future investment plans with Government, National Grid, Western Power and Northern Power Grid that will underpin our strategy for growth
- Test alternative approaches to rural bus provision, enhancing access to services for residents and visitors
- Create further investment into green energy and decarbonisation activities, to maximise growth opportunities in these industries and capitalise on the strategic capabilities within the area
- Co-commission with Government and Innovate UK, activities to further enhance innovation capabilities and outcomes for businesses, protecting their competitive advantage and sustainability
- Seek further devolution of funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government sponsored training provision to a local level so that they can be commissioned and managed in line with our economic opportunities and are targeted on local need
- Develop a Greater Lincolnshire Skills Investment Revenue Fund and bespoke apprenticeship arrangements that tailor support to businesses to increase apprenticeships across Greater Lincolnshire and overcome barriers to engagement
- Seek new trailblazer powers where we can evidence their benefit to Greater Lincolnshire and a single long term funding settlement that is fair and supports levelling up.



Governance and transparency

Local councils already work collaboratively across Greater Lincolnshire but through this Proposal would see greater responsibility being passed from Government making it necessary to formalise these arrangements and to make them open and accessible to those that live and work here.

Coming together as a Combined County Authority would provide greater visibility and transparency for this work across Greater Lincolnshire and give us the necessary capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development, and regeneration. It would enable focus on the things that will make the biggest difference to the lives of our residents and the businesses within Greater Lincolnshire.

The Constituent Councils have worked collaboratively with the City, District and Borough councils and the two police and crime commissioners to develop governance arrangements for a proposed Combined County Authority. These arrangements would ensure transparency of decision making, effective collaboration between all parties and a strong local voice in all that we do.

To secure all the powers and funding we need in Greater Lincolnshire would require the most robust level of local accountability and so the Combined County Authority will also include a Mayor elected by and accountable to all the residents of the area.

The Mayor would work with the members of the Combined County Authority to deliver the purpose and outcomes set out within this Proposal. They would establish a strong relationship with businesses, skills providers such as our universities and colleges, along with other stakeholders to understand and address local challenges. They would also be a champion for Greater Lincolnshire at regional and national levels, ensuring that our voice, and our needs are heard alongside those of the West Midlands, South Yorkshire and Hull and East Riding.

Name and area

The Combined County Authority (CCA) would be formally known as the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA). It would cover the geographical areas of the Lincolnshire County, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Unitary Councils, which together would form the Constituent Councils of the CCA.

Membership of the CCA

The Combined County Authority would have up to 13 Members in total, comprising:

- The directly elected Mayor;
- 6 Constituent Members (Members appointed by the Constituent Councils, with each Constituent Council appointing a Lead Member (expected to be the Leader or their nominee), and one further member from its elected members);
- 4 Non-Constituent Members nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils within the Area
- Up to 2 further Non-Constituent or Associate Members. One of these will be one of the police and crime commissioners for the area and the other is expected to come from a business background.

The Mayor

The Combined County Authority would have a directly elected Mayor who will be elected by the electorate within the Area every four years. The Mayor would be a member of the Combined County Authority, as well as having a number of powers and functions which may be exercised exclusively by the Mayor (see below). The first Mayoral election is expected to take place in May 2025.

City, District and Borough Councils

There are 7 City, District and Borough Councils within the area of the proposed Combined County Authority. The City, Districts and Boroughs would be empowered to nominate 4 individuals as non-constituent members of the Combined County Authority. The Constituent Councils have worked closely with the City, District and Borough Councils to agree that their nominations would be through the use of a joint committee of the City, District and Borough Councils. The City, District and Borough Councils will all be voting members of the Joint Committee and would nominate four Non-Constituent Members.

The joint committee will also be used as the mechanism for the City, District and Borough Councils to nominate additional individuals as substitutes and representatives on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Audit Committee, who may come from different Councils than the nominated Non Constituent Members.

The inclusion of a mechanism by which the City, District and Borough Councils can have a key role on the CCA ensures that the identities and interests of all of our local communities are fully reflected on the CCA. It is intended that Greater Lincolnshire's City, District and Borough councillors would have the greatest involvement of any Combined County Authority in the country.

Strong voice for local business

The voice of business will be a critical component in the future Combined County Authority, given that a key area of focus will be economy, our key sectors, innovation and productivity. It is expected that the proposed Combined County Authority would consider appointing an Associate Member who can represent the views of business.

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP function would be integrated into the Combined County Authority. The Government guidance is that integration be achieved via the establishment of a business focussed Advisory Board. Whilst the Advisory Board would not be a formal committee of the Combined County Authority, it would be part of the formal governance arrangements and would exist to provide advice to the Combined County Authority on all issues of business and economy relevant to the Combined County Authority. The Combined County Authority could then appoint the Chair of that Advisory Group to the Combined County Authority as an Associate Member representing the views of business on the Combined County Authority.

Police and Crime

The Proposals see the two Police and Crime Commissioners working closely with the Combined County Authority to ensure public safety is considered as part of policy development, and that where appropriate strategies, policies, and action plans can be aligned. The two Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Humberside and Lincolnshire) would be invited to nominate a Police and Crime Commissioners as a non-constituent member of the CCA and the other as a substitute.

CCA Functions

The majority of the functions of the proposed Combined County Authority will be exercisable by the Combined County Authority as a whole.

The proposed functions, powers, consent and voting for the Combined County Authority are set out in full as an appendix to the Proposal. These would include:

The duty to set a budget for the CCA (including funding for the functions of the CCA);

- Economic development and regeneration functions, including the preparation of an economic assessment for the area; to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions and to carry out strategic economic planning that clearly articulates the area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.
- Adult education and skills functions;
- Transport functions, including to identify, agree, set up and coordinate a Key Route Network (KRN) on behalf of the Mayor, including traffic regulation, permit schemes and highway, bridge or transport works across the KRN;
- Housing supply, regeneration and place-making functions, along with provision of housing and land, land acquisition and disposal and the development and regeneration of land functions;
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for all functions;
- Data sharing with the Constituent Councils in areas relating to the MCCA functions
- Power to establish joint arrangements
- Incidental powers in relation to its functions (the power to do anything which is incidental to the exercise of its functions).
- A functional power of competence (this means that the CCA will have the power to do anything reasonably related to the exercise of their functions).

CCA decision making and voting

The Members of the Combined County Authority would be the main decision-making group of the Combined County Authority. The Combined County Authority would have the power to establish committees to exercise Combined County Authority functions.

It is expected that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority would establish three committees known as boards to develop policy, review performance and delivery, scrutinise Proposals and take decisions in relation to matters within their remit:

- Greater Lincolnshire Transport Board
- Greater Lincolnshire Skills and Employment Board
- Greater Lincolnshire Business and Infrastructure Board

It is expected that the membership of the Boards would include at least two members nominated from each Constituent Council and at least 4 members would be nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils. Only full Combined County Authority members of the Committee (and their substitutes) will have voting rights on the Committee.

Whilst the proposed Combined County Authority's Constitution will set out voting requirements for the CCA and its committees, the following principles will be applied:

- All of the Constituent Council Members and the Mayor have a single equal vote
- None of the Non-Constituent Members automatically have a vote, but the CCA is able to confer voting rights on Non-Constituent Members and the Constituent Councils are committed to the right to vote being available on some topics for Non-Constituent Members
- Associate Members do not have and cannot be given the right to vote
- Each member of the Combined County Authority will nominate two substitutes who will have the same voting rights as the member they are substituting for
- The quorum for meetings of the CCA will include the Mayor and one member from each of the constituent councils. The quorum for committees will be set in the Constitution
- The majority of decisions taken by the CCA will be subject to a requirement for a simple majority in favour, with the additional requirement that the Mayor must vote in favour
- Certain decisions will additionally require the Lead Member of the relevant Constituent Council to vote in favour, specifically this includes agreeing the CCA budget, agreeing any levy, any decision to compulsorily purchase land by the CCA, agreeing routes for inclusion in the KRN and any decision of the CCA which would lead to a financial liability falling directly on the Constituent Council. Further instances in which there will be a requirement for the Lead Member of each Constituent Council to vote in favour will be set out in the CCA Constitution. Where consent is required for a decision, this will be given at the meeting where the decision is to be taken
- The CCA can amend the Mayor's budget, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so
- The CCA can amend the Mayor's transport strategy if a 2/3 majority vote to do so.

Mayoral Functions

Some of the functions of the proposed Combined County Authority will only be able to be exercised by the elected Mayor, and this will be prescribed in the Establishment Order.

Functions, powers, consent and voting for the Mayor are set out in full as an appendix to the Proposal. The main Mayoral functions are as follows:

- Duty to set a Mayoral budget for the cost of exercising the Mayoral function and any Mayoral initiatives (subject to any CCA vote to amend the Mayor's budget).
- Power to impose a business rate supplement on non-domestic ratepayers in the Area to fund Mayoral functions/ initiatives as part of the Mayoral budget (subject to a ballot of business);
- Power to set a precept on council tax on behalf of the CCA (a precept is an amount added to council tax) to provide funding for Mayoral functions in the area;
- Power to provide relief from non-domestic rates in areas covered by a Mayoral Development Corporation;
- Power to pay bus service operator grants and to franchise bus services;
- Power to create a Mayoral Development Area, and to form a Mayoral Development Corporation to take responsibility for planning functions in the part/s of the Area covered by the Mayoral Development Area (the exercise of these functions is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils and the Local Planning Authorities for the areas included);
- Housing and land acquisition powers to support housing and regeneration (the exercise of these functions is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils and Local Planning Authorities for the areas included);
- Power to draw up a local transport plan (subject to any CCA vote to amend the local transport plan) and power to direct over KRN
- Functional power of competence (this means that the Mayor will have the power to do anything reasonably related to the exercise of their functions).

Mayoral decision making

The elected Mayor would be required to appoint one of the Members of the CCA as their Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor must act in the place of the Mayor if for any reason the Mayor is unable to act, or the Office of the Mayor is vacant. The Mayor will draw advice from and be supported by members of the combined county authority, all of whom are supported by appropriate officers.

The Mayor is able to arrange for the exercise of any of their Mayoral functions by:

- The Deputy Mayor;
- Another Member or Officer of the CCA;
- A committee of the CCA, consisting of members appointed by the Mayor (which need not be Members of the CCA).

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF)

The proposed Combined County Authority would be the lead authority for the planning and delivery of the UKSPF from 2025/26 if there is a continuation of the Fund and the delivery geographies remains the same. If the delivery model remains the same as the previous Spending Review period, it is anticipated that the CCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates in the area, with wide flexibility to invest and deliver according to local needs. In carrying out this role the Combined County Authority would engage Constituent Councils, city, district and borough councils and passport an allocation of funding to each based on the existing funding ratio.

Advisory panels

Both the CCA and the Mayor, may choose to establish advisory panels. Advisory panels are formally constituted groups which form part of the operation of the CCA, but which have no decision-making power.

The Constituent Councils intend that the CCA should establish a Greater Lincolnshire Economy Advisory Panel to provide a strong business voice in decision making. The Combined County Authority would consider whether additional Advisory Panels focussed on other issues are required. The role of any advisory panel established would be to advise the CCA, and possibly also the Mayor, on the exercise of functions in their areas of expertise.

Member allowance

The statutory instrument which would create the proposed Combined County Authority would set out the position on members allowances. It is proposed that no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined County Authority to its members, other than allowances for travel and subsistence paid in accordance with a scheme approved by the Combined County Authority.

The Combined County Authority may establish (or use an existing constituent council) independent remuneration panel to recommend a scheme to the Combined County Authority regarding the allowances payable to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor provided that the Deputy Mayor is not a leader or elected Mayor of a constituent council; and any independent persons who are members of the combined county authority or its committees.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The proposed Combined County Authority would be required to have at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be to monitor the decision making of the Mayor and members and officers of the CCA to ensure that the decision making is appropriately focussed on community needs, and that high quality delivery is taking place for the benefit of the Area.

In accordance with The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and given the role of the Committee its membership must involve different individuals than those who are Members of the CCA. The constituent councils, City, District and Borough Councils would be represented on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Combined County Authority would consider how and whether to represent other bodies on the Committee.

At least two members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be nominated from each Constituent Council of the Combined County Authority. At least 4 members would be nominated by the City, District and Borough Councils. Any members of the Committee not drawn from the Constituent Councils would not automatically have voting rights on the Committee but could be given voting rights by the CCA. The Constituent Councils are committed to the right to vote being available on some topics for Non-Constituent Members

There would be a requirement for political balance on the Committee so that members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils when taken together.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be chaired by a person who is independent of the CCA and the constituent councils or is not from the same political party as the Mayor or (if the Mayor is not a member of a political party) the party with the most constituent council representatives on the CCA.

Audit Committee

The proposed Combined County Authority would be required to have an Audit Committee. The role of the Audit Committee is to support and monitor the authority in the areas of governance, risk management, external audit, internal audit, financial reporting, and other related areas to ensure that the financial and governance decision making position of the Combined County Authority and the Mayor is sound.

The Combined County Authority would ensure that the Audit Committee has the right people to ensure effective oversight of the adequacy of the CCAs overall assurance arrangements, and scrutiny of financial decision making by the Mayor and the CCA.

It is expected that two members would be nominated from each Constituent Council. Further members would be appointed to the Audit Committee based on appropriate best practice guidance such as that issued by CIPFA on the composition of audit committees.

Members of the Audit Committee must not be the same individuals as those representatives who are members of the CCA and there is a requirement that one member of the Audit Committee be an independent person.

Membership of the Committee taken as a whole would be required to be politically proportional by reference to the balance of political parties prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils taken together at the time the MCCA appoints the members to the Committee.

Joint arrangements for the Humber

Strong, credible and effective governance arrangements including a clear business voice are integral to the success of Greater Lincolnshire and the development of evidence based Proposals for cross estuary working on clean growth, ports and the Humber Freeport.

The existing Humber Leadership Board (a joint committee of the four Humber Local Authorities) will be enhanced to include broader membership comprising of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor, the Leader and one Executive Councillor from Lincolnshire County Council as a Greater Lincolnshire constituent council, the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner on behalf of both the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and strengthened business representation.

The intention would be to see these collaborative working arrangements develop further to include similar Combined Authority membership from the north bank of the Humber, should a Devolution Deal be entered between the Government and Kingston upon Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire Councils.

Creating a Combined County Authority

To deliver our ambitions for Greater Lincolnshire we will seek to organise our resources in the best possible way. We proposed to pool some resources into the combined county authority to enable delivery of its key functions for:

- Economic development and regeneration
- Adult education and skills
- Transport
- Housing supply, regeneration and place

This Proposal is not merging or reorganising local councils. Rather, by working at the right level, sharing data and insight, advancing joint ambitions, and focusing on the powers and functions that have been devolved to it, the proposed Combined County Authority has the ability to improve outcomes for Greater Lincolnshire and ensure joined up decision making.

Work is currently underway to define the 'Operating Model' for the proposed Combined County Authority which will describe how it would work, the functions, people, processes, systems and organisational structure.

The following principles will guide our development of the operating model.

1. Efficient use of public resources: The Combined County Authority would be a small strategic body overseeing the effective delivery of growth priorities, working collaboratively with Constituent Councils, non-Constituent Members and other stakeholders. The Combined County Authority would assume the functional powers outlined in the table at Appendix A and best value will be sought for residents in the delivery of these functions.

To discharge its functions effectively and legally, there would need to be sufficient capacity and resources. Funding has been secured as part of the deal from central Government towards the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. The Mayor would have powers to bring in additional funding and the Combined County Authority would have powers to borrow. It is expected that the running costs of the authority will be met through future central Government support and equal funding from the Constituent Councils.

2. Local Enterprise Partnership Integration: Local councils currently invest in a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that brings together local business and council leaders. As set out in the Devolution Deal, the functions of the LEP would be integrated into the Combined County Authority. These functions include business growth, innovation, skills strategy and regeneration. In addition there is also a commitment to include an independent business voice, as is currently represented through the LEP Board. Funding for the LEP would be pooled to support the operation of a combined county authority that delivers value for money and can gather the evidence base and business cases required to secure future investment in Greater Lincolnshire. The proposed Combined County Authority will require a high level of partnership working ensuring any arrangements are efficient and proportional and avoid unnecessary duplication. The operating model design will be built upon a foundation of partnership working and inclusion of a strong business voice.

3. Drawing on constituent council expertise: The proposed Combined County Authority will require a range of capabilities to discharge its functions effectively. This will include 3 groups of officers and may include the pooling of some roles from constituent councils to deliver those functions which will be led by the combined county authority.:

- The statutory officers which are legally required to operate a local authority: Head of Paid Service; Chief Finance Officer) and Monitoring Officer.
- Officers directly responsible for delivering the core functions (transport planning, regeneration etc).
- Officers responsible for supporting services, such as: commissioning and contracting, research, intelligence and policy development, finance, human resources, democratic governance and legal services, technology and data, and communications.

In developing the operating model we will not assume that these roles will be directly employed by a Combined County Authority. This will be an option considered alongside others including employment by partner organisations (including Constituent Councils) or contracting from third parties.

4. Concurrent delivery through constituent councils: Where powers are held concurrently with the Constituent Councils, the Combined County Authority will not seek to duplicate service delivery where existing arrangements are already in place. The Combined County Authority will distribute funding for any such functions - including highway maintenance and potholes - proportionate to existing allocations to enable continued delivery for Greater Lincolnshire's residents.

5. A shadow Combined County Authority: to prepare for the establishment of a Combined County Authority, transition arrangements would be set up in 2024. This would not be a legally constituted body, but instead individuals from existing bodies (largely Constituent Councils) will be selected by the Constituent Councils to work collectively. During this time, it will be important that specific individuals are accountable for delivery and have sufficient capacity and support to do so successfully, working with the political Leadership of the three Constituent Councils, as well as working alongside the three Chief Executives of the Constituent Councils.

The establishment of the formal Combined County Authority will be as seamless as possible, ensuring transition arrangements reflect as closely as possible the future structure of the fully established Combined County Authority. The constituent members will elect one of their number to chair the Combined County Authority until the first Mayor is elected in 2025.

A detailed design of the future operating model will be developed subsequently.

The Deal

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal can be read in full:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution

www.northlincs.gov.uk/devolution

www.nelincs.gov.uk/devolution

Next Steps

Delivering on our Proposal would involve the completion of a number of steps. Some of these will be managed from Greater Lincolnshire, others will require action from Government and Parliament.

We will consult on the Proposals from December 2023 to 29 January 2024.

Consideration of consultation responses and review of the Proposal to be completed by end of February 2024

Further formal decision making in the light of the consultation and if the final Proposal is approved, submission to Government in spring 2024

Consideration and approval by Government leading to the laying of an Establishment Order in summer 2024

Transition to a formal CCA would follow three stages:

- Stage 1: Establishing transitional arrangements, including those for transport functions which are expected to take no more than 18 months - by summer 2024
- Stage 2: Formal establishment of the CCA - late 2024
- Stage 3: Election of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayor - May 2025

It is important to note that transition to the CCA is dependent on a number of factors including this Proposal being approved and submitted to the Government following public consultation and the final Proposal then being accepted by Government.

Required powers and functions

Set out below is a table of the powers which the Constituent Councils are proposing are available to the CCA and/or the Mayor. The powers are those which the Constituent Councils believe are needed to enable the CCA/Mayor to deliver the purposes outlined in this Proposal. In considering our Proposal the Government, and in particular, specialist legislative counsel, will review the table below and some of the detail set out may be subject to change as the establishment order is drafted.

APPENDIX A: GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE POWERS TABLE

FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 Whole act, except s3(5)	Power to impose a supplementary levy on non-domestic ratepayers to raise money for expenditure on a project that promotes economic development in the area Imposition of the levy is subject to approval in a ballot of non-domestic ratepayers	Local Authority Greater London Authority (GLA) power (though all Local Authorities also hold these powers)	No - exclusive exercise of the GLA power	Mayor	No	Mayoral power, no voting
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 Section 69	Duty to prepare and a power to revise an assessment of the economic conditions of the area	Local Authority Upper-tier councils	Yes - With upper tier councils	MCCA	No, but requirement in the section to consult and seek the participation of the district/boroughs	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17A Section 115	Duty in exercising functions to have regard to impact on and the need to prevent crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour. Misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, re-offending and serious violence in its area (s17A) Designation of the MCCA as a relevant authority thereby authorising disclosures to be made to the MCCA for the purposes of the Act (section 115)	Local Authority	Yes - With upper tier and city/district/borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Local Government Act 1972 Sections 101(5), 113, 142(2), 144, 145 and 222	<p>Provision for the discharge of functions jointly with other authorities (s101(5))</p> <p>Power to place staff at the disposal of other local authorities (s113)</p> <p>Power to arrange for the publication of information as to the services available in the area provided by them or by other specified authorities (s142(2))</p> <p>Power to encourage visitors to the area and provide or encourage the provision of facilities for conferences, trade fairs or exhibitions (s144)</p> <p>Power to provide, arrange or contribute to the expense of providing entertainments, theatres, concert halls, bands, orchestras and the development and improvement of the arts (s145)</p> <p>Power to prosecute, defend or appear in legal proceedings and make representations at a public inquiry (s222)</p>	Local Authority	Yes - With upper tier and city/district/borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Local Government Act 1985 Section 88(1)(a) and 88(1)(b)	Power to carry out research and collect information relating to the area and make that research and information available to other authorities in that area, the government or the public	Local Authority Greater London or Metropolitan Counties only	No - upper tier and city/district/borough councils do not have the power	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Local Government Act 2003 Section 1, 3 Section 23(8)(A)	<p>Power to borrow for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs (s1) and relevant to functions of the MCCA that are specified in regulations (s23(8)(A))</p> <p>Duty to determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow (s3)</p>	Local Authority	Yes	MCCA Mayoral	No No	<p>CCA budget decisions require the Lead Members of the Constituent Council to vote in favour,</p> <p>Mayoral budget decisions can be amended, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so</p>



FINANCE, INVESTMENT, INNOVATION AND TRADE *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent Required?	Voting
Local Government Finance Act 1988 Section 74	The MCCA is identified as a levying body under the Act who can be empowered by Regulations to raise a levy against the constituent councils (s74)	Local Authority Bodies identified under regulations	No - upper tier and city/district/borough councils do not have the power	MCCA	Consent from constituent councils for making of regulations Consent of Lead Member of constituent councils for any decision of the CCA which would lead to a financial liability falling directly on the Constituent Council	CCA budget decisions require the Lead Members of the Constituent Council to vote in favour
Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 39 and 40	Inclusion of the MCCA in the definition of major precepting authority (s39) Power to issue precept but only in relation to expenditure incurred by the mayor in, or in connection with, the exercise of mayoral functions	Local Authority	No - Specific power to MCCA but the county council is also a major precepting authority	Mayoral	No	Mayoral budget decisions can be amended, if a 2/3 majority vote to do so or, if a 2/3 majority is not reached, if 3/6 Constituent Members (or substitute members), including 2 of the 3 lead members entitled to vote do so
Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 13	Members of a committee (other than an advisory committee) who are not members of the authority are to be non-voting members	Applies to any committee established by a relevant authority under s102(1) of the Local Government Act 1972	N/a - this relates to voting rights rather than exercise of powers	MCCA	No	N/a - no voting
Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013	Governs the basis on which scheme employers and individual employees are admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme	N/a - makes provision for pension arrangements of employees of the MCCA	N/a - this is not a power but an administrative provision to provide for pension arrangements for MCCA employees. One of the Constituent Councils will be identified as Administering Authority for the scheme	N/a - this is not a power but an administrative provision to provide for pension arrangements for MCCA employees	No	N/a - no voting
Local Government Act 2003 Section 31	Power to pay a grant to a local authority in England towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by it	Public Authority Minister	Yes	Mayor	Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required	Mayoral power so no voting

SKILLS AND EDUCATION

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009</p> <p>Sections</p> <p>86 & 87, 88, 90 and 100(1)</p>	<p>Duty to secure the provision of appropriate facilities for education and training suitable to the needs of persons aged 19 years or over (25 where an Education Health and Care Plan is in place) and persons subject to adult detention (s86).</p> <p>Duty to secure the provision of appropriate facilities for education and training suitable to the requirements of persons aged 19 years or over (25 where an Education Health and Care Plan is in place) and do not have a specified qualification including in numeracy and literacy (s87).</p> <p>Duty to secure that a course of study for a specified qualification delivered through facilities provided under section 97 is free to persons covered by s87 (s88)</p> <p>Duty to encourage participation of persons covered by s86 in education and training and to encourage employers to participate in and contribute to the costs of such education and training (s90)</p> <p>Power to make financial provision in relation to education and training provided under these sections (s100(1))</p>	<p>Public Authority</p> <p>Secretary of State functions</p>	<p>Section 86, 87 and 88 are transferred</p> <p>Sections 90 and 100(1) are exercised concurrently with Secretary of State</p>	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<p>Education Act 1996</p> <p>s13A , 15ZA, 15ZB and 15ZC</p>	<p>Duty to secure that education and training functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards, securing fair access to opportunities and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential (s13A)</p> <p>Duty to secure enough suitable education and training for persons over compulsory school age but under 19 or over 19 and an Education Health and Care Plan is in place (s15ZA)</p> <p>Duty to co-operate with other authorities in the fulfilment of the s15ZA duty (s15ZB)</p> <p>Duty to encourage participation of persons covered by s15ZA and employers in such education and training (s15ZC)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	<p>Yes - With upper tier councils</p>	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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SKILLS AND EDUCATION *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Education and Skills Act 2008</p> <p>Sections 10, 12, 68, 70, 71 and 85</p>	<p>Duty to exercise functions so as to promote the effective participation in education and training of persons who are over compulsory school age but under 18 and have not achieved a level 3 qualification (s10)</p> <p>Duty to make arrangements to identify persons covered under section 10 who are not participating in education and training (s12)</p> <p>Duty to make available to young persons and relevant young adults for whom it is responsible services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of those persons in education or training (s68)</p> <p>Power to enter into arrangements with other authorities to provide services or otherwise provide services to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of young persons or relevant young adults in education or training (s70)</p> <p>Power to provide the above services conditional on a learning and support agreement (s71)</p> <p>Duty to co-operate with other relevant partners in relation to the provision of 14-19 education and training (s85)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	<p>Yes - with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>
<p>Further and Higher Education Act 1992</p> <p>Section 51A</p>	<p>Power to require a further education institution providing education to persons over compulsory school age but under 19 to provide education to specified individuals</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier councils</p>	<p>Yes - with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

HOUSING AND PLANNING

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent
<p>Localism Act 2011</p> <p>Sections 197, 199, 200, 202, 204, 214, 215, 216, 217, 219, 220, 221, and paras 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 of Schedule 21</p>	<p>Power to designate any area of land in the area as a Mayoral Development Area (MDA) leading to the establishment by the Secretary of State of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) (s197)</p> <p>Power to vary the boundaries of an MDA to exclude land (s199)</p> <p>Power to transfer property, rights and liabilities of specified bodies to an MDC (s200)</p> <p>Power to decide that an MDC will be the local planning authority for an area and to confer planning functions on the MDC (s202)</p> <p>Power to decide that a power conferred on an MDC under section 202 shall cease or be subject to restrictions (s204)</p> <p>Duty to review from time to time the continued existence of an MDC (s215)</p> <p>Power to make a transfer scheme to transfer property, rights and liabilities of an MDC to a permitted recipient (s216)</p> <p>Power to request revocation of an order establishing an MDC where no property rights or liabilities are vested in the MDC (s217)</p> <p>Power to give guidance to an MDC on the exercise of its functions and to revoke such guidance (s219)</p> <p>Power to give general or specific directions to an MDC as to the exercise of its functions and to revoke such directions (s220)</p> <p>Power to give vary or revoke consents (s221)</p> <p>Provisions governing membership, terms of appointment, staff, remuneration of staff, committees and proceedings and meetings of an MDC (paras 1,2,3,4, 6 and 8 of Schedule 21)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>London Mayor equivalent powers</p>	<p>Yes. With London Mayor only</p>	<p>Mayor</p>	<p>For s197(1), requires consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of the MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of the area to be designated a mayoral development area; - Each district council whose area contains any part of the area to be designated as a mayoral development area <p>S199(1) requires consent of Lead member of MCCA designated by A constituent council whose local government area contains any part of area to be designated a mayoral development area;</p> <p>S202(2) to (4) require consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of area to be designated a mayoral development area; - Each district council whose area contains any part of the area to be designated as a mayoral development area <p>Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</p>

HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</p> <p>Sections 226, 227, 229, 230(1)(a), 232, 233, 235, 236, 238, 239, 241</p>	<p>Power to acquire compulsorily land in the area to facilitate development re-development or improvement of the land or necessary for the proper planning of an area in which the land is situated (s226)</p> <p>Power to acquire by agreement land that could be compulsorily acquired under s226 (s227)</p> <p>Power to appropriate common land or a fuel or field garden allotment (s229)</p> <p>Power to acquire land for the purposes of giving in exchange for land appropriated under s229(s230(1)(a))</p> <p>Power to appropriate land held for planning purposes to other purposes (s232)</p> <p>Power to dispose of land held for planning purposes to secure the best use of that or other land or building or works built or to be built on it or secure the carrying on it of building or works needed for the proper planning of the area of the authority (s233)</p> <p>Power to construct or carry out works on land held for planning purposes and repair, maintain and insure any building or works on such land (s235)</p> <p>Effects of compulsory acquisition on rights in respect of land so acquired (s236)</p> <p>Power to use consecrated land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s238)</p> <p>Power to use burial ground land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s239)</p> <p>Power to use common land, open space or fuel or field garden allotment land that has been the subject of a relevant acquisition (s241)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>Upper tier and City/District/Borough Council powers</p>	<p>Yes - with upper tier and City/District/Borough Council powers</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>Use of section 226 requires consent of lead member of CCA designated by a constituent council whose area contains land subject to the acquisition, and of City/District/Borough councils in whose area the land subject to the acquisition is located</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Housing and Regeneration Act 2008</p> <p>Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (excluding 9(2)), 10, 11, 12, paragraphs 19 and 20 of Schedule 3 and paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 17 and 20 of Schedule 4</p>	<p>Power to provide or facilitate the provision of housing or other land (s5)</p> <p>Power to develop, regenerate or bring about the more effective use of land or facilitate them (s6)</p> <p>Power to provide and facilitate the provision of infrastructure (s7)</p> <p>Power to carry out or facilitate activities of acquiring, holding, improving, managing, reclaiming, repairing or disposing of housing or other land, plant machinery, equipment or property or carrying out building or other operations (s8)</p> <p>Power to acquire land by agreement (s9)</p> <p>Requirement to achieve the best consideration reasonably obtainable on disposal of land except by way of short tenancy or with Secretary of State consent (s10)</p> <p>Application of Schedule 3 to the exercise of land powers (s11)</p> <p>Application of Schedule 4 relating to Statutory undertakers (s12)</p> <p>Power to use burial ground land in accordance with planning permission (para 19 Schedule 3)</p> <p>Power to use consecrated land other than burial ground land in accordance with planning permission (para 20 Schedule 3)</p> <p>Power to give notice to extinguish rights or require the removal of apparatus of statutory undertakers (para 1 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power of statutory undertakers to serve counter-notice and object to notice under para 1 above (para 2 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If no counter-notice is served rights are extinguished and apparatus can be removed (para 3 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If counter-notice is served the original notice can be withdrawn or application made to the Secretary of State to confirm the notice by order (para 4 Schedule 4)</p> <p>If order is made by the Secretary of State the rights are extinguished and/or the apparatus can be removed (para 6 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power to serve counter-notice objecting to a notice from a statutory undertaking that development will require removal or re-siting of apparatus (para 10 (Schedule 4)</p> <p>Power to make representations on the extension or modification of functions of specific statutory undertakers (para 17 Schedule 4)</p> <p>Duty to publish a notice following representation made under paragraph 17 (para 20 Schedule 4)</p>	<p>Public Authority</p> <p>Powers corresponding to powers conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)</p>	<p>Yes - with the homes and communities agency</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
<p>Housing and Regeneration Act 2008</p> <p>Section 9(2)</p>	<p>Power to acquire land compulsorily</p>	<p>Public Authority</p> <p>Powers corresponding to powers conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Mayor</p>	<p>Requires consent of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains any part of the relevant land; - Each city/district/borough council whose area contains any part of the relevant land. <p>Where exercise results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</p>	<p>Mayoral power, so no voting</p>
<p>Housing Act 1985</p> <p>Sections 8(1), 11, 12, 17 (excluding 17(3)) and 18</p>	<p>Duty to consider housing conditions and the needs of the area with respect to the provision of further housing accommodation (s8(1))</p> <p>Power to provide board and laundry facilities in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s11)</p> <p>Power to provide shops, recreation grounds and other building having a beneficial purpose in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s12)</p> <p>Power to acquire land for housing purposes (s17)</p> <p>Duty to ensure that buildings acquired that are houses or may be made suitable as a house are made suitable and used as housing accommodation (s18)</p>	<p>Local Authority</p> <p>City Council and District/ Borough powers</p>	<p>Yes - with city/district/borough councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

<p>Housing Act 1985 Section 17(3)</p>	<p>Power to acquire land by agreement or compulsorily for housing purposes</p>	<p>Local Authority City Council and District/ Borough powers</p>	<p>Yes - with city/district/borough councils</p>	<p>Mayoral</p>	<p>s17(3) (acquisition of land for housing purposes) requires consent of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead member of MCCA designated by a constituent council whose local government area contains the relevant land; - Each city/district/borough council whose area contains any part of the relevant area <p>Where exercise of 17(3) results in financial liability falling on a constituent council, the consent of the lead member of that council is required</p>	<p>Mayoral power, so no voting</p>
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TRANSPORT

In the following Table references to the transition period are to a period, the length of which is to be determined between the making of the SI and the coming into effect of the full proposal in relation to powers

Legislative Provisions	Summary of provisions	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent required before MCCA or Mayoral exercise	Voting	When?
Part II Transport Act 2000							
Local transport plans and bus strategies (sections S108-113) (sections 110 to 11 repealed)	LA obligation to provide safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport options within their area. LAs must continue to review and replace their plan as they see fit. When developing their plan, LAs must take into consideration any guidance from the Government.	Local Authority Upper tier councils	No - Transferred from upper tier councils	Mayor	None	S108-113 unanimous during transition period, otherwise 2/3 majority can amend the mayoral LTP	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
Bus services: advanced quality partnership schemes (sections 113C to 113O)	These provisions relate to powers to make an advanced quality partnership scheme, the nature of such a scheme, the circumstances in which they can be made, the method by which they can be made, effect of schemes and powers to vary schemes. The provisions also provide that regulations may be made by the Secretary of State in respect of schemes and that local transport authorities must have regard to any Secretary of State guidance in relation to carrying out their functions.	As above	Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.

TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p>Bus services: franchising schemes (sections 123A to 123X)</p>	<p>A franchising authority or two or more such authorities acting jointly, may make a franchising scheme covering the whole or any part of its area. The arrangements are akin to the system operated by Transport for London.</p> <p>A franchising scheme is one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · under which the authority identifies the local services that it considers appropriate to be provided in an area under local service contracts; · by virtue of which those services may only be so provided in accordance with such contracts (subject to s.1230); · by virtue of which the authority may grant service permits for other local services which have a stopping place in that area (subject to s.123H(5)); and · under which it identifies additional facilities that it considers appropriate to provide in that area. <p>If the authority decides to make a scheme it must make the scheme and publish it. It must specify the area to which it relates, the local services intended to be provided under local service contracts, the date on which the contracts may first be entered into and the minimum periods between the making of a contract and the provision of the service under it, it may specify sub-areas; the scheme may except specific services from regulation arising because of the scheme</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>Only exercisable with the consent from the affected constituent council</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>
<p>Bus services: advanced ticketing schemes (sections 134C to 134 G)</p>	<p>Details the provisions around using ticketing schemes on buses, consultations, notices and how to implement the scheme</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition and continuing with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>

Continued next page . . .

TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p>Bus services: enhanced partnership plans and schemes (sections 138A to 138S)</p>	<p>An enhanced partnership plan is a plan that: (a) specifies the area and the period to which the plan relates; (b) sets out an analysis of the local services provided in that area; (c) sets out policies relating to local services in that area; (d) sets out objectives as regards the quality and effectiveness of local services provided in that area by reference to that period; (e) describes how the related enhanced partnership scheme or schemes is or are intended to assist in implementing those policies and achieving those objectives; and (f) describes the intended effect of the related scheme or schemes on areas neighbouring the area to which the plan relates</p> <p>A plan or scheme must state whether it is to be reviewed and, if so, how and when this is to be completed. A plan must include a description of the authority's plans for consulting representatives of users of local services in order to seek their views on how well the plan and any related scheme are working</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
<p>Bus services: provision of information (section 139 to 141A)</p>	<p>Each LA must provide the general public with information about their local bus services – like routes, timetabling, fares and information about concessions, facilities for disabled people etc</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>

TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p>Bus services: miscellaneous (sections 142 to 143B)</p>	<p>Covers regulations on reducing or limiting pollution and requesting information about the services from local providers</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period with upper tier councils</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
<p>Mandatory travel concessions for journeys not beginning on the London bus network (sections 145A to 150 (145 repealed))</p> <p>(except 145B and 147 (Wales only))</p>	<p>covers people travelling on a concession where their trip starts outside of London. This section gives details on what an eligible journey is. Further sections provide some definitions to help understand what people and journeys fit the criteria and how operators will be reimbursed</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period and continuing</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>Financial and competition provisions (sections 152 to 159 (156 and 158 repealed) in so far as they contain functions of the constituent councils as local transport authorities</p>	<p>s.152 gives further details on the outsourcing of public transport detailed in s.89 onwards. S.153 deals with competition tests between LAs who have joined in ticketing schemes, quality partnership scheme etc. S.154 states the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury (as respects England) or the National Assembly for Wales (as respects Wales) may make grants to operators of eligible bus services towards their costs in operating those services. S.155 details sanctions that can be imposed on service providers for various infringements. S159 repeals s.3-5 transport act 1983</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during transition period</p> <p>Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>

TRANSPORT *Continued*

Grants to bus service operators (s154)		Public Authority Secretary of State	Concurrent and continuing	Mayor	None	None	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Supplementary (Section 161 to 162)	Gives more guidance on statutory definitions, regulations and orders	Public Authority Secretary of State	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing	MCCA	None	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 3 (Workplace parking levy, General and supplementary) and Workplace Parking Levy (England Regulations 2009)		Local Authority (charging authority which is the traffic authority (charging schemes can be made by a non-metropolitan local traffic authority (or jointly by more than one non-metropolitan local traffic authority), by an Integrated Transport Authority or combined authority and one or more eligible local traffic authorities, or the Secretary of State [or a strategic highways company]; a licencing authority or licencing authorities)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with the upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with consent of the affected constituent council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

TRANSPORT *Continued*

Highways Act 1980							
Section 6 Highways Act 1980 (Delegation etc. of functions with respect to trunk roads etc)	This section deals with the highway authority's or minister's authority to delegate their functions to an LA for the maintenance and improvement of certain trunk roads. The delegation will be in agreement with the LA and the section expands on what cannot be delegated	Public Authority Minister of Crown [or a strategic highway company]	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis
Sections 8 of the Highways Act 1980 (Agreements between local highway authorities [and strategic highways companies] for certain works)	Local highway authorities and strategic highways companies may enter into agreements with, for, or in relation to the construction, reconstruction, alteration, improvement or maintenance of a highway for which any party to the agreement are the highway authority	Local Authority Local highway authorities [and strategic highway companies]	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council	Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis.
Part IV Transport Act 1985							
<i>Passenger Transport Areas (section 57 to 62)</i>	Provisions relating to passenger transport areas s.59 allows for PTEs to form a company in order to manage transport in the area but they'll need the approval of the SoS before this can take place. The SoS may also give direction on what the company should consider important in their strategy Once a company has been formed the SoS may request that the PTE shall cease s.61 and 62 provide more details on the running of the newly formed company, protection of employee benefits and division of the undertakings by the company	Local Authority (In a non-metropolitan county in England and Wales, the county council, a non-metropolitan district council in England, Passenger Transport Executive for any integrated transport area, council operating a bus undertaking, public transport company or its controlling authority, a Passenger Transport Executive or a council or local authority)	Concurrent during the transition period with upper tier councils Transferred from upper tier councils after the transition period	MCCA		Simple majority which includes the Mayor	From Establishment and on an ongoing basis

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TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p><i>Passenger Transport in other areas (sections 63* to 71)</i></p>	<p>It is the duty of each county council to secure the provision of such passenger transport services as the council considers appropriate to secure to meet any public transport requirements within the county which would not in its view be met apart from any action taken by the council. Once the public transport requirements have been identified, the county council is entitled when deciding the appropriate level of public transport in its area to take into consideration the funds available and the source of the funds</p> <p>As soon as practicable after any occasion when they formulate new or altered policies for those purposes, any such council shall publish a statement of all policies so formulated by them</p> <p>Any non-metropolitan county or district council and Transport for London may enter an agreement with each other under which the council (or TfL) undertakes to contribute towards any expenditure incurred by the other party in providing subsidies for public passenger transport services</p> <p>s.66 removed the powers to run bus undertakings from non-metropolitan district councils in England or county or county borough councils in Wales specified in an order made by the Secretary of State, from a date stated in the order</p> <p>s.69 covers joint undertakings and transferring responsibilities to the company which has been formed under s.67 to run the council bus undertakings. Further sections explain some more of the regulations and exemptions with regard to council undertakings</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with upper tier councils</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>For s63-64, exercise of the MCCA's power is subject to the consent of the Constituent Councils</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
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TRANSPORT *Continued*

<p><i>Further Provisions (sections 72 to 79)</i></p>	<p>These provisions deal with the role of the controlling authority over the various transport companies that have been formed. It covers, who they should manage, how and for what purpose</p> <p>s.74 also provides rules on the directors of the public transport companies being elected as a council member</p> <p>s.75 deals with the power to acquire and dispose of shares in the companies which have been set up</p> <p>s.76 covers the auditing of the public transport companies – it's the duty of the controlling authority to arrange for this to happen</p> <p>s.78-79 covers entering into other agreements with other companies and the ability to guarantee loans</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with any relevant controlling authority</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>
<p><i>Miscellaneous (section 80* to 87)</i></p>	<p>Integrated Transport Authorities and Passenger Transport authorities must behave in a way that does not inhibit competition in the services of public transport sector.</p> <p>They must also provide adequate facilities so that buses can be properly maintained and that there are bus stations which are in their area.</p> <p>s.84 covers compensation for loss of employment.</p> <p>s.85 covers incorporation of passenger transport executives in authorities for their area. The SoS may by order make provision for the transfer of all functions, property, rights and liabilities of the Passenger Transport Executive for any integrated transport area or passenger transport area specified in the order to the Integrated Transport Authority or, as the case may be, the Passenger Transport Authority for that area</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Concurrent during the transition period</p> <p>Transferred after the transition period</p>	<p>MCCA</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Simple majority which includes the Mayor</p>	<p>From Establishment and on an ongoing basis</p>

TRANSPORT *Continued*

Part 5 of the Transport Act 1985

<i>Expenditure on public passenger transport services (sections 88 to 92)</i>	<i>Refers to the spending on public passenger transport services and the ability to put these out to tender</i>	Local authority (Any authority responsible for expenditure on public local transport, any local authority or any two or more local authorities acting jointly, Passenger Transport Executive, a county or district council operating any public passenger transport service, a parish council or community council, the Secretary of State)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	During the transition period, only exercisable with the consent of affected constituent councils	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<i>Travel Concession Schemes (sections 93 to 101 (102 repealed))</i>	<i>Refers to any concessions the LA may want to introduce on public transport, the administration of these concessions working in conjunction with the service provider</i>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of affected Constituent Councils.	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
<i>Travel concessions apart from schemes (sections 103 to 105)</i>	<i>Concessions which may fall outside of the schemes in the earlier section</i>	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of affected Constituent Councils.	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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TRANSPORT *Continued*

Traffic Management Act 2004						
Section 33	Relates to the bodies that can prepare and authorise a permit scheme	Local Authority (local highway authorities)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Section 33A	Details when a scheme can be put into action and who has authority to authorise a scheme	As above	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Section 36	Details the different bodies which have the power to vary or revoke a permit scheme	As above	Concurrent and continuing	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s).	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Part 6 (Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) and paragraph 10 (designation of civil enforcement areas for moving traffic contraventions) of Schedule 8 (civil enforcement areas and enforcement authorities outside Greater London)	Details of what traffic infringements are able to be enforced	Local Authority (enforcement authority)	Concurrent during the transition period and continuing with relevant councils	MCCA	Only exercisable with the consent of the affected Constituent Council(s)	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

DEFINED TERMS

MCCA / CCA

Mayoral Combined County Authority / Combined County Authority The proposed model of Governance for Greater Lincolnshire

Constituent Councils

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council

GLCCA

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

The Deal

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal signed on DD MM 2023

Functional Economic Area

FEA – areas that share a number of similar economic factors with boundaries that ideally reflect the drivers of the local economy

Greater Lincolnshire is a FEA covering the communities and economy of Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire

GLA

Greater London Authority

GLLEP

Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership

GVA

Gross Value Added – this is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in the area, industry or sector of an economy

MCA / CA

Mayoral Combined Authority / Combined Authority - A similar model used in other areas such as North Yorkshire but not applicable in Greater Lincolnshire

The Area / CCA Area

The Area covered by the proposed Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

LEP(s)

Local Enterprise Partnership – partnerships between local authorities and businesses to help determine local economic priorities and undertake activities to drive economic growth and create local jobs

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

November 2023



Have your say: Greater Lincolnshire Devolution

The consultation will run from 4 December 2023 until 5.00pm on 29 January 2024

Across the country, devolution is moving important choices about local investment, infrastructure and training from government to local decision makers.

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have secured a devolution deal with government worth over £750 million which, if progressed, means money and power can move from government to decision-makers in Greater Lincolnshire.

To seek this level of powers, money, and a say in how we spend it, local councils must produce a draft proposal and consult with you on it. The proposal sets out to government how devolution could work in Greater Lincolnshire including the creation of an independent body called a mayoral combined county authority.

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposal (the proposal), can be seen, in full at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution

We are now seeking views before deciding whether to submit the proposal to government either in its current form or in an amended form. Whilst this consultation document summarises the proposal, **you should read the proposal in full before answering the questions.**

The proposal explains how we believe, if adopted, using powers and deciding how to spend money locally would improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people who live or work in our area through:

- improved local transport and roads
- improving training to ensure local people can take advantage of the new jobs
- help improve the environment and achieve net zero
- the provision of good quality housing
- boosting the economy by supporting local businesses to create new, high paid, high skilled jobs; and,
- enhanced digital services, like broadband

This initial proposal means:

- £24 million per annum for 30 years – worth £720m to level-up the whole of Greater Lincolnshire
- a stronger role in setting and delivering Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- control over a range of powers and budgets currently administered by central government

- additional powers to tackle challenges and make the most of our economic potential so everyone who lives and works here benefits
- one-off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- a new mayor to give Greater Lincolnshire a louder voice, more influence, and a higher profile, locally, nationally and globally
- a combined county authority providing greater transparency and capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development and regeneration

The proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for most public services in the area. There will be no transfer of district and borough powers as part of the draft proposal.

What do you think?

This consultation is an opportunity for everyone in the area to have their say about the devolution proposal. It is open to people who live or work in Greater Lincolnshire, businesses, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations in the area.

You can have your say by:

- Completing our online survey at www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution
- Completing this hard copy consultation document and returning to us in an envelope, to our freepost address by 29 January 2024

If you need support to take part, please contact 01522 555222.

At the end of the consultation all three councils will consider your views before deciding whether to agree our final proposal for submission to government. Following submission of the final proposal it will be considered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. If the secretary of state is happy, laws are put in place so that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority can be set up and start work with the election for a mayor in May 2025.

Your responses to this survey are intended to be anonymous. When completing open text responses, remember not to include personal or sensitive information.

Section 1 – New jobs and business growth

The proposal, if adopted, would see decisions for infrastructure and economic growth projects in Greater Lincolnshire being taken locally. This would see some funding transferred to the area with investment locally prioritised to boost growth in key sectors of the local economy, including the UK Food Valley, Energy, Ports and logistics.

We believe that this will stimulate trade and economic growth, creating high skill jobs and improve living standards. The proposal includes:

- an investment fund of £24 million per annum over 30 years, worth £720m, which could speed up economic growth and innovation, and create opportunities for people, businesses, and communities
- a UK Food Valley Board to support the sector and attract new skills to deliver food chain automation and innovation

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to new jobs and business growth?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 2 – Education and training

The proposal, if adopted, will mean all the funding central government spends on adult skills and training in Greater Lincolnshire will be controlled and allocated locally.

If we have local control, we can work more closely with schools, colleges, universities, training providers and businesses.

The proposal details how doing this means in Greater Lincolnshire we could:

- develop work-focussed curriculums which give people access to the training local businesses need
- support residents to identify career opportunities and train or re-train so they have the skills they need to get good local jobs
- better meet local business needs by making sure Lincolnshire residents are equipped to take up exciting, new, skilled jobs
- encourage and provide mentoring, funding and other resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- work with public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire to support young people leaving care to achieve a positive start to their careers and adult life

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to education and training?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 3 – Roads, buses and transport

The proposal, if adopted, means the mayor and Greater Lincolnshire leaders could use their knowledge of the area to design a local transport plan which we believe would create better integrated road, rail and air travel for people, businesses and goods.

This could include improved walking and cycling options for residents, visitors and businesses and with the money and decision-making local, we believe the plan is more likely to become a reality.

The proposal includes plans for the combined county authority to become the local transport authority and address the matters residents tell us are important to them, for example:

- more affordable travel
- smart tickets on public transport to make moving around Greater Lincolnshire easier
- more reliable journeys, supported by investment in key routes across the area
- connecting people of all ages to family, friends, work, education, health, and leisure facilities
- improvement to transport in rural areas and improved services for rail passengers and freight

The proposal includes a multi-year transport budget that provides greater funding certainty to deliver local priorities, boost growth in the Greater Lincolnshire economy and keep people moving.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to roads, buses and transport?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 4 – Homes and communities

The proposal, if adopted, means more local housing decisions could be made in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with local authorities, Homes England, landowners, developers and the full range of housing providers to promote regeneration and create good quality housing options to meet current and future demand.

Local leaders would be able to bring forward investment in the infrastructure needed to unlock sites, support housing growth and develop housing projects that meet residents' needs and consider the area's environment and landscape.

It also explains plans to prioritise:

- working closely with planning authorities to identify, buy and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration
- the regeneration of areas and strategic sites through 'mayoral development areas' and 'mayoral development corporations'
- appropriate housing development to make sure residents can find suitable local homes
- new and existing homes that make sure sustainable building practices and green design standards are used to minimise environmental impact and promote energy efficiency
- a balance between development need, improved public transport and preserving green spaces and existing communities

The proposal includes £8.4m of funding, controlled locally to support and encourage new homes being built on brownfield land.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Question 4 is on the next page >

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to homes and communities?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 5 – Environment

The proposal, if adopted, would support local leaders to balance economic development and the protection of the natural environment.

The proposal includes:

- plans for investment in conservation
- bringing together partners to agree and plan for the infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire that would support growth in green jobs
- a new partnership for water that focuses on flood prevention and water management programmes to support agriculture, tourism, green growth, communities and new housing
- a coastal partnership that promotes the natural and cultural heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast and tourism
- work with government to identify environmental priorities that could be incorporated into new environmental land management schemes - such as protection for top grade farmland across the UK Food Valley in Greater Lincolnshire
- implementing a local nature recovery strategy

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to the environment?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Section 6 – Governance

If the proposal is adopted, in order to get funding and powers to make the above ambitions a reality, something called a combined county authority (CCA) would be set up and a mayor would be directly elected by Greater Lincolnshire residents.

We believe this organisation would:

- receive the powers and money from central government and provide transparent local leadership
- simplify decision-making on strategic matters affecting Greater Lincolnshire
- promote Greater Lincolnshire and give us one, strong voice locally, nationally and internationally
- make it easier to work together locally and with central government
- secure even more long-term investment, including borrowing
- be able to generate revenue locally through a precept or levy, subject to certain conditions being met

- make sure things are done for the benefit of the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire area, representing residents, their communities and their interests

If the proposal is adopted, the CCA would be made up of:

- the mayor
- two representatives from each of North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and Lincolnshire County Council who would have a vote on all matters
- four representatives from districts councils who would have a vote on some matters
- a police and crime commissioner
- a business leader

Some of the decisions would be made by the mayor with the majority being made by the CCA as a whole – the proposal sets out a number of safeguards that seek to manage the use of the new powers and funding and ensure the efficient and effective operation of the mayoral authority.

Section 4 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to governance?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither agree, nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

Q7. Please use this space to briefly share your comments or views about the Greater Lincolnshire devolution proposal or any of the questions above.

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

About you

So that we can ensure we capture a diverse range of views through this consultation, it would be helpful if you could provide some information about yourself. This information is not compulsory, so please complete the questions where you feel comfortable.

Q8. How are you responding to this consultation?

- I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation (go to question 9)
- I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual (go to question 10)

Only answer question 9 if you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation

Q9. Please select the sector that best describes your group or organisation:

Please tick one box only

- Local government
- Voluntary and community sector
- Elected representative
- Civil service or government
- Charity
- Academic
- Action group
- Transport
- Business (please answer Q9b-Q9d)
- Something else
- Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

Q9b. If you selected 'business' – please select the sector that best describes your business

Please tick one box only

- Manufacturing
- Food and drink manufacturing
- Creative and digital
- Health and life sciences
- Low carbon and environmental

Options continue on next page >

- Financial and professional services
- Something else
- Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

Q9c. What size organisation?

Please tick one box only

- Large – a business with 250 or more employees
- Medium-sized – a business with 50 to 249 employees
- Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) - a business with 0 to 49 employees

Q9d. Within which local authority area is your business located?

Please tick one box only

- Boston Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- West Lindsey District Council
- Other/out of area, please state:

**If you have completed as a business or group this is the end of the survey.
Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost
address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION
by 29 January 2024.**

Please complete the following questions only if you are responding as an individual.

Q10. Please tell us in which local authority area you live (this is the council that collects your bins).

Please tick one box only

- Boston Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- West Lindsey District Council
- Other/out of area, please state:

Q11. How do you describe your gender identity?

Please tick one box only

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to describe as, please state:

Q12. How old are you?

Please tick one box only

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

Q13. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Please tick all that apply

- No
- Yes, a learning disability
- Yes, a mental health disability
- Yes, a sensory impairment (for example hearing or vision)
- Yes, a physical disability
- Prefer not to say

Q14. What is your ethnic group identity?

Please tick one box only

- White – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White – Irish
- White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White – Roma
- White - Any other white background, please state:

- Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White and Black African
- Mixed – White and Asian
- Mixed – Any other Mixed background, please state:

- Asian or Asian British – Indian

Options continue on next page >

- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British – Chinese
- Asian or Asian British – Any other Asian background, please state:

- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – African
- Black or Black British – Any other Black background, please state:

- Other ethnic group, please state:

- Prefer not to say

Q15. What is your religion?

Please tick one box only

- None
- Christian (all denominations)
- Buddhist
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Any other religion
- Prefer not to say

Q16. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Please tick one box only

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to describe:

Q17. Do you think the proposal could have a positive or negative impact on you or someone you care for, or support, with regard to any of the following?

Please select all that apply.

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex (gender)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (ethnicity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have identified any potential impacts, please tell us more about it and include any suggestions about how any negative impacts could be reduced:

Thank you. What you have told us will help decision makers choose what happens next. Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION by 29 January 2024.



SCAN



ME

Equality Impact Analysis

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- (i) help decision makers fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and
- (ii) for you to evidence the positive and adverse impacts of the proposed change on people with protected characteristics and ways to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts.

Using this form

This form must be updated and reviewed as your evidence evolves on proposals for a:

- project
- service change
- policy
- commissioning of a service
- decommissioning of a service

You must take into account any:

- consultation feedback
- significant changes to the proposals
- data to support impacts of the proposed changes

The key findings of the most up to date version of the Equality Impact Analysis must be explained in the report to the decision maker. The Equality Impact Analysis must be attached to the decision-making report.

****Please make sure you read the information below so that you understand what is required under the Equality Act 2010****

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies to both our workforce and our customers. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers are under duty, to have due (that is proportionate) regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics.

Protected characteristics

The protected characteristics under the Act are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

Section 149 requires a public authority to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share those characteristics
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The purpose of Section 149 is to get decision makers to consider the impact their decisions may or will have on those with protected characteristics. By evidencing the impacts on people with protected characteristics decision makers should be able to demonstrate 'due regard'.

Decision makers duty under the Act

Having had careful regard to the Equality Impact Analysis, and also the consultation responses, decision makers are under a duty to have due regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (see above) and to:

- (i) consider and analyse how the decision is likely to affect those with protected characteristics, in practical terms.
- (ii) remove any unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other prohibited conduct.
- (iii) consider whether practical steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences that the decision is likely to have, for persons with protected characteristics and, indeed, to consider whether the decision should not be taken at all, in the interests of persons with protected characteristics.
- (iv) consider whether steps should be taken to advance equality, foster good relations and generally promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics, either by varying the recommended decision or by taking some other decision.

Conducting an impact analysis

The Equality Impact Analysis is a process to identify the impact or likely impact a project, proposed service change, commissioning, decommissioning or policy will have on people with protected characteristics listed above. It should be considered at the beginning of the decision-making process.

The Lead Officer responsibility

This is the person writing the report for the decision maker. It is the responsibility of the Lead Officer to make sure that the Equality Impact Analysis is robust and proportionate to the decision being taken.

Summary of findings

You must provide a clear and concise summary of the key findings of this Equality Impact Analysis in the decision-making report and attach this Equality Impact Analysis to the report.

Impact

An impact is an intentional or unintentional lasting consequence or significant change to people's lives brought about by an action or series of actions.

How much detail to include?

The Equality Impact Analysis should be proportionate to the impact of proposed change. In deciding this ask simple questions:

- who might be affected by this decision?
- which protected characteristics might be affected?
- how might they be affected?

These questions will help you consider the extent to which you already have evidence, information and data. It will show where there are gaps that you will need to explore. Ensure the source and date of any existing data is referenced.

You must consider both obvious and any less obvious impacts. Engaging with people with the protected characteristics will help you to identify less obvious impacts as these groups share their perspectives with you.

A given proposal may have a positive impact on one or more protected characteristics and have an adverse impact on others. You must capture these differences in this form to help decision makers to decide where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies. If an adverse impact is unavoidable, then it must be clearly justified and recorded as such. An explanation must be stated as to why no steps can be taken to avoid the impact. Consequences must be included.

Proposals for more than one option

If more than one option is being proposed, you must ensure that the Equality Impact Analysis covers all options. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more appropriate to complete an Equality Impact Analysis for each option.

The information you provide in this form must be sufficient to allow the decision maker to fulfil their role as above. You must include the latest version of the Equality Impact Analysis with the report to the decision maker. Please be aware that the information in this form must be able to stand up to legal challenge.

Background information

Details	Response
Title of the policy, project or service being considered	Devolution to a Greater Lincolnshire (GL) Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA).
Service area	Joint assessment by Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council (LCC, NELC & NLC respectively)
Person or people completing the analysis	Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) - Lee Sirdifield, Samantha Long, Matthew Garrard, Justin Brown, Daniel Larkin, Marie Mettam, Sarah Moody, Kate Sobstyl, and Samantha Hardy North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) - Stephen McGrath, Ian Hollingsworth, Paul Ellis North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) – Sophie Day
Lead officer	Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director for Corporate (LCC)
Who is the decision maker?	Three Upper Tier Councils/Executives (LCC, NELC and NLC)
How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?	Kick off Meeting (22 May 2023) Workshop Meeting (06 June 2023) Review Meeting (04 July 2023) Review Meeting (20 September 2023) Review Meeting (16 October 2023) Other sessions as relevant After the consultation TBC Analysis taken in conjunction with devolution deal asks and statistics from GL population. This is a live document and will be reviewed throughout the process.
Date of meeting when decision will be made	The decision regarding whether to proceed with the devolution deal will be taken by mid-2024 We will review and update this document at all major milestones including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deal agreed • Proposal agreed • Consultation mid way point (January 2024) • Consultation results (February-March 2024) • Statutory Instrument passed through Parliament

Details	Response
Is this a proposed change to an existing policy, service, project or is it new?	GL is proposing a new Deal with the Government for devolved powers across GL, managed by an MCCA.
Version control	v.1.2
Is it LCC directly delivered, commissioned, recommissioned, or decommissioned?	Joint assessment by Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council (LCC, NELC & NLC respectively)
Describe the proposed change	A proposal for the establishment of a GL (GL) Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). A proposal to devolve powers and budgets from the UK Government to GL to be managed by a new MCCA. The deal proposes changes in six key areas, as outlined in the Growth, Energy and Food vision document.

Equality Impact Assessment Context

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted in the context of the proposed GL Devolution Deal agreed between Central Government and the 3 Upper Tier Authorities of the region (Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council).

This deal will implement a transfer of funding and powers currently held at the level of central government and bring them closer to local people and controlled at a Greater Lincolnshire Level through a Mayoral Combined County Authority.

All 10 Local Authorities (Upper and Lower Tier) will see no change to their current structure and continue to have authority and responsibility over everything that they presently do, with the exception of transport powers which will transfer from the upper tier authorities to the Mayoral Combined County Authority. There will be no change to day-to-day practice. The GL MCCA if established, will consult with, and work alongside the Local Authorities in the GL area.

This EIA is a process to identify the impact or likely impact of this project upon the people of GL who are part of one of the protected characteristic groups listed above, and it seeks to consider a large variety of possible implications to ensure that it reflects and considers the diversity of GL.

The EIA will be updated following the public consultation, and additionally updated both at the mid-point of the consultation and following its conclusion to ensure that any additional impacts that are identified are given due consideration within this document.

Understanding those with an interest in the decision

The EIA shows due consideration to those who have an interest in devolution to GL which covers a wide range of demographics. This emphasises the importance of making the entire process accessible and understandable for all within the region, and where negative implications have been identified it seeks to provide mitigations to limit any negative possible effects.

This EIA will sit alongside the public consultation process. The consultation will be open to all residents across GL and will seek their views on the devolution proposal that has been agreed with government, which will then be considered locally and nationally before moving forward.

The consultation will be available in a variety of forms, including but not limited to; online access, hard paper copies in public locations, easy read for those with any form of learning disabilities, and a British Sign Language (BSL) version. This will give due consideration to all groups of people within GL.

Greater Lincolnshire Geography, Statistics and Challenges

Summary

GL is a large geographical area combining urban, rural and coastal areas. GL has coastal and low-lying regions and our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high risks from flooding impacting on homes, communities and limiting coastal tourism in the warmer seasons.

GL's population has grown by almost 55,000 people in the 10 years to 2021. Lincoln City area grew the most (11.1%) increasing by over 10,000 since the 2011 Census. North East Lincolnshire was the only area with a decreased population, dropping over 2,000 (-1.7%).

16% of the population (175,000) (as of the 2021 census) are aged under 15 years. There are more people in this age group compared with 2011. However, as a proportion of the overall population, the size of the group has decreased (170,000, 16.4% in 2011).

61.1% of the GL population in 2021 (669,000) were aged 15 to 64 years. There are more people in this age group compared with 2011 (when 664,000 were aged 15 to 64 years), but as a proportion of the overall population there has been a decrease in the size of this group (63.8% in 2011).

The ageing population trend has continued, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. 22.8%, (249,000) of the population in 2021 were aged 65 years and over, up from 19.8% (206,000) in 2011. The size of the population aged 90 years and over (11,100 or 1.0% of the population) has increased since 2011, when 8,800 or 0.8% were aged 90 and over. GL's ageing population has increased 30% faster than the rest of the UK since 2020.

More people in GL define themselves as being religious compared to those who do not. 596,727 said that they were affiliated to a form of religion. This is equal to approximately 54.5% of the entire population.

According to 2021 Census Data 10.4% (approximately 113,880) of the population belong to what would be identified as minority ethnic groups in GL which is less than the England figure of 18%.

GL has a higher rate of disability than the national figure, with a total of 211,250 people having a form of disability which either limits them a little or a lot. This equates to 19.3% of the population of the area and therefore above the national figure of 17.7%.

The 2021 Census information confirms that 24,207 people identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation"). This equates to 2.7% of those eligible to answer this question in GL, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales figure of 3.2%.

Census data analysis reveals that 62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language.

GL faces increasing challenges which are not helped by the rurality and unique geography of the region. GL has few motorways, dual carriageways and limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. Costs are often higher and greater investment is required. Access to both higher and further education is

hampered by poor digital connectivity, limiting the development of the skill-base needed within the population.

There are also currently 149,700 people in GL (22.7%) that are economically inactive when compared to the UK figure of 21.3% which presents a wide challenge.

Public spending per head is below average when compared against the UK. The economy has an over-reliance on seasonal jobs, whether that is in tourism or agriculture. The area has carbon-rich heavy industry which is critical to the UK but sees challenges in terms of the green agenda. Education attainment lags behind our neighbours and the rest of the UK with only 29% of our working age residents having a Level 4 Qualification or above.

Positive impacts

The proposed change may have the following positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics.

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<p>Young People (0-25)</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>In GL 16.0% of the population (175,000) are aged under 15 years according to the 2021 census¹. This generation will see the greatest impact of climate change on the environment in their lifetime. GL is pivotal to the nation becoming a net energy exporter by 2040 and achieving net zero. Devolution to GL is a fundamental part of investing in the North Sea and the onshore infrastructure required to expand our renewable capacity and innovate in carbon capture.</p> <p>Through working towards net zero and investing in renewable energy in GL, younger people will benefit from a green future, cleaner air and opportunities for highly skilled jobs, allowing them to develop a career locally. Through devolution, we are asking for a more co-ordinated approach between relevant stakeholders to the environment and green growth. This will enhance the reputation of GL as a technology leader in renewable energy and carbon capture, attracting further investment and people to the area which will secure a strong future for young people.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>The average increase in median age in 2021 when comparing to the 2011 census across GL was approximately 1.7 years^{2,3}.</p> <p>West Lindsey, East Lindsey and South Kesteven all saw their median age increase by 3 years. The use of devolved funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government sponsored training provisions to a local level will enable support to be tailored to specific areas so that training can be commissioned and targeted on local need. The City of Lincoln was the only local authority area that saw a decrease in its median age, and this was by 1 year from 34 to 33.</p> <p>Over 45,500 children under the age of 16 in GL were living in relative low-income families in 2022, equating to an average figure across all local authorities of 25% in</p>

¹ Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

² 2011 Census: Key Statistics for Local Authorities in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³ Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>GL. These figures were high across almost all areas, particularly Lincoln 30.5%, East Lindsey 31.4% and Boston 31.1%⁴.</p> <p>The development of an industry-led GL Careers service will benefit people of all ages and will positively impact on those who may not currently be able to access career services.</p> <p>Given that all areas apart from the City of Lincoln district have shown increases in the average age of the population from the 2011 Census to 2021, this has the potential to impact greatly on the population of GL and it is important that our residents are aware of the wide range of opportunities available to them.</p> <p>The potential to innovate and adapt loans and allowances and funding rules to encourage more adults to train, will help support an increasingly older population, along with a devolved Adult Education Budget.</p> <p>The addition of the opportunity to work with Government to test and design viable solutions to the workforce challenges faced by further education and adult education, will support to remove those barriers faced by those who may be prepared to leave industries and teach the new generation of learners.</p> <p>The roll out of higher-level technical qualifications, working with the area's further education colleges in the area's priority economic sectors will support a more diverse range of ages through the range of educational opportunities. The use of Skills Bootcamps will help to raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles. The development of bespoke apprenticeship arrangements will further diversify the range of opportunities available to those who may have missed out on educational opportunities earlier in life.</p> <p>Of specific benefit to younger people is the proposal to establish a duty to co-operate to enable support for employment and training provisions for those leaving care, along with increased support to access apprenticeships. This will benefit vulnerable young people in their transition from care to training and career or job opportunities.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>The environment is of great interest to young people. Woodland Trust research published in March 2023 found that 16-24s are more likely to be 'very worried' about climate change, so devolution plans to address environmental matters will help this passion to be harnessed⁵. Taking local control of environmental policy will</p>

⁴ DWP Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families, local authority by age and ONS Nomis, Population Estimates, local authority by age

⁵ Young People's Climate Anxiety Soaring - Woodland Trust

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>help improve and accelerate green economy benefits, in which northern Lincolnshire is a global leader. Ultimately young people and future generations will benefit most from protected resources and investment.</p> <p>Nature is close to most of our residents. However, a survey by Natural England in 2019 found that GL had the second lowest level of residents in England spending time visiting a nature site over the previous month that was recorded⁶. Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the physical and mental health of our residents.</p> <p>It is important to promote nature sites and coastal resorts in order to encourage residents to take part in physical activity. GL has statistics comfortably above the national average when considering weight and obesity levels. According to the latest public health data (2021/22), South Holland and West Lindsey have the two largest percentages of adults classed as overweight or obese in England. South Holland with 77.6% and West Lindsey with 77.3%. North East Lincolnshire is 11th on the list with 73.5%¹⁰. All but two local authority areas in GL have a score of over 70% with South Kesteven and East Lindsey the only two below this level with scores of 64.3% and 68% respectively¹¹.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Of the 175,000 people aged under 15 years⁷, many rely heavily on public transport to get them to where they need to be and require an improved and reliable service which a devolution deal will allow GL to provide. The Campaign to Protect Rural England found 86% of the 16-25 year olds who want to leave rural areas surveyed cite infrequent and unreliable public transport as an important concern⁸.</p> <p>The devolution proposal put forward has requested a multi – year transport infrastructure settlement to be devolved to local leaders to support the delivery of a joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling. The freedom of controlling these powers and funding locally will allow the resources to be directed into the areas that need them most and support many of the young people who need these services. GL MCCA is also requesting, a multi– year transport and travel settlement to be devolved to local leaders which is to include all funding for public transport and active travel, all of which are currently disparate.</p>

⁶ Monitor_Engagement_Natural_Environment_2018_2019_v2.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁷ Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

⁸ Rural eastern England a public transport desert, MPs told - BBC News

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Additionally, a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget for GL, to provide long term certainty and commitment to transport will assist young people.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>The growth of the Innovation and Trade sector in GL will be extremely positive for young people. It is important that the area is seen as a good place to live and work when young people are working through school and obtaining qualifications. In the devolution proposal we have requested to pilot four centres of innovation targeting food technology (Holbeach), advanced manufacturing (Scunthorpe), decarbonisation (Stallingborough) and defence (Lincoln). These cover wide ranging sectors and offer variety to young people who are looking for possible careers in GL. GL also wants to see a Regional Defence and Security Cluster which will be a positive option for those young people looking to move into GL’s rich heritage of defence.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>More than three-quarters (76%) of young people who want to move away say that poor digital connectivity has influenced their desire to leave their rural area, according to research commissioned by the Campaign to Protect Rural England⁹. Speeding up access roll out as part of devolution could help slow this rate of departure and the resulting loss of skills.</p> <p>Through a devolution deal for GL, additional funding will allow for a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment in digital infrastructure that closes the gap with other areas of the UK. The positive impact of this for young people will be that businesses will have the confidence to invest and relocate to the area and it will enable existing businesses in the area to improve productivity. This will enable them to provide more opportunities for young people to access highly skilled jobs in the future and build careers locally.</p> <p>Improved digital infrastructure will also give young people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access. Reliable high-speed connectivity and mobile signal opens up learning and job opportunities outside of the area that would otherwise mean relocation was necessary. Young people will also benefit from the improved connectivity in educational and social settings which will enrich their life experience. Parents being able to access highly skilled, high wage jobs in the GL will also benefit young people through growing up in an area with a thriving local economy which attracts investment and offers greater experiences and quality of life.</p>

⁹ CPRE survey reveals the factors pushing young people out of the countryside - CPRE

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Housing</p> <p>National data shows how young people struggle to access housing in all areas, but especially rural places. Of the 16-25 year olds surveyed by YouGov (alongside The Countryside Charity) in 2021, 72% of those living in rural areas say affordable housing is their top concern. 84% of those who want to leave their rural homes say it is an important factor in making their decision. Investment as part of devolution will make affordable, decent homes available in the right places to address this challenge¹⁰.</p> <p>Working aged people</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>By devolving the Adult Education Budget, we aim to widen participation of adult learning, improving access to better paid employment and higher-level qualifications. This will enable GL to access improved Higher Education (HE) & Further Education (FE) provisions through the devolution of the Adult Education Budget.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>61.1% of the GL population in 2021 (669,000) were aged 15 to 64 years¹¹. The working age population in GL will benefit from the devolution asks mentioned above in similar ways to young people. In addition to these asks, devolution also presents opportunities to ensure that timely investment decisions can be achieved locally to enable new technologies to come to the market faster, this will benefit working age people in terms of the environmental benefits of these technologies as well as new job opportunities and access to greener, more secure forms of energy and water.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>GL is a large geography with limited public transport networks. This reduces the opportunity to travel to work, learning and leisure, contributing to greater inequality. There are 149,700 people in GL (22.7%) (Q3, 2022 data) that are economically inactive when compared to the UK figure of 21.3%¹². This has the possibility of being offset by the development of an improved and accessible transport offer, to encourage people to return to or remain in the workplace.</p>

¹⁰ CPRE survey reveals the factors pushing young people out of the countryside - CPRE

¹¹ Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

¹² ONS Annual Population Survey, Q3 2022

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>GL is also requesting a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget, to provide long term certainty and a commitment to transport. This certainty and reliability is crucial for residents knowing that they can get from A to B without any concerns and this is what we strive to achieve through the freedom of devolution.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>Working Aged people will benefit extensively from a GL Devolution Deal. We believe that it will allow our key sectors to grow and become internationally competitive. GL is a High Potential Opportunity for industrial decarbonisation, and aquaculture. These sectors will continue to grow through devolution and produce skilled jobs for the population. Domestic and Foreign Investment will make GL a key player in these industries and will be hugely appealing to the working aged population.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>With greater digital skills and access, brought about by devolution supercharging, flexible working opportunities will be enhanced for this group, which demonstrably enhances quality of life.</p> <p>Working age people will benefit from the devolution asks around digital infrastructure and connectivity in a similar way to young people in terms of greater opportunities to access highly skilled and high wage jobs and the benefits of greater business productivity and investment in the area. Working age people will also benefit from GL having the ability to develop a more collaborative approach to smart cities, smart homes and connected places. Smart cities use data and technology to create efficiencies, improve sustainability, create economic development, and enhance quality of life factors for people living and working in the city, this can be achieved with access to modern digital infrastructure.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>The devolution deal will see a partnership with Homes England and the agreement of a pipeline of housing development. This will include a focus on affordable housing which could be of particular benefit to young adults.</p> <p>GLs housing asks have the ambition of enabling the possibility of home ownership to reach as many people as possible. This comes through the development of more affordable housing through collaboration with the private sector.</p> <p>Older people</p> <p>There is an ageing population in GL, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. 22.8%, (249,000) of the population in 2021 were aged 65 years and over, up from 19.8% (206,000) in 2011. The size of the population aged 90 years and</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>over (11,100 or 1.0% of the population) has increased since 2011, when 8,800 or 0.8% were aged 90 and over.¹³</p> <p>Employment and skills</p> <p>Older workers looking to regain employment or to progress their skills, will also benefit from the devolution of an adult education budget.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Older people are known to be most at risk from climate related effects such as exposure to air pollution and overheating. In the past two decades, heat-related deaths among people aged 65 and above have almost doubled globally, reaching approximately 300,000 deaths in 2018. The 2022 European summer resulted in 9,226 heat-related deaths among people aged 65-79 years with an increase to 36,848 deaths for those aged 80 and over¹⁴. Devolution to GL and the opportunities this presents to expand our renewable energy capacity and develop carbon capture technology locally, will help to mitigate these effects and give older people a greener environment to help them live healthily for longer.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>In GL we want investment in public transport connectivity and infrastructure so that it no longer holds back our economy, with improvements reducing isolation and loneliness for our more vulnerable residents.</p> <p>The asks of the GL devolution deal want to see a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment for transport which will be achieved effectively with decision makers, funders and influencers and help deliver for all our residents including the older age group. Improved transport will also give greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence for GL's older population.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Older people are less likely to use or have skills to use the internet and therefore devolution investment in this area might enhance their skills to benefit their lives.</p> <p>Older people will also benefit from business sustainability and investment in GL, which will make it a place where people will continue to want to live and retire to. Access to reliable high-speed digital connections will have a positive impact on older</p>

¹³Greater Lincolnshire Census 2021 summary

¹⁴ Why older people are some of those worst affected by climate change (theconversation.com) (Gary Haq Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>people since it will allow them to stay connected to friends and family. Improved digital connectivity allows for the development of more smart homes, with assistance around the home that will allow older people to stay and manage in their own homes for longer and avoid having to move into specialist facilities or care homes.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Innovation, net zero target control and energy security that form part of the proposal will reduce costs, helping those older people currently living in fuel poverty. In 2022, the Centre for Ageing Better reported that an estimated 2.5million over 60s would be in fuel poverty in 2023¹⁵.</p> <p>Excess winter deaths are highest among older people. Housing is a known wider determinant of health and therefore providing decent, efficient homes can improve health and reduce negative outcomes for this group in particular.</p>
Disability	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A more comprehensive industry led approach to GL’s careers service will lead to a higher awareness of jobs that can be performed by those with different abilities. This is of particular importance within GL as there is a higher rate of disability than the national level, with GL having a total of 211,250 people having a form of disability which either limits them a little or a lot¹⁶. This equates to 19.3% of the population of the area and therefore above the national figure of 17.7%.</p> <p>Being able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities. East Lindsey is the area where the highest percentage of the population had a form of disability, with 22.2%, which translates to 31,591 people. South Kesteven saw the lowest figure in relation to this with 17.1% of the population or 24,521 residents¹⁷.</p> <p>Within the area of GL, all three upper tier local authorities have a higher than average figure for the disability employment gap in 2022/23. Lincolnshire at 28.2%, North Lincolnshire at 33.8% and North East Lincolnshire at 29% are all higher than the UK figure of 28%¹⁸. The devolution proposal to work with Government to test and design viable solutions to workforce challenges would provide significant benefit to those with a disability as they traditionally face greater workforce challenges. The pilot will include supporting those with a disability into the teaching</p>

¹⁵ Ageing Better responds to new statistics showing 25% increase in fuel poverty among over 60s | Centre for Ageing Better (ageing-better.org.uk)

¹⁶ [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

¹⁷ [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

¹⁸ [The employment of disabled people 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(Table LMS008\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>workforce from industry. In addition, it could support carers of those with a disability to overcome workforce challenges.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>Nature benefits everybody including people with disabilities. This is a simple and effective way of enhancing well-being. Increased promotion and accessibility of the Lincolnshire Coast and Humber Estuary, as well as natural assets across GL, benefit everyone. Natural England has already begun to investigate how to improve coastal access along a 53km stretch of the Norfolk and Lincolnshire coast between Hunstanton and Sutton Bridge¹⁹, in addition to a 92km stretch of the coast between Sutton Bridge and Skegness²⁰.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>The devolution deal will positively impact those with disabilities in GL and help make their lives in terms of the journeys they make, as easy as possible. Devolution will present the ability to work with agencies and providers to improve the transport arrangements within Greater Lincolnshire over time, which will be of a significant benefit to those with disabilities.</p> <p>A multi-year transport infrastructure settlement devolved to local leaders will support the delivery of a joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling and crucially help the large number of those in our area that are disadvantaged and help to make it as accessible as possible.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>People with disabilities will benefit from improved digital connectivity through increased reliability of access, allowing them to stay connected more easily. Improved digital connectivity could open up more employment opportunities for people with disabilities as it gives them more flexible working options including the ability to work from home full time if they desire.</p>

¹⁹ King Charles III England Coast Path: Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

²⁰ King Charles III England Coast Path: Sutton Bridge to Skegness - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>People with any type of disability can also benefit from GL having further ability to develop more smart homes as a result of improved digital connectivity which will be supported by a devolution deal. For example, those with more minor care requirements could be aided by support through digital means, for instance where a carer may need to provide advisory help rather than physical assistance. This will also help to provide a more efficient care service and particularly help those with more complex needs.</p> <p>Digital improvements will allow people in some instances, to manage more easily around the home, have more choice over their living arrangements, and the ability to stay in their own homes for longer. This is particularly relevant in more isolated, rural areas where if digital connectivity can be improved and can be relied upon, help and assistance can more easily be provided but it will also ensure people can maintain independence for themselves.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>There are 1,924 people in GL who have a gender identity that is different to birth. In addition, a total of 4,082 people across the region either have a different gender identity to birth, are Transgender, Non-Binary or other gender identities. There were 709 Trans Women in GL in 2021 and 732 Trans Men. 422 Identified as non-Binary and 295 identified as Other²¹.</p> <p>A high quality, industry led careers service as part of a devolution deal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and contribute to breaking down stereotypes which may exist in certain industries, therefore opening up more career prospects for all.</p> <p>The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries as there will be increased opportunities to train. This would be further supported by having flexibility with how the Adult Education Budget (AEB) is spent and would mean GL could target training to support adequate representation in relation to our local industries.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is recognised that the positive impacts on wellbeing created by the availability of great natural environments is a benefit for all people.</p> <p>Transport</p>

²¹ Gender identity, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>An improved transport system through devolution makes the life of residents better. GL Devolution will allow funding and powers to be locally controlled and targeted at those areas and people who need help the most. It's important that any developments have a positive impact on this group and in GL there is creation of a transport system that is open to all and is more wide-ranging to cater for the needs of all groups, which a multi-year transport and travel settlement as well as an infrastructure settlement will allow GL to do.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposals will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>The proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their marital or civil partnership status.</p> <p>It will be beneficial to monitor this protected characteristic when carrying out the consultation which is planned, to build a stronger evidence base upon which to assess potential impacts on these individuals.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits to all residents, it is unlikely that these proposals will see a particular impact for this protected group. However, this will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised.</p> <p>North Kesteven had the highest value of eligible people who had been either married or in a Civil Partnership with 50.6%. The City of Lincoln had the lowest number with 39.1% of the population falling into this category and incidentally had the highest number of those who had never been married or been in a civil partnership with 39.8% compared to the England and Wales figure of 37.9%²².</p>

²² Marriage and civil partnership status in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>However, many jobs are focused in the City of Lincoln area and many residents of GL choose to commute. Therefore, these people need to be supported with simple access routes into the city. We want to see a devolved and consolidated integrated local transport budget for GL, to provide long term certainty and commitment to transport in GL which allows people to trust and rely on the system in place. We have requested a multi-year transport which will include all funding for public transport and active travel, all of which are currently disparate.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>GL as of 2021 has a birth rate of 1.62 children per woman. The England and Wales figure was 1.61²³.</p> <p>A Government Equalities Office Report from 2019 showed that nationally, fewer than one-in-five of all new mothers, and 29 per cent of first-time mothers, return to full-time work in the first three years after maternity leave. This falls to 15 per cent after five years²⁴. It is important that any devolution deal for GL helps to improve these figures and make the workplace accessible for those returning.</p> <p>The Proposal in relation to investment, employment and skills, may also benefit women who wish to re-enter employment after having a family. The availability of good and reliable public transport can be particularly important for families which have no access to their own vehicle or to single vehicle owning households, to enable them to access services. The improved choice and availability of housing will also offer more flexibility for extended families.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>The use of devolved funds to shape and delivery a high quality, industry led GL careers service will provide more flexible opportunities and support for parents returning to work following a career break. Additionally, where retraining is needed for career switchers, innovative use of loans, allowances and funding rules along with the development of boot camps could support parents returning to work. This advantage will also be contributed to by flexible use of the Adult Education Budget (AEB).</p> <p>Working with Government to test and design viable solutions to the workforce challenges faced by further and adult education can help get residents moving from low value jobs that can be automated, into high value jobs.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>A multi – year transport infrastructure settlement will allow GL to make the improvements necessary to public transport to assist pregnant women and those on</p>

²³ Births in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

²⁴ How women's employment changes after having a child | Understanding Society

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>maternity leave with young children to access better transport facilities and receive an improved service.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although not a replacement for in-person pregnancy and maternity care, improved digital connectivity in GL will help expectant and new mothers to access services where they are offered online to support the midwife and hospital care they receive in-person. Health visitor activities (where appropriate) could be delivered through a digital means, for example roles where the Health Visitor is acting in an advisory or review capacity where they do not need to see the child in person. An improved digital offer through devolution will help to improve the efficiency of the service on offer.</p> <p>This can help prevent them from having to travel long distances to clinics, especially if they live in rural areas. Services like online forums to ask questions to midwives and health care professionals can be made easier for people to access with reliable, high-speed connections and improved mobile network coverage.</p>
Race	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>According to 2021 Census Data 10.4% (approximately 113,880) of the population belong to what would be identified as minority ethnic groups in GL which is much less than the England figure of 18%²⁵.</p> <p>It is the ambition that the proposal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and open up more career prospects for all. There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to increase their BAME representation. The opportunity to use devolved funds to work with DfE to shape and deliver a high-quality industry led careers service, will support this. This, in turn, has the opportunity to increase the diversity of the area.</p>

²⁵ Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Transport</p> <p>According to 2021 Census Data those who identified as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British across GL totalled 981,636 out of the total population of 1,095,000, a percentage of 89.6% in this group. Some areas have a distinctly higher representation of this group, with East Lindsey for example totalling 95.6% of its population. The lowest figure was seen in Boston with 74.5% of the population in this data set²⁶.</p> <p>62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language^(OBS). A better-connected transport system will allow people from all backgrounds to travel easier between areas of GL allowing different communities to connect in a simpler way.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is important that the engineering and other sectors within GL is made more diverse and accommodates all groups of people since currently this is not the case on a wide scale. The asks within the devolution deal particularly around the development of the infrastructure to enable carbon capture and storage innovation and the development of the renewable energy sector in GL, presents a unique opportunity to do this in a way which promotes accessibility for the long term. This will help to give people from minority ethnic groups more opportunities to forge a career in this sector.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>The Proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their religion or belief.</p> <p>When analysing religion, more people in GL define themselves as being religious compared to those who do not. 596,727 said that they were affiliated to a form of religion. This is equal to approximately 54.4% of the entire population²⁷.</p>

²⁶ Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

²⁷ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>The total of non-religious people was 432,787 which is 39.5% and is just above the England and Wales figure of 37.2%²⁸.</p> <p>Christianity was the most prominent form of religion. 572,106 people were classed as Christian, which was 52.2% of the entire population and represents 95.9% of the entire religious community in GL²⁹.</p> <p>Islam was the next most leading single religion in GL with 11,534 people, which is just under 1.1% of people, and this represents 1.9% of the overall religious population³⁰. The largest number of Muslims reside in North Lincolnshire with 2.5% of the population in this area identifying as following Islam (36.4% of the entire GL Muslim population)³¹.</p> <p>Buddhists total 2,647 (0.2%), Hindus 3,337 (0.3%), Jewish Population 623 (0.1%), Sikhs 1,430 (0.1%). Other religions total 5,050 people (0.5%)³².</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Although accepting that the proposal will help to encourage more diverse workforces and open more career prospects for all, it is believed unlikely that the proposal will result in any significant impacts with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Improved transport would improve connectivity for different groups to their religious communities which a multi – year transport infrastructure settlement will be able to contribute to as we want this to cover road, rail, freight, public transport, walking and cycling, so that there is accessibility for all.</p> <p>Improved transport would improve connectivity to religious communities, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected</p>

²⁸ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

²⁹ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁰ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³¹ Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³² Religion, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>The improved digital connectivity that will be made possible through the devolution asks could benefit people who practice a religion as it will give them the ability to connect more easily with people of the same faith both locally and further afield. The ability to do this is a positive benefit as not all people are able to attend a place of worship.</p> <p>Improved digital connectivity will also allow places of worship to connect with people and make them aware of community worship, events, without having to find the funds to do so as they will have the opportunity to spread their message at low cost online.</p>
Sex	<p>The gender pay gap within the East Midlands in 2022 stood at 11.6%. This is much lower than the levels of 1997 where the figure was 20.7% (full-time employees)³³. This figure is higher than the 2022 UK figure of 8.3%³⁴.</p> <p>A devolution deal has the potential to help aid the reduction of the gender pay gap through the availability of more skilled jobs, greater training opportunities and re-skilling. A place-based and joined-up approach to careers education locally will allow GL to further develop a specialised local offer which encourages all sexes into our key sectors (such as engineering and manufacturing). These sectors are in need of skilled individuals.</p> <p>These skills-based proposals will help to get more women into higher paid jobs in the long-term and help to reduce the pay gap locally.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Within GL, gender is almost evenly split, across the entire area the figures are 536,952 for Males and 558,058 for Females which is an approximate split of 49% Male and 51% Female which directly matches the national average for England and Wales³⁵.</p> <p>A high quality, industry led careers service will help to encourage more diverse workforces and contribute to local industries as there will be increased</p>

³³ Gender pay gap in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁴ Gender pay gap in the UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁵ Sex - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>opportunities to train. This would be further supported by having flexibility with how the Adult Education Budget (AEB) is spent and would mean we could target training to support adequate representation in relation to our local industries.</p> <p>The use of Skills Bootcamps to target less represented groups will lead to more choice for our residents and therefore more fulfilling careers for all genders.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>The GL devolution deal will help to protect the natural environment of our area for all who want to utilise it. Whilst there is no obvious additional impact on an individual sex in this area as a result of a devolution deal, undoubtedly the proposal will seek to keep the natural environment accessible and sustained for everyone.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>An improved transport offer through a GL devolution deal will benefit all those who currently have difficulty from getting to place to place within our large area. Additionally, further development of active travel will allow everyone to access healthy forms of travel to promote a more active lifestyle for all.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>A devolution deal can help deliver the skills which our area needs to sustain the environment not just regionally but nationally with the move to net zero. This will be delivered with the involvement of all residents from all backgrounds. This can be approached in a way which prioritises and embeds equality, diversity and inclusion for the long term, providing more opportunity for all to forge a career in this sector.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>The Proposal should benefit people across the area irrespective of their sexual orientation.</p> <p>The Census 2021 information confirms that 24,207 people identified with an LGB+ orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation”). This</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>equates to 2.7% of those eligible to answer this question in GL, which is slightly lower than the England and Wales figure of 3.2%³⁶.</p> <p>815,857 people in GL who answered said that they were straight or heterosexual. This is the equivalent to 89.9% compared to the England and Wales figure of 89.4%. North Kesteven, South Kesteven and West Lindsey had the highest number of straight/heterosexual residents with 91.3%, 91.3% and 91.2% respectively. The City of Lincoln had the lowest figure with 84.7%³⁷.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A devolution deal for GL will seek to upskill and offer a variety of new opportunities to people from across GL from all different backgrounds in order to help improve their quality of life and to give them every chance of success.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>A GL devolution deal will help to protect the natural environment of our area for all who want to utilise it. Whilst there is no obvious impact on individual sexual orientation as a result of a devolution deal, undoubtedly the proposal will seek to keep the natural environment accessible and sustained for everyone.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>An improved transport offer through a GL devolution deal will benefit all those who currently have difficulty from getting to place to place within our large area. Additionally, further development of active travel will allow everyone to access healthy forms of travel to promote a more active lifestyle for all.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are significant environmental benefits to be gained by all through the devolution deal, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is recognised if identified.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Although it is recognised that there are general benefits for all from greater digital connectivity, it is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant positive impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be</p>

³⁶ Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

³⁷ Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

If you have identified positive impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.

Positive impacts
<p>Business community</p> <p>The Proposal specifically aims to help generate and improve the area’s economy to attract financial investment, improve skills and address skills shortages. They will also seek to ensure that land and resources and transport are improved to support investment by the private sector in GL.</p> <p>This is intended to support the expansion and development of businesses and industry, modernising the area’s economy and making it more competitive. Dependent upon the different approaches which are taken, this could mean that individual businesses and sectors of the economy receive financial and other support as well as investment.</p> <p>This will also be the case for housing developers and contractors stemming from the housing related priorities.</p> <p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>The development of an industry led GL careers service will lead to people thriving in a career that is better for them and the area and will clearly lead to benefits for the local economy and business community.</p> <p>The connections between learning, training and employment will be enhanced and the requirements of the business community are much more likely to be met. Subsequently there will be increased potential to attract more business to the area as they will know that innovative approaches are being used to meet demand.</p> <p>With the economic difficulties faced within the area of GL at the same time as the exciting opportunities which exist moving forward, the proposals relating to employment and skills have the opportunity to drive a significant positive impact on the business community.</p> <p>Many of our key sectors are already struggling to recruit and the predicted growth in our game changing sectors means that that the gap will widen further. By having a GL careers service and greater AEB flexibility we can work with our businesses to develop talent pipelines.</p> <p>The opportunities outlined in our prospectus, in the energy sector, our ports and the UK Food Valley, have the potential, collectively, to create over 50,000 brand new jobs.</p>

Positive impacts

- UK's Food Valley: ambition to deliver 11,000 jobs by 2030 (Local Skills Report 2022³⁸)
- Humber Freeport: ambition to deliver on 7,000 jobs by 2040 (Local Skills Report 2022)
- Energy through maximising offshore wind, decarbonisation, and hydrogen opportunities, to create over 32,000 jobs by 2040 across the Humber (Offshore to create approx. 10,000 by 2030; taken from Humber Offshore Wind Cluster) (Decarbonisation 22,800 by 2040, from Humber Industrial Cluster Plan³⁹).

Additionally, over this time, we will experience considerable growth of opportunity within the workforce.

Research shows that between now and 2035 around 250,000 jobs will need to be filled because of people retiring. (Local Skills Report 2022)

Nature

The proposal to develop the Lincolnshire Food Security and Natural Capital Delivery Group will support biodiversity and agriculture in protected landscapes for a number of years. The new Environmental Land Management Scheme and Biodiversity Net Gain are opportunities to provide new funding in this area. This group will help ensure a strategic overview is achieved and best practice from the Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), informs projects across the rest of GL therefore serving to benefit the business community in GL.

The strengthening of partnerships between GL and government agencies is key to delivering more coherent and better outcomes and to assist in finding the right balance between economic growth and protecting and enhancing our natural assets.

Environment

Around 45% of employment in GL is in businesses with fewer than 50 employees, far higher than the national figure⁴⁰. The devolution deal looks to specifically help SME's (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) through piloting an investment model which incentivises the switch to low or non-carbon energy models, the cost of which could be prohibitive otherwise. The ability to switch to low or non-carbon energy models will have positive consequences for the environment and give SME's the ability to trade with larger organisations seeking green supply chains allowing them to grow, provide more jobs and invest in the future.

Digital

Businesses in GL are currently hampered by poor digital connectivity and mobile phone signals, through devolution, this problem can be tackled in a much shorter timescale which will enable businesses to improve productivity. Greater availability of high-speed connectivity will also drive business growth, innovation, and sustainability which in turn, will attract businesses and skilled

³⁸ [Greater Lincolnshire Local Skills Report January 2022.pdf \(greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk\)](#)

³⁹ [Talkbook portrait template \(humberindustrialclusterplan.org\)](#)

⁴⁰ Analysis of enterprises in the UK by SME employment size band for specified unitary and local authorities in the East Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber regions and LEPS 2022 - Office for National Statistics

Positive impacts

people to invest in the area as they will have access to excellent high speed digital technology. Improvements in digital infrastructure in GL will also contribute to improved movement of goods across the UK from the ports and field to support the UK economy as a whole which will bring wider benefits to businesses and communities.

Armed Forces Community (Veterans, reservists and those still serving)

Approximately 59,500 GL residents have served in the armed forces (6.6% of the eligible population) as of 2021⁴¹; one of the highest figures in the UK and significantly higher than the UK number of 3.8%. Given the commitment of the constituent authorities to the Armed Forces Covenant and the recent introduction of the Armed Forces Public Duties, the MCCA will engage with this community and ensure that within its functions, it takes account of the duties, especially those relating to employment and housing.

Employment and Skills

Traditionally there has always been Armed Forces presence in GL and there is a significant Armed Forces Community with specific needs to support them.

An industry led GL Careers service will lead to people thriving and will provide the Armed Forces community with more career options. This is particularly the case for those who are leaving the forces and will serve to open opportunities that may not have been available. In addition, the Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be of particular importance to adults from a variety of marginalised groups such as veterans and should make a significant impact on their choices and future development.

A number of proposals, including the availability of greater opportunities for accessing alternative high-level qualifications in the area's priority economic areas, as opposed to university, and the development of bespoke apprenticeship arrangements may be of particular value to the Armed Forces community. These proposals have the potential to create opportunities that otherwise might not be available to them by widening participation, access to training and subsequent highly skilled jobs that they may not have previously known about. Additionally, skills bootcamps will support further widening of participation and will support those adults without Level 3 qualifications to train in an in-demand sector.

Although the whole area has significant proportions classed as part of the Armed Forces Community, North Kesteven had the second highest figure for percentage of the population that had served in any of the UK Armed Forces nationwide, at 10.2% or 10,009 people⁴². Through devolved funds, the creation of skills programmes specific to local need with greater alignment between services, will benefit individuals that are unemployed where they currently have several service providers with similar offers.

⁴¹ UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

⁴² UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Positive impacts

Nature

It is recognised that the positive impacts on wellbeing created by the availability of great natural environments could serve to benefit those groups known to suffer higher levels of distress and ill health. Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the wellbeing of all people.

Deprived communities

In North East Lincolnshire, 19.0% of the population was income-deprived in 2019, this is approximately 29,800 residents. Of the 106 neighbourhoods in North East Lincolnshire, 42 were among the top 20% most income deprived in England. North East Lincolnshire overall ranks 26th most income deprived out of all the 316 local authority areas in England. Of the 57 neighbourhoods in the Lincoln local authority area, 19 of these were in the top 20% most income deprived in England and Lincoln overall ranked 66th most income deprived. East Lindsey also ranked highly on this list (56/316), meaning it has high levels of income deprivation⁴³.

The proposal should specifically impact positively on people living in the area's poorest and deprived communities, and it would be expected that significant focus is placed, especially within skills related activities, transport, and housing on improving opportunities for people from these communities.

Employment and Skills

There are significant areas of deprivation within the GL area and the importance of employment and skills to make a difference cannot be understated.

The greater alignment of a careers service which means better access to training and support to employment, can help to make a positive impact upon the levels of deprivation within GL. The Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be of particular importance to adults from a variety of marginalised groups, including those from deprived communities. The proposal works to provide greater opportunities for access to careers and to improve the availability of alternative high-level qualifications.

Those in deprived areas often lack qualifications and a range of proposals seek to address this including skills bootcamps, creating skills programmes specific to local need and widening participation in apprenticeships to those without Level 3 qualifications, will serve to greatly improve the life chances and options available. Additionally, a total of 45,500 children under the age of 16 in GL were living in relative low-income families in 2022 this equates to an average figure across all local authorities of 25% in GL. These figures were high across almost all areas, particularly Lincoln 30.5%, East Lindsey 31.4% and Boston 31.1%⁴⁴.

⁴³ Exploring local income deprivation (ons.gov.uk)

⁴⁴ Children in low income families: local area statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Positive impacts

Specifically in relation to younger people, the improved access to training and support to employment will lead to those from deprived communities being able to access more flexible opportunities for their own development.

Nature

Having a variety of accessible wildlife sites that are well promoted is important for improving the wellbeing of all people. Innovation and net zero targets that form part of the proposal will stabilise energy security and reduce costs, which will also likely impact families on lower incomes.

Digital

In a similar way to businesses in GL, deprived communities are also hampered by poor digital connectivity and mobile phone signals. Deprived communities, particularly in rural areas will benefit from the many and varied improvements realised by faster fixed line and mobile connectivity. Through devolution, powers over infrastructure and resources could be held locally to create investment in infrastructure, accelerate growth and level up opportunities for all. Improved digital connectivity will open up opportunities for deprived communities through easier access to services to support them and improved opportunities to make their voices heard and collaborate on the things that will make the biggest difference to their lives.

Visitors

Those visiting GL will be offered better public transport infrastructure and connectivity which will also benefit local businesses.

Digitally Excluded

Most parts of GL are classified as rural. According to Quickline's spring update in 2023, they deployed ultrafast fixed wireless access broadband to 4000 rural premises in postcode areas prefixed by LN and DN. By the end of 2023, this number will rise to 8000 and devolution has the potential to accelerate this further⁴⁵. It is also important to consider that older people are more likely to be digitally excluded. The proposal will encourage further investment in digital infrastructure in ultrafast broadband and 5G that GL needs for the future, ensuring that within the region, digital connectivity improves.

Employment and Skills

The devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) aims to widen participation of those furthest from the labour market. This may include supporting those that are digitally excluded by flexing the funding rules to support people's access to digital training offers.

Digital skills are part of the core AEB entitlement offer and will remain free for adults to access.

⁴⁵ Rural Broadband Update: Postcodes LN and DN Areas – Lincolnshire County Council

Positive impacts

Having an open access careers service, that is face to face, rather than website based, will help to support those that are digitally excluded by having a contact that can support and signpost them to the training that they may need.

Nature

People living with a disability have been identified as more likely to be digitally excluded and many of these people, including people with severe mental illness, already experience health inequalities.

In addition, there are many rural areas across GL that find it difficult to connect to the internet. Research from Ofcom (Digital Exclusion Review, 2022⁴⁶) found that younger and less affluent groups were likely to have difficulty affording connectivity due to the cost. These individuals are having to find other activities to undertake at low or nil cost, such as walks and visits to the countryside in their locality.

Coastal or rural communities

In 2021, the then Chief Medical Officer highlighted deprivation issues in coastal towns and the impact of this on physical and mental health. As well as experiencing poorer health, higher disability rates and shorter life expectancy, access to healthcare was also limited by a lack of skilled staff and services. There were 14.6% fewer postgraduate medical trainees, 15% fewer consultants and 7.4% fewer nurses per patient in coastal towns when compared with the national figures.⁴⁷

Employment and Skills

The devolution of the Adult Education Budget in conjunction with an aligned careers service, aims to ensure that those in our rural and coastal communities can benefit from the same learning and career opportunities as the rest of GL.

Some providers are unable to reach those in smaller communities due to the viability of funding small, remote classes. Devolution would enable the MCCA to flex the funding rules of certain courses or for certain geographies to ensure equality of provision.

The current fragmentation of the careers service means that the access to high quality careers guidance is limited for our rural and coastal residents, and aligning this service to a GL Careers service aims to increase access for these groups.

Nature

The development of a Coastal Partnership for GL will bring together the many interest groups along the coast in GL and serve to benefit coastal communities within GL.

⁴⁶ [Digital exclusion: a review of Ofcom's research on digital exclusion among adults in the UK](#)

⁴⁷ Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2021 - Health in Coastal Communities
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

Adverse or negative impacts

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<p>Employment and skills</p> <p>Budgets and decisions will move from Government to the GL MCCA, which will focus on young and working-aged people. No specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills, but it's likely that it could disproportionately benefit those under the state retirement age.</p> <p>Mitigation – Adult education will target all age groups. The additional income generated from higher pay and therefore higher taxes will benefit those who are over state retirement age by contributing to their services. The new MCCA will need to establish mechanisms for considering and ensuring that investment is appropriately distributed across all areas. These mechanisms will be reinforced and bolstered by the proposed governance arrangements and decision-making processes set out in the proposal.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this. The different themes have interdependencies so investing in transport and roads will make access easier for younger and older people for example.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Relying solely on digital engagement could reduce participation among young and older people. Surveys yield very low response numbers from young people and proportionally more from over 50s, which could lessen the young person’s voice and distort results.</p> <p>Approximately 11% of Lincolnshire county’s population is aged 15-24⁴⁸. In strategic surveys undertaken on Let’s talk Lincolnshire in the last two years, the average proportion of responses from under 25s is 2%.</p> <p>Mitigation – The use of a range of engagement methods to include all stakeholders and undertake direct engagement with young people through services for them, education establishments, and partner promotions to encourage representative contributions.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>Whilst there are many benefits to greater digital connectivity, not all ages have the skills and confidence to use digital technology to its full advantage and those in older age groups may feel they are being left behind and feel more excluded. This needs to be researched further and understood so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills, to enable all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.</p> <p>Younger and/or people on lower incomes may be adversely impacted due to the current cost-of living crisis resulting in them having difficulty affording the digital technology. This will need to be further researched and understood in terms of locations and scale of this problem.</p>

⁴⁸ Build a custom area profile - Census 2021, ONS

Protected characteristic	Response
Disability	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this. However, when more detailed decisions are taken, it's crucial that people with disabilities are seen as a priority group within the work and projects to support employment, skills, and qualifications.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Some engagement methods make it harder for people with disabilities to take part.</p> <p>Mitigation – A range of engagement methods will be utilised such as, screen readers, accessible venues and tools, and telephone calls to include all stakeholders should they wish to be involved.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Digital</p> <p>People with disabilities are identified as more likely to be digitally excluded.</p> <p>Mitigation- This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>Continuing misunderstanding means that some may not wish to participate or feel able to benefit from devolution. YouGov data (working alongside the charity Stonewall) from 2018 shows that one in eight (12%) trans people had been attacked in work. Almost a third of non-binary people (31 per cent) and one in five trans people (18 per cent)⁴⁹ don't feel able to wear work attire representing their gender expression. There is a possibility that heterosexual people might benefit more from changes resulting from devolution.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement on devolution. When more detailed decisions are taken, people whose gender is not the same as was assigned at birth are seen as a priority group within the work and projects to support employment, skills and qualifications.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be</p>

⁴⁹ [lgbt_in_britain_work_report.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt-in-britain-work-report.pdf) (stonewall.org.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>For the reasons highlighted by data in the employment and skills section above, some people might not feel comfortable taking part in face-to-face consultation.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement on devolution. The use of inclusive, non-judgemental venues will ensure everyone feels welcome, and no one feels they will face ridicule or discrimination. An online engagement and telephone offer will also be available should people decided not to join face-to-face events so that everyone has the opportunity to express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme areas, although we will monitor this during the consultation will help check this.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme areas, although we will monitor this during the consultation will help check this.</p>
Race	<p>Decisions are currently made centrally, based on national populations which are more diverse than Lincolnshire. Moving decision making closer to local people can benefit a majority, but misconceptions and lack of awareness/understanding could unintentionally disadvantage some cultures.</p> <p>Mitigation – To ensure all protected characteristics are considered when proposing and making key decisions and significant changes. This is already part of the pre-decision reports, and robust analysis of impacts will be vital.</p>

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A national CIPD report found that BAME employees are significantly more likely to say your identity or background can have an effect on the opportunities you’re given than white British employees⁵⁰, particularly those from an Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi background.</p> <p>Mitigation- To reach out to different communities so people feel more comfortable taking part. Face to face engagement should take place in a mix of welcoming, non-judgemental venue-types. An online engagement offer will also be available, should people decided not to join face-to-face events, so everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Census data analysis reveals that English proficiency for residents whose main language is not English is lower in Lincolnshire than in England. In England, 79.7% of</p>

⁵⁰ 36057 (peoplemanagement.co.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>people who speak a foreign language could speak English well or very well, compared to 77.5% on average for GL. Census data analysis reveals that 62,648 people (approximately 6.3% of GL) don't have English as their main language. 5.2% of the population in Boston cannot speak English and across GL the average figure is 3%. Subsequently, there are still significant numbers who will be excluded from understanding the technicalities if translations are not available⁵¹.</p> <p>Mitigation – A subscription to DA Languages services is in place so that key devolution information can be translated for those speaking the top languages in target areas. Accessible html pages can be added to the council website for easy translation and Let's talk Lincolnshire has an inbuilt translation tool so potential respondents can see text and questions in their chosen language. Working with representative bodies to reach non-digital audiences will be key.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme area, although monitoring this during the consultation will help ensure this is still the case.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Different religious and belief groups may not feel directly addressed by the specifics of the proposal, so it is important that they are involved and consulted throughout the process.</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to communities via leaders and organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part. Face to face engagement should take place in a mix of welcoming, non-judgemental venue-types. An online engagement offer will also be available, should people decided not to join face-to-face events, so everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p>
<p>Sex</p>	<p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic in any theme area, although monitoring this during the consultation will help ensure this is still the case.</p>

⁵¹ Language, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Protected characteristic	Response
Sexual orientation	<p>Employment and Skills</p> <p>A 2018 Stonewall report showed that more than a third of LGBT staff (35%) have hidden or disguised that they are LGBT for fear of discrimination and nearly two in five bisexual people (38%) have not disclosed their sexuality to anyone at work. There is a possibility therefore that they might not benefit from employment and skills improvements to the same extent as their heterosexual colleagues⁵².</p> <p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part in engagement to identify the best methods to address the issue.</p> <p>Nature</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Innovation and Trade</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Digital</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>It is believed unlikely, at this time, that the proposal will result in adverse impact or any type of prohibited conduct upon people with this protected characteristic, although monitoring this during the consultation will help check this.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>Continuing discrimination means that some may not wish to participate in open engagement.</p>

⁵² [lgbt_in_britain_work_report.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt-in-britain-work-report.pdf)

Protected characteristic	Response
	<p>Mitigation – To reach out to minority communities via organisations representing their interests so people feel more comfortable taking part. Use inclusive, non-judgemental venues so everyone feels welcome, and no one feels they will face ridicule or discrimination. An online and telephone engagement offer will also be available should people decided not to join face-to-face events so that everyone can express their views in their preferred way.</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on people with this protected characteristic. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.</p>

Negative impacts
<p>There is a risk that the exercise of certain functions by the GL MCCA will mean that decisions will be taken further from those groups and individuals who are most reliant upon the services provided by local government in the area.</p> <p>However, this risk will be mitigated by the safeguards set out in the proposal, which include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Constituent Councils’ membership of the GL MCCA • the role and participation of district and borough councils in the GL MCCA • the role and participation of other groups and voices in the GL MCCA • the GL MCCA’s proposed governance arrangements and decision-making processes, and the phased transfer of some powers to the GL MCCA over time <p>Armed Forces Community (Veterans, reservists and those still serving)</p> <p>Those belonging to the Armed Forces Community may not feel that the proposal directly addresses their concerns. Therefore, sustained consultation with this group is essential in order to keep them informed.</p> <p>Mitigation – The MoD will continue to make operational decisions and support this community. All three upper tier councils are committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and the recently introduced Armed Forces Public Duties, so their needs will be considered at all stages of the deal, including a variety of ways to participate in engagement and test assumptions made in this EIA.</p> <p>Businesses</p> <p>None envisaged for businesses. They are already actively involved in stakeholder conversations.</p> <p>Environment</p>

Negative impacts

It is believed unlikely that the devolution proposal will result in any significant adverse or negative impacts on the business, armed forces, or deprived communities. This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

Digital

Despite the overall positive impact that devolution will bring in terms of digital connectivity, there could still be people who are digitally excluded because their income level prevents them from being able to afford the digital technology they need to benefit from digital infrastructure improvements and full fibre roll out, leaving them feeling more excluded.

Mitigation-This will be monitored during the consultation which will help to ensure any impact is identified and recognised.

Deprived Communities

There is potential for the MCCA to be formed and high-profile projects to be developed, but for the poorest and most deprived to miss out on the potential benefits as funding may be used in different areas, i.e. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The MCCA will need to ensure that this does not happen.

Mitigation – A range of plain English messages and engagement methods will be used to encourage participation in consultation to test this assumption.

Visitors

Whilst improved transport will aid visitors in the long term, in the short-term travel disruption through road repairs & development will cause delays for those visiting GL.

Mitigation- To keep those who may be affected, informed of any changes.

Digitally excluded communities/individuals

Moving to a digital first approach can prevent some people benefitting from devolution and participating in engagement about it.

Mitigation – A range of engagement methods will be used and promoted to ensure everyone can take part. For example, the spring 2023 County Views survey was included in County News, which is delivered to all households in the county of Lincolnshire. North and North East Lincolnshire have similar tools to do the same. Devolved budgets to enhance and speed up digital inclusion will themselves help to resolve issues of skills and access for many in the longer-term.

Summary

This EIA shows clearly the wide and varied population of GL and the importance of keeping residents as informed as possible as devolution progresses. It is clear from the findings that a devolution deal for GL can have a positive impact on a wide number of protected characteristics groups in a variety of ways.

The proposal will reduce barriers to upskill the local labour force across all age groups and reduce the productivity gap which GL faces nationally. The power to be able to innovatively use funding will open more possibilities to direct resources to tackle employment barriers for people with disabilities. The impact of being able to adapt and use innovative approaches to funding would mean we could target training to address any imbalance in the workforce in our local industries, as there will be increased opportunities to train. There is an opportunity through a more aligned careers service, led by industry, to ensure that there is a greater understanding of which sectors are actively trying to develop a representative workforce.

Improved digital infrastructure will also give people greater choice and flexibility over how they choose to work in the future and the jobs they can access.

Improved transport infrastructure will provide GL residents with reliable means of getting from A to B, whether this be to school, work or socially, throughout the region. An improved transport system will also give the older generation greater access to healthcare, reduce isolation and improve independence. The ambition is to also improve accessibility to public transport for those who currently don't feel it meets their needs and requirements.

The EIA also clearly identifies some possible negative implications which will need due consideration before full implementation of the changes that arise as a result of devolution in GL.

Across many areas, budgets and decisions will move from Government to the GL MCCA. Within Employment and Skills for example, no specific decisions have yet been made about where investment will occur to generate employment opportunities or in education and improving skills. It is a possibility that this could inadvertently benefit one group over another. Therefore, due consideration and process must take place prior to implementation of any policy to ensure that this risk is reduced as much as possible.

When striving to improve digital connectivity there is a risk that those who aren't currently confident with the technology could be left further behind and feel more excluded and subsequently increase the gap that is currently exists. Therefore, it is crucial that this is researched further so that skills gaps can be identified, and people can be signposted to programmes to help them improve their skills to enable people of all ages to realise the benefits of improved digital inclusion.

Public consultation will be used to seek a representative sample of responses to the plans set out within the devolution proposal. A wide range of engagement methods will be utilised to obtain views. This includes a series of public events, direct engagement with representative groups, and extensive information sharing through a wide range of media channels. The feedback from the consultation will be used to review the content of this document and recommend amendments to the proposal where needed.

Stakeholders

Objective(s) of the EIA consultation or engagement activity
<p>This EIA has informed the devolution deal consultation stakeholder analysis.</p> <p>To ensure everyone has a fair and open opportunity to share their views on the devolution deal.</p> <p>To test assumptions made about potential impacts of devolution on the general population, but particularly those with protected characteristics and additional communities identified in this document or as part of stakeholder conversations.</p>

Who was involved in the EIA consultation or engagement activity?

Detail any findings identified by the protected characteristic.

Protected characteristic	Response
Age	<i>To be added from consultation plan – do we need to repeat, or can this have a link to a different plan?</i>
Disability	
Gender reassignment	
Marriage and civil partnership	
Pregnancy and maternity	
Race	

Protected characteristic	Response
Religion or belief	
Sex	
Sexual orientation	
<p>Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Equality Impact Analysis has been involved in a meaningful way?</p> <p>The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.</p>	
<p>Once the changes have been implemented how will you undertake evaluation of the benefits and how effective the actions to reduce adverse impacts have been?</p>	

Further details

Personal data	Response
Are you handling personal data?	No
If yes, please give details	

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved
V5	Cleaned up core version created after input from representatives from across GL.	Samantha Long & Equality Impact Analysis Team I	11/07/23		
V0.06	Review	Daniel Larkin	21/08/23		
V.0.7	Reviewed version in preparation for review meeting	Samantha Long	22/08/23		
V.0.8	Reviewed and partially cleaned up	Daniel Larkin	25/08/23		
V.0.9	Meeting to discuss the text for positive impacts	Samantha Long & Equality Impact	20/09/23		

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved
		Analysis Team			
V.0.9	Reviewed and developed further	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	28/09/23 – 29/09/23		
V0.10	Legal comments considered and reviewed	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	04/10/23		
V0.10	Version further developed during meeting	Equality Impact Analysis Team	16/10/23		
V0.11	Questions from meeting addressed and meeting and cleaned up	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	18/10/23		
V1.0	Final cleaning up for version 1.0	Samantha Long	20/10/23		
V1.1	Amendments following legal review	Daniel Larkin/ Samantha Long	14/11/23		
V1.2	Final editing and proofread	Daniel Larkin	17/11/23		



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	County Council
Date:	1 December 2023
Subject:	Political Proportionality and Allocation of Seats to Committees and Sub-Committees

Summary:

Following the recent By-Election the Council is required to review the political proportionality affecting the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees.

This report invites the Council to note the impact on the allocation of seats, in accordance with the political balance rules, of the outcome of the By-Election and accordingly approve the necessary amendments to the allocations and appointment of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Boards and Working Groups.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the Council approves the allocation of Committee seats (as detailed in Appendix A circulated within the Order of Proceedings) in accordance with the political balance rules.

1. Background

- 1.1 The County Council last agreed the overall proportionality figures and Appointments to Committees at its meeting in September 2023 following the By-Election for Lincoln Carholme Ward.
- 1.2 The Authority sadly lost Councillor Ray Wootten in September, triggering a By-Election for the Grantham North Division. This election took place on Thursday 9th November where Cllr Paul Martin was duly elected.
- 1.3 Cllr Martin has notified the proper officer of his wish to join the Conservative Group on the Council, and as such the Council is under a duty to review the allocation of seats on the Committees of the Council.

1.4 By virtue of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) this report brings forward a review of the allocation of places to political groups on Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council. In order to achieve political proportionality as far as is reasonably practicable the 1989 Act requires the Council to apply certain principles as follows:

- not all the seats on the Committee are allocated to the same group;
- the majority of seats on the Committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- the number of seats allocated to a political group on the Committees of the Council bears the same proportion to all the seats on such Committees as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole; and
- the number of seats allocated to a political group on an individual Committee bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that Committee as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole.

The membership of each group must be compared to the membership of the Council to establish the correct proportion to be used in the allocation of seats. Under Schedule 1 of the 1989 Act "membership" means the number of persons who are Members for the time being of the Authority. The number of Members at the time of this decision is 70.

1.5 Under Regulation 16 of the 1990 Regulations, where some of the Members of the relevant authority are members of one or more political groups and the others are not, the Council's obligations are as follows:

- i) to determine the proportion of the total membership of the Council who are members of one or more political groups and ensure that the same proportion of the total number of seats to be filled is allocated to each of the political groups in the proportion that the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the authority; and
- ii) to ensure that Non-Aligned Members are allocated any seats which do not fall to be earmarked for a political group under the above requirement.

A political group must have at least two members – i.e. there cannot be a group of one.

1.6 There are 130 Committee seats, and 14 seats on Sub-Committees that fall to be filled by the Council.

- 1.7 **Appendix A** (circulated in the Order of Proceedings) sets out how the allocation of seats best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act and the requirements of the 1990 Regulations as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 1.8 Whilst it is a legal requirement to report this change in proportionality to the Council, Members will note that the changes to the proportional percentages do not change the seats allocated to each political group.
- 1.9 Appointments to the seats are made in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding. Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

There are no any equalities impacts arising out of considering and approving the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to political groups on the Council.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

There are no implications for the JSNA or JHWS in relation to the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees to political groups on the Council

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

There are no implications in relation to Crime and Disorder arising from the allocation of seats on committees and sub-committees to political groups on the Council

3. Conclusion

It is a matter for the Council to allocate seats to the political groups on the Council, which it must do in accordance with the law relating to proportionality.

4. Legal Comments:

Council is required to allocate seats on the Committees of the Council to political groups in accordance with the law relating to proportionality as set out in the report. The decision is within the remit of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial implications from acceptance of the recommendations in this report.

6. Consultation**a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and will be circulated within the Order of Proceedings:

Appendix A	Proportionality as at December 2023
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8. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nicola Calver, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	County Council
Date:	1 December 2023
Subject:	Appointments to Outside Bodies

Summary:

This report requests that the Council approve changes to its appointments to Outside Bodies.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council approves the appointment of Councillor N Murray to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution provides the Council with responsibility for making Member appointments to Outside Bodies except where the appointment is exercisable only by the Executive under Part 3 of the Constitution or has been delegated.
- 1.2 There is one appointment to be made by Council to fill a vacancy recently created and this is detailed below. All other appointments to Outside Bodies stand until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2024.

<u>NAME OF BODY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS</u>	<u>COUNCILLOR</u>
Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee <i>(politically balanced)</i>	3 (+ 1 substitute)	C J Davie T J G Dyer N Murray Mrs J Brockway (substitute)

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

There are no equalities implications in reviewing the appointments to Outside Bodies.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

There are no implications for the JSNA or JHWS in relation to the review of Council appointments to Outside Bodies.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

There are no implications in relation to Crime and Disorder from the review of outside body appointments.

3. Conclusion

The appointments to Outside Bodies will assist Councillors participating strategically and in the wider community. It will also provide Councillors with additional knowledge and expertise which can be shared with fellow Councillors.

4. Legal Comments:

The making of appointments to the bodies set out within the report is within the remit of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

There are no specific financial implications arising from the adoption of recommendations in this report.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

No

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

No

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nicola Calver, Member Services Manager, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or nicola.calver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive

Report to:	County Council
Date:	1 December 2023
Subject:	Designation of Monitoring Officer

Summary:

This report seeks approval for a change in designation of Monitoring Officer following the announcement that the current Monitoring Officer will leave his employment with the Council on 8 April 2024.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That Council with effect from 1 December 2023 designates William Bell as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's current designated Monitoring Officer, David Coleman, will leave his employment with the Council on 8 April 2024. On 13 November 2023, William Bell commenced employment with the Council as successor to David Coleman and to aid a smooth transition of responsibilities it is proposed that William Bell be designated as the Council's statutory Monitoring Officer with effect from 1 December 2023.
- 1.2 Under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('Act') the Council has an obligation to designate one of its officers as the Council's Monitoring Officer to fulfil the responsibilities under section 5 and 5A of the Act to report unlawfulness or maladministration in the exercise of the Council's functions. The Monitoring Officer also has a role both in law and under the Council's Constitution in supporting the Council in maintaining high standards of conduct and managing complaints against elected members under the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

There are not considered to be any equality implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

There are not considered to be any JSNA or JHWS implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

There are not considered to be any crime or disorder implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

3. Conclusion

This report enables the Council to comply with its legal obligations.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council is required by law to designate one of its officers as Monitoring Officer and this report seeks to fulfil that legal obligation. Under the Council's Constitution, such designation is a matter reserved to full Council.

5. Resource Comments:

The recommendations within this report can be met from within existing service budgets.

6. Consultation

a) **Has Local Member Been Consulted?** N/A

b) **Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?** N/A

c) **Scrutiny Comments**

The proposals set out in this report have not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Please note the contents of the report and the legal basis for the recommendation being proposed.

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of the report.

This report was written by David Coleman, who can be contacted on david.coleman@lincolnshire.gov.uk



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	Council
Date:	1 December 2023
Subject:	Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/25

Summary:

The Council must agree its Members' Allowances Scheme every year. This report presents the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for consideration by the Council before it agrees its scheme for 2024/25.

Recommendations:

1. That the Council considers the IRP recommendations in Appendix A to this report.
2. That the Council approves the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2023/24 as amended in Appendix B to this report as the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2024/25.

1. Background

- 1.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the 2003 Regulations') and other relevant legislation, the County Council agrees a Scheme of Members' Allowances and expenses each year.
- 1.2 The 2003 Regulations require that an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) is convened to make recommendations to the Council. The Council is required to consider any IRP recommendations before agreeing a scheme but is not required to accept the IRP's recommendations.
- 1.3 The IRP was convened on 21st November 2023 and the minutes of that meeting are attached at **Appendix A**.
- 1.4 During its deliberations the IRP was reminded that the Council at its meeting on 10th December 2021, following a fundamental review of the scheme, agreed to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances being increased annually by the average percentage increase in pay for employees covered by the National

Joint Council for Local Government Services (Green Book) for the previous 12 months.

- 1.5 The agreed indexing can remain in place for up to four years before it must be reviewed by the IRP.
- 1.6 However, the current year's national pay award for 'Green Book' employees up to spinal column 33 was an increase of £1,925; and for spinal column points 34-48 an increase of 3.88%.
- 1.7 Staff allowances, like sleeping in duty payments, were also increased by 3.88%.
- 1.8 Members of the Panel considered the pay award for employees and its relationship to an increase in members' allowances.
- 1.9 They considered several options, which are listed in Appendix A, and unanimously agreed that Option 2 was the most appropriate, because they felt it more closely reflected the pay offer agreed for more senior employees (spinal column points 34-48) covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.
- 1.10 Panel members therefore recommended that the 2024/25 Members' Allowances Scheme be the same as the 2023/24 Members' Allowances Scheme, save for a 3.88% increase in the Basic Allowance and the Special Responsibility Allowances. The effect of this recommendation shown as amendments to the 2023/24 scheme is shown at **Appendix B**.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

Decisions as a result of the recommendations in this report are unlikely to have any impact on the Council's statutory duties under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

Decisions as a result of recommendations in this report are unlikely to impact on the JSNA or JHWS

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

Decisions following on from recommendations in this report are unlikely to have any impact on the exercise of the Council's Crime and Disorder functions.

3. Conclusion

The Council must agree its Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25 and in doing so must consider recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which are outlined in this report.

4. Legal Comments:

Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires the Council to make a Scheme of Members' Allowances prior to 1st April in every year.

Before making such a scheme the Council must have regard to the recommendations made in relation to the Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Approval of the Scheme of Members' Allowances is reserved to full Council.

5. Resource Comments:

During the financial planning process, the Council estimates the impact of inflation across its cost base. This includes an estimate in respect of pay award costs, which bear a direct relationship to the member allowance scheme following the decision made in 2021.

The options considered within this report are consistent with the current planned budget provision for pay inflation costs in 2024/25.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

See the body of the report

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Minutes of the Independent Remuneration Panel – 21 st November 2023
Appendix B	Amendments to the 2023/24 Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the IRP's recommended 3.88% increase in Members Allowances.

8. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24	LCC Website: Members Allowance Scheme within the Council's Constitution: Part 6 (modern.gov.co.uk)

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 07880 500844 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Appendix A

Notes of a meeting of the Lincolnshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 21st November 2023.

Present:

Colin Childs (Chairman), Tony Lawlor, Richard Quirk, Heather Lee

Officers Present:

Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services; Adam Hopley, Strategic Finance Lead; Tina Tymoszczuk (minutes secretary).

Apologies:

Aileen Lucas

Member Allowances Scheme 2024/25:

A report from the Head of Democratic Services had previously been circulated.

In the report members of the Panel were reminded that at a meeting on 26th October 2023 the Panel had resolved to recommend that there be no changes to the structure of the Lincolnshire County Council Members Allowances Scheme.

With regard to the annual increase of allowances agreed by the County Council at its meeting on 10th December 2021 (an increase by the average % increase in pay for employees covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for the last 12 months) it had been highlighted to the Panel that on 26th October 2023 the pay offer had not been accepted.

The panel had requested clarification on the impact the pay offer, if accepted, would have on the overall Lincolnshire County Council pay bill.

Following that meeting agreement had been reached on the pay award which included the following in Lincolnshire:

- An increase of £1,925 on spinal column points 2-33
- An increase of 3.88% on spinal column points 34-48
- An increase of 3.88% on staff allowances, like sleeping in duty payments.

It has been calculated that nationally the increase to the pay bill would be 6.42%. In Lincolnshire this had been assessed as a 6.06% increase.

Members of the Panel discussed the pay award for employees and its relationship to an increase in members' allowances. They considered several options:

1. No increase
2. Increase basic allowances and special responsibility allowances by 3.88%
3. Increase basic allowances and special responsibility allowances by 6.06%
4. Combination of 2 & 3 (e.g., increase basic allowance by 6.06% and SRAs by 3.88%, or vice-versa)
5. Use the prevailing rate of CPI inflation (e.g., September 6.7%)
6. Use the prevailing rate of RPI inflation (e.g., September 8.9%)
7. A local approach for any local issues (based on panel member suggestions)

The chairman of the Panel reported that panel member Aileen Lucas had submitted her views by email and had supported option 2. Her second preference was Option 4.

Members of the Panel discussed the various options at length and agreed unanimously that Option 2 was the most appropriate, because they felt it more closely reflected the pay offer agreed for more senior employees (spinal column points 34-48) covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

It was therefore RESOLVED to recommend to Council that:

The 2024/25 Members' Allowances Scheme be the same as the 2023/24 Members' Allowances Scheme, save for a 3.88% increase in the Basic Allowance and the Special Responsibility Allowances.

Appendix B

Allowances with effect from 1 April 2023 - Agreed by Council 9 December 2022.

Responsibilities and allowances within bands 1-12 in the table below are 'Special Responsibility Allowances'.

Band	Responsibility	Allowance
-	Basic Allowance	£11,703.19 <u>£12,157.27</u>
1	Leader of the Council	£37,079.21 <u>£38,514.77</u>
2	Deputy Leader of the Council	£24,333.19 <u>£25,277.32</u>
3	Members of the Executive	£20,857.01 <u>£21,666.26</u>
4	Chairman of the County Council	£14,043.74 <u>£14,588.64</u>
	Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	
	Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire	
	Chairman of the Audit Committee	
	Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board	
	Chairman of the Pensions Committee	
5	Chief Whip	£11,114.40 <u>£11,545.64</u>
6	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£10,532.85 <u>£10,941.52</u>
	Leader of the Opposition	
7	Executive Support Councillor	£9,269.87 <u>£9,629.54</u>
	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Panels	
8	Minority Group Leaders	£5,793.71 <u>£6,018.50</u>
9	Vice-Chairman of the County Council	£4,681.33 <u>£4,862.97</u>
	Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	
	Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire	
	Vice-Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board	
	Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee	
	Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee	
	Chairman of the Councillor Development Group	
	Vice-Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee	
Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Committee		
10	Vice-Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees	£3,511.01 <u>£3,647.24</u>
11	Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Panels	£3,089.96 <u>£3,209.85</u>
12	Vice-Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee	£1,170.34 <u>£1,215.75</u>
	Member of the Shadow Executive	
-	Childcare and dependents' carers' allowance	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Living Wage plus £1.00
-	The Monitoring Officer has discretion to increase the rate in particular cases of need.	
-	Co-opted Member	£869.12 <u>£902.84</u>

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