Report of the *Executive Director – Place, Lincolnshire County Council*

Meeting*: 1 July 2022*

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE

JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Greater Lincolnshire Vision 2050

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1. **OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

The report provides an update on progress for the development of the Greater Lincolnshire 2050 Vision. It sets out the initial findings from research and a workshop that was held on 30 May 2022 with a wide range of stakeholders. The report sets out the next steps to deliver the vision and supporting documents.

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2. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 Local authorities across greater Lincolnshire have a shared ambition to act together at the right level to deliver a better future for Lincolnshire; levelling up skills, infrastructure and sectors globally, nationally and locally to spread opportunity, boost living standard and restore local pride. The authorities are developing opportunities and a compelling case to government and the private sector that seeks to secure investment into greater Lincolnshire. This is supported by our 10 big asks for devolution in greater Lincolnshire which place a focus on our future needs in terms of skills and infrastructure.

2.2 Ambitions in greater Lincolnshire go beyond what can be obtained through devolution and in January 2022 Leaders from the ten local authorities commissioned Inner Circle to develop a vision, supporting narrative and evidence-based assessment to deliver a better future for the communities, visitors, and businesses of greater Lincolnshire.

2.3 The development of a 2050 vision considers the economy of greater Lincolnshire from a global, national, regional, and local level to understand how we perform and are perceived both internally and externally. In considers our people and places – skills and aspirations, population trends and the uniqueness, opportunities and challenges of our towns and city. It is recognised that there is not a single solution for Lincolnshire due to its diversity, and the

vision document will help to protect and promote the potential of each locality, including recognising our cultural diversity and values.

2.4   The analysis has seen a detailed review of data through the use of the social progress index. This enables an appraisal of greater Lincolnshire against the rest of the United Kingdom through a range of measures. This highlighted a series of needs, strengths, and opportunities.

2.5   Challenges exist in relation to people, health, and wellbeing. The population in greater Lincolnshire has grown 30% faster than the rest of the UK since 2020, but towns like Skegness, Grimsby and Mablethorpe are seeing population decline. Population density remains low at 155 people per km² compared to a national average of 434 people per km². This sparsity is compounded by infrastructure challenges across the area which can make accessing services challenging. Greater Lincolnshire sees a mixed picture for health with variations in life expectancy levels, with Lincoln seeing life expectancy of 2.2 years lower than the national average due to cardiovascular disease and cancer. In terms of educational attainment, greater Lincolnshire sees a lower-than-average proportion of 16–17-year-olds not in education, employment, or training. 50.7% of the population hold NVQ3 and above qualifications. This compares to an average of 55.9% for the East Midlands and 61.5% nationally.

2.6   The greater Lincolnshire economy contributes £16bn to the national economy, supplying 70% of the seafood consumed in the UK and employing 75k employees in the farm to factory gate supply chain. Grimsby and Immingham are the busiest ports in the UK by tonnage and the green economy employs over 12k people, with an economic value of £1.2bn. The economy is dependent on agriculture, engineering, manufacturing, and tourism. Whilst earnings in Lincolnshire are low, they are growing at a higher rate than the rest of the country, with earnings growing by 17.6% since 2017 compared to 10.9% in the East Midlands and 11.01% in Great Britain.

2.7   The analysis shows that greater Lincolnshire has a significant role in energy production and will be home to the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2050. Greater Lincolnshire is home to the largest offshore wind operations and maintenance cluster in the world and is at the forefront of energy production, hydrogen innovation and the decarbonisation of heavy industry. Greater Lincolnshire is also seeing growth within the digital sector, which is currently worth £992 million, covering a significant manufacturing base, including food production and advanced manufacturing. Over 16k residents are employed in a digital role, increasing by 17% in just three years.

2.8   The 2050 vision will consider how greater Lincolnshire can grow between now and 2050 so we improve the lives of our residents and businesses. It will support ambitions to level up life chances by investing in those communities that need it, so everyone has access to the best that greater Lincolnshire can offer. This includes reflecting on infrastructure asks and needs, key enablers,

and critical events, and how our devolution asks both support and accelerate the delivery of improved outcomes. The 2050 vision will detail greater Lincolnshire's potential in 2050 in areas such as economy, culture, housing, leisure, visitor economy, health, and ambitions to become net-zero.

3.   Stakeholder Workshop

3.1   A collaborative approach has been taken to developing the 2050 vision. At the request of the local authority Leaders, Inner Circle brought together a wide range of representatives to a workshop that was held on 30 May 2022. This enabled different perspectives to be shared and broad support be reached for what greater Lincolnshire should look like in the future.

3.2   The workshop saw senior representatives from all local authorities within greater Lincolnshire working with wider public sector partners including health and police colleagues, business leaders from across the area, and representatives from all parts of the SME economy. Those working in social enterprises and within the voluntary and community sector were also in attendance, along with representatives from all parts of the education system.

3.3   Initial analysis of the workshops has now been completed with several themes being identified. These include a focus on our economy and innovative spirit, and how we make the most of our economic assets (e.g. fish, food, wind, waves etc), along with embracing emerging sectors where greater Lincolnshire already has a competitive advantage. The quality of life afforded to the residents and visitors of greater Lincolnshire also saw a focus, with a particular emphasis on ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is in place to support residents to live well whilst retaining the unique charm of greater Lincolnshire by protecting our heritage and appropriately managing the impacts of climate change.

3.4   Those attending the workshops wanted to see infrastructure and connectivity change from a barrier to an opportunity and strength, recognising the benefits that this would bring to both professional and social lives. Participants wanted to embrace technology driven innovation across key sectors, creating opportunities in clean energy production and carbon management, as well as enhancing the areas standing as a centre of excellence for food and fishing. Participants wanted to address the forecasted skills gaps through retraining opportunities, enabling residents to access fulfilling and well-paid work. There was also an ambition to collectively tackle areas such as health deprivation and fuel poverty.

4.   Next steps

4.1   The output of the Vision 2050 initiative will see the production of a vision statement that key stakeholders support and collectively work towards. It is

intended to be an inspirational statement, that represents the uniqueness of greater Lincolnshire and enables the reader to understand what we offer and where we are going. The document will set out the aspects of greater Lincolnshire that we will seek to preserve, such as the natural environment, entrepreneurial spirit and abundance of SME's, as well as key industries such as defence, agri-tech, green energy and logistics.

4.2   A visually engaging publication will be developed that sets out our missions and priorities against a series of themes. Each of these will be underpinned by data to sell greater Lincolnshire as an area to do business and where government should invest, as well as highlighting the changes that the area will need to see between now and 2050 to be successful. It will highlight areas where greater Lincolnshire should place a greater focus, accelerating things that it already does well or capitalising on opportunities. Areas could include enhancing infrastructure and digital connectivity, supporting tourism, developing the skills for our future economy, and building stronger relationships between different sectors in support of changes such as the integrated care system and crisis response activities.

3.   **RESOURCE AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1   There are no resource implications associated with this paper. Any subsequent requirement for resources will be subject to a further paper seeking authorisation to this Committee.

4.   **RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT IF RELEVANT)**

4.1   There are no known risk or equality issues associated with this paper.

5.   **CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT**

5.1   The consultation and engagement activities are set out within the report.

6.   **GOVERNANCE – DECISION(S) FOR MEMBER COUNCIL'S REQUIRED
(in accordance with the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference).**

6.1   None.

7.   **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1   That the Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Oversight Committee support the on-going development of the 2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire and note the progress made to date.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – *Nil*

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