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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

17 November 2022

Chairman: Councillor D Robinson

Venue: Room F36, Church
Square House,
Scunthorpe

Time: 1.00 pm

E-Mail Address:
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AGENDA

1. Substitutions.
2. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests and declarations of whipping arrangements (if any).
3. To take the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2022, and the special meeting held on 28 September 2022 as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign. (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Public speaking requests, if any.
5. A Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire (Pages 7 - 36)
6. Added item, if any.
7. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent by reason of special circumstances that must be specified.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

5 May 2022

PRESENT: - Councillor D Robinson (Chairman)

Councillors T Gosling (Vice-Chair) and K Vickers

The meeting was held at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

100 **SUBSTITUTIONS** - Councillor K Vickers substituted for Councillor H Rowson.

101 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS OF WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS (IF ANY)** - There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests.

No whip was declared.

102 **TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2022 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN - Resolved** - That the minutes of the meeting of this panel held on 22 February 2022, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairman.

103 **PUBLIC SPEAKING REQUESTS, IF ANY** - There were no public speaking requests.

104 **ADDED ITEM SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR YEADON - PROCEEDS OF PROPERTY SOLD IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020 TO 2021 – AN EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES AND CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO SELLING** - The Chairman informed the meeting that Councillor Yeadon had, in accordance with the council's Procedure Rules, submitted an added item on the 'proceeds of property sold in the financial year 2020 to 2021. The added item request also sought an explanation of the procedures followed by the council and its considerations prior to selling the property.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Yeadon to the meeting and invited her to outline the reasons why the added item was submitted.

The Chairman then welcomed Becky McIntyre and Nina Torr to the meeting, the council's Director: Governance and Communities and Assistant Director: Resources and Performance respectively.

Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Torr guided the Panel through a presentation which provided clarity on the key property financial transactions that occurred during the financial year 2020 to 2021, as well as the processes and procedures that the council followed when selling one of its assets.

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5 May 2022

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited Councillor Yeadon to respond to the points made by the Director and Assistant Director.

The Chairman then invited other panel members to question the council officers.

Resolved – (a) That Councillor Yeadon, Director: Governance and Communities and the Assistant Director: Resources and Performance be thanked for their attendance and contribution at the meeting, and (b) that the Director: Economy and Environment and Assistant Director: Place be invited to a future meeting to discuss with members the considerations that were made when deciding whether to dispose of an asset and what monitoring was undertaken following the completion of the sale.

- 105 **COUNCIL PLAN 2022-25** - The Chairman welcomed Becky McIntyre, the council's Director: Governance and Communities and James O'Shaughnessy, the council's Head of Strategy and Insight to the meeting. Mrs McIntyre and Mr O'Shaughnessy had been invited to the meeting to discuss with members the steps taken to produce the draft Council Plan for 2022-2025.

Members heard that the Council Plan was the key corporate document which outlined the priorities for the Council and the place of North Lincolnshire over the next three years. The Council was currently working to a Council Plan covering the period 2018-2021. It was reviewed in 2020, however, to ensure that strategic activity remained focused on priority areas and potential opportunities, a new Council Plan spanning the period 2022-2025 was proposed.

The draft Plan presented the vision for North Lincolnshire. It identified future priorities and desired outcomes which were based on evidence collated from assessments of the international, national, regional and local contexts which the Council operated within, residents' feedback, and key macro and locally based data related to economic, environment, deprivation and health matters.

Much of the evidence base was contained in the recently completed North Lincolnshire Profile 2022

To determine the priorities for the new Plan an assessment had been made of the on-going relevance of the priorities and desired outcomes detailed in its predecessor.

The outcomes were:

- People in North Lincolnshire feel SAFE
- People in North Lincolnshire were WELL
- North Lincolnshire was more PROSPEROUS
- North Lincolnshire was better CONNECTED

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With the priorities for North Lincolnshire set out as:

- Keeping people safe and well
- Enabling resilient and flourishing communities
- Enabling economic growth and renewal

Members were informed that it was proposed that a fourth priority be publicly declared, which described how the Council would work to deliver against its intentions:

- Providing value for money for local taxpayers.

Within each priority, a number of areas of focus had been identified. These were designed to help focus Council activity on matters of particular significance and to take positive action over the lifespan of the new Plan. Members were comprehensively guided through the areas of focus, before the Chairman facilitated a discussion between the Panel and the Director and Head of Service.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted; (b) that the draft Council Plan 2022-2025 be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18th May 2022, with the recommendation that it be adopted as a policy framework document, and (c) that the Director: Governance and Communities and Head of Strategy and Insight be thanked for their attendance, verbal presentation and for answering members' questions.

- 106 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED -**
There were no urgent items for consideration at the meeting.

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

28 September 2022

PRESENT: - Cllr D Robinson (Chairman)

Cllr H Rowson and Cllr L Foster

Cllr E Marper, Cllr S Swift and Cllr L Yeadon

The meeting was held at the Room F01e, Conference Room, Church Square House.

107 **SUBSTITUTIONS.**

Cllr L Foster substituted for Cllr Gosling

108 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS OF WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS (IF ANY).**

Cllr L Foster declared a personal interest as a member of Ashby Decoy Golf Club.

109 **PUBLIC SPEAKING REQUESTS, IF ANY.**

There were no public speaking requests.

110 **ITEM REQUESTED FOR CALL-IN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 22 OF PART D RULE 5 (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES) OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cllr Swift and Cllr Yeadon to introduce their reasons for calling in the decision.

Cllr Marper, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Veterans, responded to questions, explaining the rationale for the decision and describing the agreed methodology for agreeing National Non-Domestic Rate Discretionary Relief Applications. Officers responded to technical questions about the council's policy and its implementation.

Resolved – (a) That no further action be taken and the decision be implemented with immediate effect, and (b) that the issue of National Non-Domestic Rates be included as a future work programme item for the Governance Scrutiny Panel.

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28 September 2022

- 111 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED.**

There were no other urgent items for discussion at the meeting.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire

Growth | Energy | Food



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These draft proposals provide a framework for discussions with Government on a devolution deal and to level up Greater Lincolnshire. They are subject to the governance and approval processes of participating councils.

Throughout this document references to Greater Lincolnshire include the County and Districts of Lincolnshire and the unitary areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire

Growth | Energy | Food

Greater Lincolnshire is ready for growth and devolution. We have:

- A long-term vision for Greater Lincolnshire to benefit residents
- Strategies for growth and economic recovery that build on our strengths
- Devolution plans to boost growth, create high skill high wage jobs and increase opportunity
- Broad local support and backing from local business.

Our ambition through devolution is to act together at the right level to deliver the skills, infrastructure and investment that will boost growth, spread opportunity and raise living standards.

We will join up decisions taken across different government departments, agencies and local councils to target them to local need to level up across Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.

Through the maximum level of devolution, we will deliver on our ambitious strategies for growth across the key sectors of our economic geography that will lead to more high wage, high skills jobs. We will improve learning, training and pathways into those jobs to raise living standards and level up for local residents.

The key sectors of our economic geography are of strategic importance to the UK. Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire will support wider UK objectives for growth in:

Energy: Greater Lincolnshire is at the heart of the UK's offshore renewable energy generation and the decarbonization of industry. We are pivotable to the nation becoming a net energy exporter by 2040 and achieving net zero. We will provide more of the UK's energy needs through projects including Hornsea 2-4 and the Race Bank Extension which will double the size of Grimsby's largest offshore wind farm and will achieve a level that will meet the equivalent of London's peak demand.

Food: Greater Lincolnshire feeds the nation supplying 70% of seafood consumed in the UK and 30% of the nation's vegetables. As the UK seeks to grow a prosperous sector that ensures a secure food supply in an unpredictable world, we will deliver a world leading food cluster with the potential to add 50% GVA by 2030 equalling around £2 billion. With its focus on new food chain automation and digital technology, innovation within the food valley supports the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

Ports & Logistics: Underpinning our plans for energy and food, we will grow our port and logistic capabilities including the Humber Freeport that will boost the region's wider economy to the tune of £3.5bn in initial investment and 7000 jobs.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Delivering energy security for the UK



The low carbon economy and energy production across Lincolnshire are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Delivering energy security

Why Greater Lincolnshire: We are fundamentally connected with at least 25% of the UK's energy production and Greater Lincolnshire is at the forefront of the UK's Green Industrial Revolution, creating profitable opportunities for low carbon energy and industrial businesses aligned with ambitious national sustainability and energy export goals:

- The low carbon economy and green energy production across Greater Lincolnshire are already worth £1.2bn per annum to the economy, employing over 12,000 people.
- Grimsby is home to the largest offshore wind operations and maintenance cluster in the world, serving the largest windfarms in the world, delivering green energy and offering opportunity to retrain into new high skill high wage jobs.
- Scunthorpe has strategically important steel, engineering and industrial expertise to support green energy and manufacturing opportunities whilst maximising steel and logistics opportunities in the town.
- Ground-breaking projects for industrial decarbonisation, green jet fuel, carbon capture and hydrogen offer global leadership, could protect jobs in steel, chemicals and manufacturing across Greater Lincolnshire and inspire the move to net zero across the UK.

Our Ambition: We will deliver growth in offshore wind as well as global leading projects for carbon capture, green jet fuel and hydrogen that significantly contribute to the UK's green targets, protect jobs in heavy industry across Greater Lincolnshire and create future high skilled high wage jobs.

Major projects to deliver growth include:

- Proposals such as Hornsea 2, 3 and 4 and the Race Bank Extension, which would double the size of Grimsby's largest off-shore wind farm and could create high skilled jobs responsible for well over a third of the 30GW envisaged for the UK by 2030.
- Developments such as the Humber Zero Carbon Capture Project and the Killingholme Marshes Drainage Scheme that will significantly increase demand for skilled engineers to support construction, manufacturing and maintenance, requiring employers to up-skill their existing workforce to meet evolving industry training standards.
- The Humber freeport has the potential to become the largest of the UK freeports and a powerful driver of economic growth in local manufacturing firms and logistics. Unlocking investment in infrastructure is critical to its success and clean growth in net zero industries to create high skilled jobs that level up Greater Lincolnshire.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Delivering food security for the UK



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Through the National Centre for Food Manufacturing, the Agri-Food Centre of Excellence and work of academic partners Lincolnshire leads the UK, driving the application of new technologies and increased productivity in this sector.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Delivering food security

Why Greater Lincolnshire: We are home to the UK Food Valley. We have an international reputation for food, seafood, and farming and one of the largest concentrations of food manufacturing, seafood processing, research, storage and distribution areas in Europe:

- Greater Lincolnshire supplies 70% of seafood consumed in the UK, 30% of the nation's vegetables, 18% of poultry, with a total agricultural output of over £2bn in 2019.
- The seafood processing and trading cluster consists of approximately 70 businesses employing 5,500 people, with the immediate supply-chain employing over 10,000 people. The cluster is the largest in Europe and is worth over £1.5 billion to the economy.
- Greater Lincolnshire is home to a major food logistics cluster supporting the area's seafood processing, agriculture and food manufacturing industries.
- The agri-food chain provides 24% of jobs throughout Greater Lincolnshire rising to 40% in South Holland; with 75,000 employees in the farm to factory gate supply chain.
- We lead the UK, developing the skills needed to transform the agri-food sector. Through the National Centre for Food Manufacturing, the Agri-Food Centre of Excellence and the work of our academic partners we are driving the application of new technologies and increased productivity in this sector.

Our ambition: the UK Food Valley will be a top 10 global cluster by 2030 delivering more high skill, high wage jobs and making the food chain a career of choice for aspirational young people through innovation including.

- Greater Lincolnshire is home to Europe's largest Agri-food Tech automation and robotics cluster, attracting businesses which are investing heavily in automation.

Recognised by the Department for International 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.

- Leading national efforts to reduce carbon emissions from food production and manufacturing. This will 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.
- A proposal for a Centre for Food Logistics based around the Boston port, providing training in logistics, and allowing agrifood firms across the UK Food Valley to import inputs close to home and reduce costs.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Our economic geography



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Ground-breaking projects for industrial decarbonisation, green jet fuel, carbon capture and hydrogen could protect jobs in steel, chemicals and manufacturing across Lincolnshire and inspire the move to net zero across the UK.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Our economic geography

Greater Lincolnshire stretches from the Humber to the Wash and is home to 1.1m people. 60% of residents live in our many market towns, seaside settlements and historic city. We have top-rated education and are also leaders in ports, logistics, defence, manufacturing and engineering.

Greater Lincolnshire is the UK gateway to Europe for the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse. The Ports of Grimsby and Immingham handled over 59m tonnes of cargo in 2021, making them the busiest in the UK with around 16% of the nation's trade by tonnage. As the only coastal part of the Midlands, the ports of Boston, Gainsborough and waterways to Wisbech have regional significance. Tourism is also a significant part of our local economy.

Whilst we are making huge strides in many areas, Greater Lincolnshire's economy is growing at a slower rate than both the East Midlands and the UK and productivity is below the national average.

The City of Lincoln and towns like Scunthorpe, Gainsborough, Grimsby and Grantham are ready for levelling up. Pockets of different needs exist and the county meets the criteria for the highest levels of funding given out in other countries across Europe.

We have challenges around skills and employment including just 29% of residents qualifying to NVQ4+ compared to 40% nationally which impact upon the region's productivity levels and create issues of social and health inequality. Towns like Skegness, Grimsby, and Mablethorpe are among the 10% most deprived in the country and are also experiencing population decline.

Our economic geography is made up of the five distinct sub areas of; South Humber Bank, Greater Lincoln, Southern Lincolnshire, Coastal Lincolnshire and Rural Heartlands.

They share four challenges of place common across Greater Lincolnshire:

- **Water management:** Managing water as an asset, to mitigate the threat of coastal erosion and flooding across a low land area and meet our unique demands for water that support growth in agriculture and innovations in manufacturing and carbon capture.
- **Ageing population:** Our population is ageing above the national average which will lead to a disproportionate demand for care and health services and a reduced labour market. We need to attract and retain younger workers and residents to maintain a viable workforce and to enable future economic growth.
- **Costs of rurality:** Our geography includes the 4th most sparsely and largest populated county in England covering an area of 5,921 sq. km. We need to improve connectivity and access not just through road, but also rail, digital and energy distribution infrastructure.
- **Raising growth, productivity and wages:** Levelling up our local economic geography to tackle issues of social and health inequality.

Three economic issues are also common across the five sub-areas:

- a need to better align skills, employment, and career opportunities to meet economic opportunity
- low business productivity affecting investment and earning potential which can be addressed by raising skills levels
- and the pockets of significant unemployment and economic inactivity.

The sub areas of our economic geography and challenges that we will tackle through devolution can be categorised as:

South Humber Bank

- Northern Lincolnshire with a large dominance of manufacturing, particularly relating to metals, petrochemicals and food clusters.
- Variation in deprivation, but a number of areas are in the top 10% of most deprived areas nationally, particularly in Grimsby and Scunthorpe.
- When measuring by the Employment and Education IMD Domain, Grimsby has the number 1 most deprived area in the UK, and 3 in the top 10 most deprived areas, with 28% of the population of North East Lincolnshire in the most 10% deprived areas in terms of income deprivation.
- Long term unemployment is a particular challenge, with much higher than average % of job seeker claimants claiming for over 12 months.

Greater Lincoln

- Predominant industries are manufacturing, utilities, public sector and health and care.
- Lincoln contains larger businesses than our average, with 15% of businesses employing 10+ people compared to 11% across Greater Lincolnshire.
- Increasing employment levels from 2015-19 in Lincoln, but falling in Gainsborough and in the surrounding areas
- Lincoln has a higher-than-average cohort of 20-34 year olds (28% compared to 19% nationally), largely due to the university presence in the city, with students making up around 15% of the total population of the city.

Southern Lincolnshire

- Food sector and logistics accounts for a significant proportion of employment. Process, plan and machine operatives are high in the proportion of employment around South Holland and Boston; there are more professional and technical occupations in South Kesteven.
- Generally low absolute deprivation but pockets, particularly around Boston and Grantham. High level of education deprivation in Boston, low level in South Kesteven and South Holland.
- GVA per hour worked (productivity) is around 74% of the national average, some of the lowest productivity levels in UK.

- High commuting particularly from South Kesteven with resident earnings notably higher than workforce earnings, and significant low wage challenge in Boston where 40% are paid below Real Living Wage (twice the national average)

Coastal Lincolnshire

- High proportion of workforce employed in accommodation and food services
- Low levels of participation in labour market; employment rates can dip down to 65% in winter due to seasonality
- Productivity levels significantly below local and national averages, around 74% of national average.
- 30% of population is aged over 65.
- Employment and education deprivation is high and getting worse relative to national figures.

Rural Heartland

- Slow and low growth, low social mobility relative to other areas in GL
- High proportion of employment in SMEs, and low business churn rates.
- Deprivation levels relatively low, except in rural parts of Boston borough
- Low levels of productivity and productivity growth is slow.



Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Our plan for devolution



A tech company in the UK Food Valley have developed autonomous robots to perform tasks such as UV-C light treatment, picking fruits and vegetables, spraying and data collection/crop prediction. Reducing costs and labour market challenges in the fruit sector

Our plan for devolution

Our plan for devolution consists of three approaches:

- 1. Full devolution** devolving budgets and responsibility for delivery to meet local need.
- 2. Co-commissioning** customised services to meet local need. Sharing responsibility with Government and its agencies.
- 3. Piloting innovation** freedoms and funding to develop new approaches to meet our local challenges.

Our asks include the full range of powers, services and budgets set out in the Government's Framework for Devolution in the Levelling Up White Paper. We are also seeking an investment fund, sometimes referred to as gainshare or earn back to provide flexibility to target money to specific schemes that support growth.

Nearly threequarters of businesses talking to us about devolution told us that new and innovative approaches are required to address their needs. Therefore our asks also include powers beyond those listed in the White Paper which are needed to address the unique needs and opportunities for growth and levelling up Greater Lincolnshire.

Devolution of these powers will provide the Government with an opportunity to enhance the devolution framework to reflect new and innovative asks such as the ones we are proposing for Greater Lincolnshire.

Our plan for devolution supports levelling up across Greater Lincolnshire with a focus on:

- Place – local decisions and investment in infrastructure unlock growth in our county, particularly in key sectors that create high wage, high skills jobs that boost living standards. Long term strategic planning and social investment enable sustainable growth and level up our left behind neighbourhoods, market and industrial towns and city for residents as thriving, attractive communities that they are proud of and competitive destinations for visitors.
- People – skills, training and employment opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire are tailored to spread opportunity and access to high wage, high skills that can boost living standards; and address labour shortages across our key industrial sectors.

The UK's exit from the EU provides an opportunity to take back control of regeneration funding, streamline bidding processes and through local leadership target investment at Greater Lincolnshire's economic priorities.

Devolved responsibility for appropriate regeneration and new funding streams such as the Shared Prosperity Fund would enable this to be targeted at skills, infrastructure and improvements important not only for growth in our key sectors but also for improving the quality of life in our left behind neighbourhoods, market and industrial towns, and city that restore local pride.

Infrastructure

Greater Lincolnshire has a strong case for investment, supported by the local industrial strategy evidence base, local plans and emerging local transport plans. This solid foundation is already reaping rewards with a multitude of projects underway across the area.

However, there is an opportunity to go further and faster to boost growth and address levelling up challenges within Greater Lincolnshire and the wider economy.

In order for Greater Lincolnshire to realise its potential significant investment in infrastructure is required to tackle areas of inequality. These include focusing on enhancing digital connectivity, enabling access to work and addressing the causes of market failures in housing delivery and high-speed broadband roll out.



strategic and long-term investment to meet growth needs

The Ports & Logistics sector employs around 18,000 people, is worth £700 million to the Greater Lincolnshire economy and accounts for over 25% of UK rail freight. But rail capacity is a constraint on future growth and our economic area is held back by poor connectivity with a reliance on congested and rural roads for logistics, tourism and access to amenities – all maintained through much reduced road maintenance funding.

With coastal and low-lying regions, water management is a crucial aspect of climate resilience, and Greater Lincolnshire has plans to become a rural innovation testbed for energy and water management. Greater Lincolnshire will therefore be at the forefront of the UK’s climate strategies.

We plan to use the devolution of infrastructure powers to create investments in infrastructure which level up opportunity for all, specifically:

- a planned approach to strategic and long-term investment for transport and utility purposes that provides confidence for investment and relocation.
- investment in green growth and our environment.
- investment in infrastructure which enhances the quality of communities and accessibility of homes for all.

We have five key infrastructure themes for devolution and levelling up Greater Lincolnshire:

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

To level up Greater Lincolnshire we intend to prioritise investment in infrastructure that boosts the strategic opportunities identified in the Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Plan for Growth, and support local growth sectors that create high skill high wage jobs.

Midlands Connect has identified the Trans Midlands Trade Corridor and the A1 as priorities. East to West movements particularly by rail are recognised as vital for growing ports and linking the Humber and East Midlands Free ports. We have a pipeline of infrastructure projects to invest in which will accelerate growth.

Our asks:

- A multi – year transport infrastructure settlement to be devolved to local leaders to support deliver of joint local transport plan which covers road, rail, freight, public transport, and active travel
- A joint digital strategy supported by DCMS and BEIS that drives digital innovation and commercial investment, underpinned by digital infrastructure including 5G roll out and local commissioning of funding for broadband connectivity, full fibre to premise and accelerated delivery of the rural gigabit scheme.

2. Modern Transport which offers a mix of solutions that connects people to learning, business opportunity, jobs, and services

Unlike urban areas Greater Lincolnshire is a large geography with limited public transport networks. This reduces opportunity to travel to work and learning environments, contributing 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 build back better passenger transport services and maximise the network to break the link between poor transport connectivity and the skills gap. We recognise the vital role of rail especially for freight and tourism and have plans to build back patronage and grow beyond pre pandemic levels.

Many parts of our geography are low lying and well suited to active travel and there are also significant opportunities to grow the Green Visitor Economy. A number of high calibre cycling routes have been identified across Greater Lincolnshire which would enhance the offer for visitors and residents - connecting up important destinations. We seek the support of government departments to further develop these concepts.

Our asks:

A transport for Greater Lincolnshire Strategy and agency that includes

- Devolution of all funding which promotes active travel for routes that support our growth sectors, access to jobs and education/training, and which boosts the green and visitor economy.
- Local Leadership for rail services to align to local need and priorities including a five-year investment plan and timetable for a minimum level of service provision for a five-year period.
- Devolution of funding and powers to deliver a Greater Lincolnshire Bus Service Improvement Plan, including flexibility in the application of Government regulation and funding for public transport in Greater Lincolnshire to better serve rural areas.
- Pilot e-bus programmes in four areas across Greater Lincolnshire.
- Local prioritisation and leadership of investment for transport and other infrastructure in our market and industrial towns through devolved responsibility for appropriate regeneration funding.

3. 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 innovation and the development of decarbonisation for heavy industry but we need to ensure that this is supported by infrastructure including the energy grid capacity and pipelines that are required for growth.

Greater Lincolnshire will be home to 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 and production.

We want our residents to be proud of our green credentials in everyday life and we intend to pilot innovation and an acceleration of the shift to zero emission vehicles, mass transit and decarbonising rail and maritime travel.

Our asks:

- Joint strategy for developing the unique infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire to enable carbon capture and storage innovation and other green growth
- Pilot the roll-out of the use of mixed dual fuel methane and hydrogen in the domestic heating network which has been tested in northern Lincolnshire.
- Pilot an investment model for SMEs that incentivises the switch to low or non-carbon energy models.

4. Managing our natural resources and protecting our communities from our natural environment

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 and the only AONB in the East Midlands covering the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Our diverse geography is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with high levels of risk from coastal flooding only increasing as sea levels rise. This also provides us with enormous opportunities to accelerate the drive towards nature recovery, to match the energy ambitions and attack both climate change and biodiversity loss.

We have one of the oldest Wildlife Trusts in England, a long-established and collaborative Local Nature Partnership with a long tradition of working co-operatively, and the location for two of the environmental land management scheme test pilots, providing us with a head start in the transition towards a successful nature recovery network

Our asks:

- Devolution of funding to deliver the strategic work streams of our Local Nature Partnership, to enable it to meet the challenge of implementing a single Local Nature recovery Network for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire

- Co-commissioning of Environmental Land Management Scheme planning/awards, to support faster expansion of the nature recovery network as an enabler for growth
- A Greater Lincolnshire Water Strategy to include water management plan, waste management, flood risk management priorities, and the ability to set local tax incentives for business to develop water resources and water efficiency management on their sites and contributing to flood relief schemes
- Piloting a Water Sustainability Agency to develop the Water Strategy, protect the country from food shortages caused by floods and droughts and co-commission flood prevention and water management programmes to support growth.

5. Infrastructure which enhances the quality of communities and accessibility of homes for all.

Levelling up cannot be delivered overnight and across Greater Lincolnshire we are committed to a long-term plan to level up our county and deliver green growth - as well as the short term actions to improve living standards now.

Delivering sustainable growth requires growth sites to get the right infrastructure at the right time and enabling housing delivery at pace that supports economic growth. There have been many ambitious and high-quality new developments across Greater Lincolnshire; however there is an opportunity to develop a spatial plan for our area.

Aligned with other policy and investment decisions the spatial plan would facilitate sustainable growth to meet the varying needs across Greater Lincolnshire, providing a framework for infrastructure at the right geographical scale to give effect to national priorities aimed at supporting sustainable growth and improving the overall wellbeing of the environment and communities.

Access to high-quality housing is important to improve the health outcomes and life chances of residents. Key to the spatial plan will be unlocking infrastructure barriers to new homes for our residents through local decision making for spatial planning and infrastructure.

We are proud of Greater Lincolnshire's heritage and connection to the armed forces and want to ensure that as the RAF estate is consolidated into Coningsby, Waddington and Cranwell the Government, MOD and regulators work with local leaders to ensure the timely release of strategically important sites for growth - such as RAF Scampton - with the infrastructure required for housing and business.

We also intend to level up our left behind neighbourhoods, market towns, urban centres and city for residents as thriving, attractive communities and competitive destinations for visitors.

Our asks:

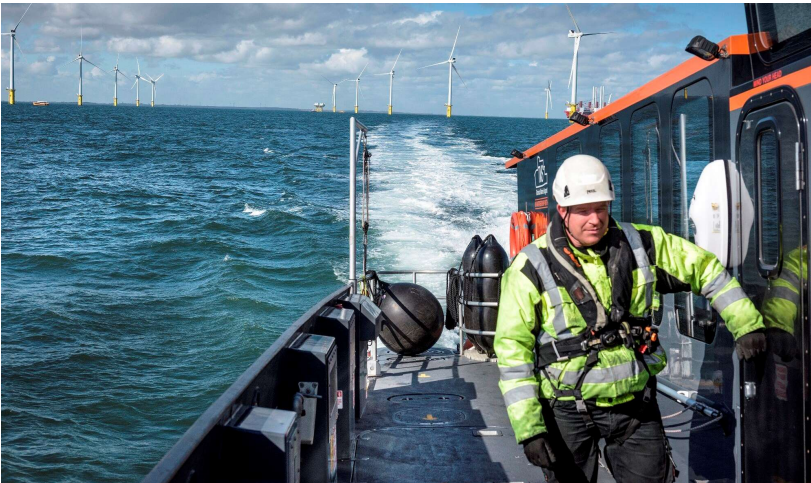
- A strategy for future growth and land use across Greater Lincolnshire aligned to national policy and our plans for infrastructure and economic growth.
- Co-commission an investment plan with BEIS, National Grid, and Northern Power Grid which underpins our strategy for growth.
- A joint board to co-commission the acquisition, disposal and investment strategies for public agency land in Greater Lincolnshire
- Devolved funding for infrastructure projects that unlock and bring forward sites which are hindered by viability problems, including co-commissioning an investment programme with Homes England that supports our strategy for housing growth.

- Ability to create and draw funding to develop specific Mayoral Development Corporations to unlock stuck sites.
- Devolve the delivery of electric charging in rural areas market towns and urban centres and charging for homes without driveways beyond the LEVI scheme
- A pilot approach to drive regeneration, improvement and consistency for the people that live in over 90,000 private rented sector homes across Greater Lincolnshire
- Devolution of appropriate regeneration funding to support a needs led strategy for regeneration which will help to level up communities and opportunities.

Skills and employment

Developing skills in Greater Lincolnshire is key to sharing opportunity and raising living standards. Greater Lincolnshire currently experiences low productivity, seasonal employment and low wages. There is spatial inequality, with pockets of deprivation and health inequality within the county. Many employees are paid below the real living wage.

Our leading sectors have the potential to create high skill high wage jobs that can level up Greater Lincolnshire. Our vision is to provide access to the right training that enables our residents to take up those jobs either straight out of education, through apprenticeships or by retraining and addressing labour shortages across our key industrial sectors.



Inspiring residents to take up new careers and exciting opportunities across Lincolnshire

We plan to use the devolution of Skills and Employment to create a whole system approach which levels up opportunity for all. This means:

- improving people’s career prospects and earnings potential
- raising business productivity
- increasing employment opportunities and economic activities

Our approach to skills will be employer led, promoting the introduction of T levels, Traineeships and Apprenticeships. Employers will be at the forefront of demand, creating a sustainable and commercial skills offer and aligning routes into work that attracts residents to opportunities in our growing sectors.

Our approach will complement the wider investments in the Lincolnshire Institute of Technology and our Universities as well as enabling collaboration with FE, sixth form colleges and private training providers to advance digital technology adoption and deliver productivity growth and high value jobs.

We have five key skills themes for devolution and levelling up Greater Lincolnshire:

6. Raising awareness, inspiration, and access to the support for our residents to train, retrain, and upskill for the job they want.

7. Growing skills capacity for the future

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

We want to change this deeply engrained culture by raising awareness of the wide range of new industries, offering exciting opportunities but requiring different skills which many of our residents don't know; promoting employment opportunities to increase the number of graduates; and encourage them to gain employment locally and to stay in our region.

We want more adults to participate in learning and progress into and through employment raising the qualification levels of the workforce, reversing the decline and gap with national performance levels and support the existing workforce to access high skill high wage jobs that raise living standards.

Our asks:

- Devolved funds to provide a high quality and uniform approach to careers advice for all ages, devolved to the county combined authority to procure and manage.
- Power to flex, innovate and adapt the loans, allowances and funding rules to encourage more adults to train
- Fully devolved Adult Education Budget) with a funded 2-year transition period.
- A pilot programme to improve the private and public sector skills infrastructure in greater Lincolnshire-
- To pilot the roll out of higher-level qualifications, working with the area's further education colleges on their practical implementation, in the area's priority economic sectors
- Devolution of a long term budget for Skills Bootcamps to quickly raise skills levels in those occupations which have hard to fill vacancies in critical roles

8. Driving innovation, enterprise and adoption of new technologies

We want to keep up our momentum of advancement in renewables, robotics, digital logistics, seafood processing and food technologies 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 people to progress into higher education and more businesses to take up the opportunities of working closely with a University. We will promote and build on the Graduates into SMEs schemes further reinforcing the links between higher education and knowledge transfer whilst also addressing cost and return within smaller business enterprises.



We want more businesses across Lincolnshire to access innovation programmes that can unleash creative innovation in our key sectors.

Innovation and growth in our fish, seafood and vegetable businesses can offer wider benefits for the national health, but small Lincolnshire businesses can find bidding for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) competitions restrictive and a constraint on innovation in fast moving industries.

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

Our asks:

- Piloting a programme which takes SMEs to a pre-innovation stage which will enable them to adopt innovations more readily. This pilot programme will create a pathway of SMEs who are well-prepared for UKRI support. It will allow for analysis of how to tackle the barriers that hinder the take-up of innovation and analysis of the best ways that innovation can support Levelling Up.
- Co-commissioning of UKRI and Innovate UK programmes to drive business innovation across Greater Lincolnshire based on our sectoral strengths and how increases in business innovation can support wider UK growth.
- Pilot three Innovation Acceleration Zones which focus on improving the quality of supply of innovation support to our priority sectors of targeting Food technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Energy.

9. Enabling a greater volume and diversity of work-based recruitment and training pathways into well-paid and higher skilled employment

10. Creating a ‘whole system’ approach to getting more people into better paid work

Developing access to academic skills training will not suit everyone and in some cases will not meet the needs of employers.

Apprenticeships can provide an alternative pathway into high skill high wage jobs and exciting careers in our key sectors, but apprenticeship starts have declined across the whole country over the last 5 years.

We want to provide an apprenticeship place for everyone in Greater Lincolnshire that wants one but we need flexibility within the funding of apprenticeships to boost participation. We also intend to pilot new occupational traineeships to increase young people progressing onto apprenticeships and employment.

As well as apprenticeships we want to provide more support for T Level work placements through our employer partnerships and provider networks so that every young person studying can gain a guaranteed local placement.

We believe there should be an obligation on all nationally commissioned DWP providers to consult and work jointly with local authorities. We want greater flexibility to wrap the support necessary across public services for people to take steps towards the workplace and the attractive jobs offered by growth in Greater Lincolnshire.

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.

Everyone, irrespective of their background, should be able to achieve their full potential. Greater Lincolnshire is a diverse area where social mobility from some of the most socially mobile to some of the least. 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.

Our asks:

- A pilot to build a Greater Lincolnshire Skills Investment Revenue Fund and develop bespoke apprenticeship arrangements for Greater Lincolnshire including a portal for apprenticeship requests
- Power to deploy a top sliced element of the IFATE (Institute for Apprenticeship & Technical Education) funds to build face to face capacity to support our small businesses at a local level to access the people and training services they need.
- Devolved funds for programmes led by DWP, DfE, and other government department sponsored training provision to a local level so that they can be commissioned and managed co-terminus to our economic geography and are targeted on local need.
- Power to establish a duty on all relevant public bodies to support employment and training provision for those leaving care.



Growing the number of apprenticeship opportunities in our key growth industries to create pathways into high wage jobs.

10 big asks for devolution for Greater Lincolnshire

1. Infrastructure which supports the movement of people, goods, and ideas
2. Modern Transport which offers a mix of solutions that connects people to learning, business opportunity, jobs, and services
3. Investing to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs
4. Managing our natural resources and protecting our communities from our natural environment
5. Infrastructure which enhances the quality of communities and accessibility of homes for all.
6. Raising awareness, inspiration, and access to the support for our residents to train, retrain, and upskill for the job they want.
7. Growing skills capacity for the future
8. Driving innovation, enterprise and adoption of new technologies
9. Enabling a greater volume and diversity of work-based recruitment and training pathways into well-paid and higher skilled employment
10. Creating a 'whole system' approach to getting more people into better paid work

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Levelling up



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Lincolnshire's Ports & Logistics sector employs around 18,000 people: £700 million economic value to the Lincolnshire economy and accounts for over 25% of UK rail freight. Investing businesses have direct access to leading edge, multidisciplinary logistics, supply chain and automation technologies.

Devolution Greater Lincolnshire: Levelling up

Our plans for growth and devolution also deliver for our residents. They will level up Greater Lincolnshire and compliment the Government's 12 missions for levelling up:

Mission 1 – living standards

By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, and the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Our overarching ambition is to raise living standards by boosting growth, creating high wage, high skills jobs and offering skills and opportunity to access those jobs. Our devolution asks are critical to the success of this aspiration.

Mission 2 – research and development

Domestic public investment in research and development outside the greater southeast will increase by at least 40 per cent and at least one third over the spending review period and additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term.

We want to keep up our momentum of advancement in renewables, robotics, digital logistics, seafood processing and food technologies that increase productivity and contribute to the UK's ambition to become a science superpower.

Our devolution proposals include a number of asks that aim to lever funding to further accelerate innovation, research and technology across Greater Lincolnshire.

Mission 3 - transport infrastructure

Local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London.

Our plans will help residents to access new high skill high wage jobs through improved transport and infrastructure in a way that helps protect the planet.

Growth in our key sectors – to create high skill high wage jobs – is dependent upon improved capacity in our roads and rails. Devolved powers and budgets would enable us to deliver the right infrastructure for growth in Greater Lincolnshire at the right time.

Mission 4 – digital connectivity

By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.

Some parts of our area have excellent connectivity, but for the majority of our towns and villages broadband and mobile coverage urgently needs to be levelled up.

Our plans seek to address market failure to provide the connectivity required for residents, rural business and digital working across the county, and offer the opportunity for collaboration with Government to address the connectivity challenges associated with Greater Lincolnshire.

Mission 5 – education

By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.

Whilst we have good GCSE results, less young people in Greater Lincolnshire go on to higher level qualifications than on average across the UK.

Our plan for devolution and levelling up Greater Lincolnshire will support progression to higher-level qualifications; providing the best possible opportunities for residents who want to progress to further and higher education and meet growing employer demand.

Mission 6 – skills

By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.

Being able to access a high skill high wage job is fundamental to raising living standards in Lincolnshire and through our plans we intend to make sure that our residents have the opportunity to train for these roles at any stage of their career.

When our business community talks about ‘skills gaps’ they are describing challenges including: not being able to find the right skills within the local labour market; difficulty in recruiting higher-

level and technically skilled workers; and lack of interest to work in their particular sector.

Through our plans we intend to change perceptions so that our young people and workforce can see the potential of careers in our most important sectors, providing them with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their education, training and an increased range of apprenticeships.

Mission 7 – health

By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.

As partners we are already working together as an integrated care system to develop the best possible health and social care, in the right place and at the right time, in a way that makes sense for our communities.

Our plans for Devolution Greater Lincolnshire will tackle many the issues at the heart of having a healthy life. These determinants of health include good education, access to high wage jobs, healthy working conditions, safe houses, communities and roads.

Mission 8 – well-being

By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

The wellbeing of our residents can be improved by learning new skills, building a sense of belonging and having great places to explore and be active.

Our plan for Devolution Greater Lincolnshire will deliver on a wide definition of infrastructure leading to improvements in active travel, our natural environment and communities that support well-being.

Mission 9 – pride in place

By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

We are already working to level up towns and communities across Greater Lincolnshire through investment, the levelling up fund and towns deals including through the connected coast programme where residents in Skegness and Mablethorpe can already experience improvements to be proud of.

Our residents are proud of Greater Lincolnshire and through local leadership for relevant regeneration funding we can ensure that future investment in our towns and communities is joined up; and that the improvements that people see make sense to them and are supported locally.

Mission 10 – Housing

By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government’s ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

Access to high quality housing is important to improve the health outcomes and life chances of residents.

By using the devolved powers included in our asks we can provide the local leadership needed to unlock the stuck sites that will deliver the homes for our resident's children and jobs for the future.

Mission 11 – crime

By 2030, homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas.

Whilst the causes of crime are complex, by levelling up Greater Lincolnshire we will reduce many of the contributing factors – such as reducing poverty and raising self-esteem - and changing the circumstances into which people are born to avoid them turning to crime.

Mission 12 – local leadership

By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

In Greater Lincolnshire we are seeking the highest level of devolution at the earliest opportunity that will enable us to achieve the greatest benefits for our residents.

The Government has published a devolution framework and we recognise that to achieve our ambitions we will have to ensure that there is suitable leadership in place for level 3 devolution.

As there is currently no one democratic body that covers our county or economic area this means that we will seek to establish a county combined authority as an efficient and accountable model of leadership for levelling up Greater Lincolnshire, including an elected mayor if this is a requirement in the final legislation.

