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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

26 January 2023

Chairman: Councillor David Robinson **Venue:** Room G01e, Church
Square House,
sCUNTHORPE

Time: 2.00 pm **E-Mail Address:**
Matthew.nundy@northlincs.gov.uk

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 meetings held on 17 November 2022 (x2) as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign. (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Public speaking requests, if any.
5. Council Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-26
 - (a) To receive a presentation from the Director: Governance and Communities
 - (b) Discussion and questions with the Director: Governance and Communities and the Assistant Director - Resources and Performance
 - (c) Next stages, if any.
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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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

17 November 2022

PRESENT: - Councillor D Robinson (Chairman)

Councillors T Gosling (Vice-Chair) and H Rowson.

The meeting was held in Room F36, Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

112 **SUBSTITUTIONS** - There were no substitutions at the meeting.

113 **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.

114 **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 - Resolved** - That the minutes of the meeting of this panel held on 5 May 2022, and the special meeting held on 28 September 2022, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairman.

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

116 **A DEVOLUTION DEAL FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE** - The Chairman welcomed the Leader of North Lincolnshire Council and its Deputy Chief Executive to the meeting. Councillor Waltham MBE and Mr Green had been invited to discuss with the Panel the devolution proposals for Greater Lincolnshire that were considered by the Joint Greater Lincolnshire Oversight Committee on 14 October 2022.

Members were informed that the draft proposals provided a framework for discussions with Government on a devolution deal and to level up Greater Lincolnshire. They were subject to the governance and approval processes of participating councils.

Members listened as they were informed that Greater Lincolnshire was ready for growth and devolution. It had:

- A long-term vision for Greater Lincolnshire to benefit residents
- Strategies for growth and economic recovery that build on its strengths

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL
17 November 2022

- Devolution plans to boost growth, create high skill high wage jobs and increase opportunity
- Broad local support and backing from local business.

The ambition through devolution was to act together at the right level to deliver the skills, infrastructure and investment that would boost growth, spread opportunity and raise living standards. The proposals would allow joined 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, the proposals would deliver on the ambitious strategies for growth across the key sectors of the economic geography that would lead to more high wage, high skills jobs. Devolution would improve learning, training and pathways into those jobs to raise living standards and level up for local residents. The key sectors of the area's economic geography were of strategic importance to the UK.

Devolution to Greater Lincolnshire would support wider UK objectives for growth in:

- Energy
- Food
- Ports and logistics.

The Deputy Chief Executive explained in detail the plan for devolution, with particular emphasis on –

- Infrastructure
- Skills and employment

The Chairman then invited the Leader of the Council to comment on the proposed devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire.

Following Mr Green's and Councillor Waltham MBE's verbal presentation, the Chairman facilitated a discussion between the Panel and Deputy Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

Recommended to Council – (a) That the Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire, as presented at the meeting, be formally agreed and supported by North Lincolnshire Council, and (b) that the Leader of the Council and Deputy Chief Executive be thanked for their attendance, verbal presentation and for answering members' questions.

117 **ADDED ITEM, IF ANY** - There was no added item for consideration at the meeting.

118 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED** - There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL
17 November 2022

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
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17 November 2022

PRESENT: - Councillor D Robinson (Chairman)

Councillors T Gosling (Vice-Chair) and H Rowson

The meeting was held in Room F36, Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

119 **SUBSTITUTIONS** - There were no substitutions at the meeting.

120 **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.

121 **PUBLIC SPEAKING REQUESTS, IF ANY** - There were no public requests received.

122 **DRAFT NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL MEDIA RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY MANAGEMENT POLICY** - The Chairman welcomed Councillor Poole, Simon Green and Adam Lovell to the meeting, the council's Standards Committee Chairman, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Corporate Marketing respectively, who had been invited to discuss the council's draft Media Relations and Publicity Management policy.

Councillor Poole informed the meeting that following an investigation, the Standards Committee (Hearings Panel) met on 6 May 2022 to consider a complaint submitted against an elected member. Following consideration of the investigating officers report into the complaint, the Standards Committee resolved ".....(c) that the Panel recommends that the relevant Publicity and Media Relations Policy be updated as soon as practicable and the updated draft policy be referred to a future meeting of the Governance Scrutiny Panel for consultation, prior to consideration by the Executive".

The Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Corporate Marketing informed the Panel that the council's Publicity and Media Relations Protocol, developed in April 2019, contained good practice advice and guidance explicitly to support members and officers to operate safely when seeking to generate publicity. However, following the recommendation from the Standards Committee, benchmarking and comparisons had been made with other local authorities and the Local Government Association to strengthen the policy and develop a clear, robust and transparent process by which complaints could be reported, considered and where necessary elevated further.

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL
17 November 2022

The amended Media Relations and Publicity Management policy was attached to the agenda as an appendix.

Members discussed the amended policy with Councillor Poole, Mr Green and Mr Lovell, who responded to questions.

Resolved – (a) That the Media Relations and Publicity Management Policy be updated to include the amendments agreed by members at the meeting; (b) that once amended, the policy be circulated to all scrutiny panel members for their information, and (c) that the amended policy be approved and considered by the council's Executive as soon as was practicable.

- 123 **ADDED ITEM, IF ANY** - There was no added item for consideration at the meeting.
- 124 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED** - There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.