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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Church Square House
30-40 High Street
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

24 November 2023

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** at **10.30 am** on **MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023** at Church Square House, Scunthorpe (Conference Room).

1. Mayor's Remarks.
2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests.
3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5 October 2023, Extraordinary Meeting held on 5 October 2023 and Special Meeting held on 3 November 2023 (enclosed). (Pages 1 - 20)
4. A Devolution Proposal for Greater Lincolnshire and Commence Consultation Activities - (Pages 21 - 210)
Report of the Head of Paid Service/Director: Outcomes.
5. Calculating the Council Tax Base 2024/2025 - (Pages 211 - 222)
Report of the Director: Outcomes.
6. Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023/24 - (Pages 223 - 236)
Report of the Director: Outcomes.
7. Review of Protocol of Member Officer Relations (Part E Code 3 of the Council's Constitution) - (Pages 237 - 260)
Report of the Director: Outcomes.
8. To receive the minutes of the under mentioned committees/panels/board (previously circulated) and to consider any recommendations made and to pass such resolutions as may be necessary - See Order of Business (to be circulated to members before the meeting).

Planning Committee –
(6 September and 4 October 2023)

Licensing Committee –

(21 and 28 September, 19 and 26 October and 2 November 2023)

Audit Committee –
(6 October 2023)

Standards Committee –
(9 November (x2) 2023)

Health, Integration and Performance Scrutiny Panel -
(26 September and 3 October 2023)

Place Scrutiny Panel -
(20 September and 18 October 2023)

Children's Scrutiny Panel -
(3 November 2023)

Appointment and Employment Committee –
(20 and 30 October 2023)

Health and Wellbeing Board -
(2 October 2023)

9. To consider any questions on the discharge of the functions of the Humberside Fire Authority.
10. Questions from members of the public (including town and parish councils).
11. To consider a joint motion of which notice has been given and to pass such resolutions as may be necessary (none received).

Yours sincerely

H Manderson
Director: Outcomes

NOTE: ANY MEMBER WHO WISHES TO PUT A QUESTION UPON OR MOVE ANY AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES MUST INFORM THE DIRECTOR: OUTCOMES IN WRITING/EMAIL BEFORE 9.30 A.M. ON THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2023.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

5 October 2023

- Present -

THE MAYOR - Councillor J Longcake

Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Armiger, Bell, Briggs, Clark, A Davison, J Davison, Ellerby, L Foster, T Foster, Garritt, Gosling, Grant, Hannigan, Kennedy, Marper, Matthews, Mitchell, O'Sullivan, Ogg, Patterson, Poole, Rayner, Reed, Robinson, Rose, Ross, Rowson, C Sherwood, N Sherwood, Southern, Swift, K Vickers, P Vickers, Walshe, Waltham MBE, Wells, Yates and Yeadon

The Council met at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

2920 **MAYOR'S REMARKS**

The Mayor welcomed all councillors, especially new councillors elected at the May 2023 elections, officers and members of the public to the meeting. She summarised some of the highlights from her 75 civic and community engagements over the past five months and thanked all those who had already supported her charity appeal and reminded those present of opportunities to do so at the future events including the Christmas concert and charity ball.

She informed members of the recent death of Mrs Sue England, the wife of former Councillor John England, and expressed on behalf of council its thoughts and prayers for John and his family at this sad time.

The Mayor also informed the council that this meeting was likely to be the last ordinary meeting that Will Bell, the council's Assistant Director: Governance and Partnerships and Monitoring Officer would be presiding at and on behalf of all members past and present thanked him for his integrity and advice at council meetings over the years and wished him well in his promotion at Lincolnshire County Council.

2921 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

Member	Subject/Minute
Councillor M Ali	Taxi Licence Holder with schools' transport contract
Councillor J Briggs	Humberside Fire Authority
Councillor J Davison	Bottesford Town Council

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Councillor T Ellerby	Burringham Parish Council
Councillor T Foster	Messingham Town Council and supporting parish councils in his ward
Councillor D Garritt	Kirton-in-Lindsey Town Council and supporting parish councils in his ward
Councillor T Gosling	Gunness Parish Council
Councillor R Hannigan	Kirmington and Croxton Parish Council
Councillor J Kennedy	Supporting parish councils in her ward
Councillor E Marper	Winterton Town Council
Councillor T Mitchell	Belton Parish and Epworth Town Councils
Councillor R Ogg	Winterton Town Council
Councillor C Patterson	Barton Town Council
Councillor N Poole	Messingham Parish Council
Councillor J Reed	Supporting parish councils within her ward
Councillor D Robinson	Belton Parish Council
Councillor D Rose	Supporting parish councils in his ward and North Lincolnshire and Yorkshire and Humber CPRE
Councillor C Ross	Broughton Town Council and Scawby Parish Council
Councillor H Rowson	Winterton Town Council
Councillor C Sherwood	Brigg Town Council
Councillor N Sherwood	Brigg Town Council
Councillor K Vickers	Barton Town Council
Councillor P Vickers	Barton Town Council
Councillor J Walshe	Supporting parish councils in his ward
Councillor R Waltham MBE	Brigg Town Council and supporting

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other parish councils in his ward

Councillor D Wells

Barnetby-le-Wold Parish Council and
Kirmington and Croxton Parish
Council

2922 MINUTES – RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meetings of the Council held on 5 December 2022, 13 February 2023 (budget meeting) and Annual Meeting of 18 May 2023 having been circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Mayor.

2923 APPROVAL OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS -

The Assistant Director: Organisational Development submitted a report informing Council that the Appointments and Employment Committee had met on 14 September 2023 and approved temporary changes to the senior management structure of the council in order to ensure the capacity at a senior level to discharge statutory responsibilities and ensure appropriate cover arrangements were in place. Part of those temporary changes included the Director: Economy & Environment (now Director Outcomes) be appointed as the Head of Paid Service (including Returning Officer) on an interim basis until the chief executive recruitment process had been concluded and a new Chief Executive was in place. Council was required to consider and approve the appointment of the Council's Head of Paid Service before an offer of appointment was made.

Resolved – That the interim appointment to the Head of Paid Service (including Returning Officer) until a new Chief Executive is in place be approved.

2924 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023-2024 -

The Director: Children and Families submitted a report seeking council's approval of the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 which was attached in an appendix and set out the shared ambition and priorities of the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership.

The Director in her report explained that Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 stated that it was the duty for each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:

- how youth justice partnerships in the area are provided and funded
- how the Youth Justice Partnership is composed and funded, how it operates, and the functions it carries out.

In March 2023 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) provided updated guidance on

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the required format and contents of youth justice plans. This included a new template that had to be utilised to support and facilitate the YJB oversight and analysis of plans. Annual youth justice plans were an opportunity to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the next year. This allowed partnerships to be able to respond to any changes that had taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators, and developments in delivery. The planning and production of a youth justice plan was beneficial to partnership working and partnership delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children. The annual youth justice plan considers local and regional priorities including:

- Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reducing the use of custody
- Reducing reoffending rates

The report confirmed that localised priorities had been reviewed and updated. Individual partner board members had been identified as leads and had responsibility for providing regular updates at each board meeting outlining the progress against their lead priority area, ensuring accountability across the partnership board. The plan set out the local key priorities as:

- Diversion and Out of Court
- Reduction of Child Exploitation and Serious Violence
- Transition to Adulthood process
- Engagement in Education, Employment and Training
- Improve the Emotional and Physical Health of children involved with youth justice.
- Diversity and Disproportionality

Associated grant and resources were also outlined in the report.

Resolved – That the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 which is a key document in the delivery of youth justice provision in the area be approved.

2925 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 -**

The Director: Outcomes submitted a report informing Council of the Treasury arrangements, activity and performance during 2022-23. The key issues covered in the attached appendix to the report were as follows –

- Capital Expenditure is financed by capital resources, cash resources and external borrowing. The Council's capital expenditure during

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2022/23 amounted to £39.73m, an increase of £11.05m from 2021/22.

- Investment returns picked up throughout 2022/23. The Council maintained an average balance of £56.91m of internally managed funds and earned an average rate of return of 1.88%.
- The Council maintained an under borrowed position during the year. This meant that the capital borrowing need (CFR requirement) was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council reserves, balances and cash flow was used.
- During 2022/23 the Council repaid £8.05m at scheduled repayment dates.
- The cost of servicing the council's debt was 6.6% of the council's net revenue stream which was below 12% of the net revenue stream, seen as the maximum affordable level.
- No loans were drawn during the year.
- No loans were drawn in advance of need and no debt rescheduling was carried out.
- Investment income was £1.068m compared to a budget of £0.200m.

The Director reminded members Council had nominated the Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of treasury management arrangements.

Resolved – That the Treasury Management Performance for the 2022/23 financial year be noted.

2926 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2022/2023 23 -**

The Director: Outcomes submitted a report which presented to Council the fifth annual report of the Audit Committee. It summarised the activities of the committee and demonstrated how it had discharged its duties for the period May 2022 to May 2023. A copy of the annual report was attached as an appendix.

The report stated that the annual report of the Audit Committee was considered good practice and provided a mechanism to demonstrate transparently the effectiveness of the committee and provided assurance on the effectiveness of its role.

The annual report had been approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 15 March 2023 and recommended that it be presented to Council in support of the requirements of the Council's Code of Governance.

Resolved – That the annual report of the Audit Committee for 2022/23 be

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received.

2927 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023 -

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report requesting that Council receive the annual report of the Standards Committee under the Council's Standards Arrangements for the period 1st July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and consider a review of Part E Code 3 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' in accordance with Article 15 (15.01) 'Review and Revision of the Constitution'.

The Monitoring Officer in his report explained that the annual report attached as an appendix to his report was the eleventh annual report of the Standards Committee under its Standards Arrangements pursuant to the Localism Act

2012 and detailed the work and activities of the Standards Committee throughout that time. The Standards Committee approved the report at its meeting on 29 June 2023 with a request that the Monitoring Officer provide a copy to all Town and Parish Councils in the area.

The Monitoring Officer would continue to deal with relevant legislation and guidance, deal with complaints against councillors, and provide training to North Lincolnshire Council and town and parish members and clerks, using the report to inform the itinerary. Training had been delivered in person and remotely this year on 6 and 7 September 2023 with over 60 councillors in attendance across both sessions. Also, an online training package was also being developed by Democratic Services, which would be available to all councillors across North Lincolnshire in the coming months.

The report of the Monitoring Officer also stated that in accordance with good practice to review regularly codes and protocols contained within Part E of the council's Constitution, the Leader of the Council and his Executive had requested that Part E Code 3 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' be reviewed. Complying with the requirements of Article 15 (15.01) 'Review and Revision of the Constitution' this review would be carried out through the Standards Committee and its recommendations reported to the December meeting of the Council for approval.

Resolved – (a) That the report of the Standards Committee for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 be received, and (b) that a review of Part E Code 3 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' be carried out in accordance with paragraph 2.5 of the Monitoring Officer's report.

2928 REVIEW OF LOCAL UK PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES -

The Director: Outcomes submitted a report on the requirement to carry out a compulsory review of local UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places in North Lincolnshire in accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 which introduced a timescale for compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places. The next compulsory review must commence and be completed between 1 October

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2023 by 31 January 2025 (inclusive). (Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013).

The Director in her report explained that the review was carried out in accordance with guidance received from the Electoral Commission which specified legislative requirements, especially accessibility and indicates that local authorities would need to decide when to carry out the review within the specified period taking into account other statutory duties and processes being carried out in that time period and how the review would fit into these. In particular, in the review period the following would need to be considered –

- The Canvass
- Publication of the Electoral Register
- Elections during the review period
- Scheduling approval of the review proposals by Council
- Changes to electoral parliamentary boundaries

The report stated that the compulsory review related specifically to the review of polling districts and polling places in relation to parliamentary elections. Polling districts and polling places for other elections were not automatically part of the compulsory review. However, as polling districts and polling places for other elections are based on UK parliamentary polling arrangements, the requirements of any other elections that were held within the local authority area would be taken into consideration as part of the review.

As a consequence of the recent Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) a review of electoral arrangements in North Lincolnshire was carried out in the summer of 2022, its recommendations approved by Council at its meeting on 18 October 2022 and applied during the local district elections in May 2023. Although statutory requirements and associated guidance would have to be completed, it was anticipated that the work carried out during the recent summer review would reduce the timescale required for this compulsory review. It was likely therefore the review would have no impact on the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2023 and should be completed before forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Resolved - That the statutory requirement to carry out a compulsory review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places in North Lincolnshire within the specified period 1 October 2023 to 31 January 2025 (inclusive) be noted.

2929 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW -**

The Director: Outcomes submitted a report requesting Council to consider undertaking a Community Governance Review of Parish Councils in North Lincolnshire, consider and approve proposed draft Terms of Reference of the

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review at appendix 1 of the report, and authorise the Governance Scrutiny Panel to carry out the review and submit its recommendations to Council within required statutory timescales.

The Director in her report explained that Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act), relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 and guidance issued in 2010 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England allowed for, place a responsibility on and guide principal councils on undertaking Community Governance Reviews (CGR) of parishes (town/parish councils) within their district boundary. The 2007 Act enables principal councils to carry out a review of the whole or part of the district to consider one or more of the following –

- Creating, merging altering or abolishing parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of any new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes ie. the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding,
- Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes

A CGR must –

- Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area, and be effective and convenient.

Consequently, a CGR must take into account –

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

A CGR provided an opportunity for principal councils to review and make changes to community governance in their areas. Such reviews could be undertaken when there have been changes in population for example, or in response to specific, or local issues to ensure that the community governance in the area continues to be effective and convenient and reflects the identities and interests of the communities involved.

The report stated that following the implementation of the recommendations of the CGR carried out for North Lincolnshire Town Councils in May 2019, a number of parish councils had liaised, and expressed preferences with the Council regarding their electoral arrangements, numbers of councillors and community representation. Also, following the recent periodic electoral review of North Lincolnshire and implementation of its recommendations in May 2023 it was appropriate and timely to consider undertaking a CGR of these

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arrangements, apply a consistent approach and enhance the opportunity for democratic elections by conducting a review of parish councils across North Lincolnshire. The proposed terms of reference of the CGR were attached as appendix 1.

During a CGR the council would need to consult local people and take account of any representations received in connection with the review. Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, the council would take account of the views of local people in the parishes and would need to comply with the statutory consultative requirements set out in guidance. A CGR must by statute be completed within 12 months from the day on which it commences – the publication of its terms of reference.

The council would also consider published recommendations following the CGR on those matters defined by its terms of reference. The recommendations must take account of any representations received during consultations and be supported by evidence. The council will then publish its decision and its reasons for taking the decision. A Community Governance Order will then be made to give effect to the decision, and relevant government offices and organisations informed. Any changes will come into effect on a date specified within the CGR's recommendations.

The Director's report proposed that, following a delegation from Council, that the Governance Scrutiny Panel carry out the review as a committee of the Council and make recommendations back to council for its consideration and decision in accordance with statutory requirements and timescales. This would provide cross-party participation and ensure that the review was robust and transparent. (The scrutiny panel may also wish to consider adding non-voting co-opted members if required at any stage of the review).

Resolved – (a) That the proposed Community Governance Review as outlined in paragraphs 2.4 and 3.1 of the Director's report be carried out; (b) that the proposed terms of reference of the review as detailed in appendix 1, be approved and published, and (c) that the Governance Scrutiny Panel be authorised to carry out the review and make recommendations to the Council for its consideration and decision in accordance with statutory requirements and timescales.

2930 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARD – PLANNING COMMITTEE –**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 30 November 2022, 11 January, 8 February, 8 March, 7 June, 4 July and 2 August 2023 be received with the exception of minutes 2335 and 6b -

2931 **APPLICATION PA/2022/1139 (MINUTE 2335)**

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor N Sherwood and seconded by Councillor C Ross -

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That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2932 **APPLICATION PA/2022/1702 (MINUTE 6B)**
With regard to the excepted portion (b) it was -

Moved by Councillor N Sherwood and seconded by Councillor C Ross -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2933 **LICENSING COMMITTEE -**
Resolved - That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 1 December 2022, 12 and 19 January, 2 February, 16 March and 30, 15 June, 20 July, 2 and 25 August and 8 September 2023 be received.

2934 **AUDIT COMMITTEE –**
Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 23 November 2022, 25 January, 15 March and 12 July 2023 be received, approved and adopted with the exception of minutes 696 and 734 –

2935 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2022/23 (MINUTE 696)**
With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor K Vickers and seconded by Councillor T Foster -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2936 **HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND ASSURANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 (MINUTE 734)**
With regard to the excepted portion (b) it was -

Moved by Councillor K Vickers and seconded by Councillor T Foster -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2937 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE -**
Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 12 December 2022, 19 January, 7 and 15 March, 29 June (x2), 10 July and 6 September 2023 be received with the exception of minutes 446

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and 458 –

2938 DEBATE NOT HATE UPDATE (MINUTE 446)

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor N Poole and seconded by Councillor D Wells -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2939 DISCUSSIONS WITH HUMBERSIDE POLICE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC) (MINUTE 458)

With regard to the excepted portion (b) it was -

Moved by Councillor N Poole and seconded by Councillor D Wells -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2940 HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Health Scrutiny Panel held on 25 November and 19 December 2022, 26 January and 6 March 2023 be received with the exception of minute 664 –

2941 CQC INSPECTION REPORT (MINUTE 664)

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor T Mitchell and seconded by Councillor C O’Sullivan -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2942 HEALTH INTEGRATION AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Health Integration and Performance Scrutiny Panel held on 27 July 2023 be received with the exception of minute 4 –

2943 CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) SELF – ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK – DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR: ADULTS AND HEALTH (MINUTE 4)

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

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Moved by Councillor D Robinson and seconded by Councillor C O' Sullivan -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2944 **GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL –**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Governance Scrutiny Panel held on 26 January, 12 July (x2), 25 July and 14 August 2023 be received with the exception of minute 159 –

2945 **ITEM REQUESTED FOR CALL-IN (HOUSES OF MULTI-OCCUPANCY) (MINUTE 159)**

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor H Rowson and seconded by Councillor A Davison -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2946 **PLACE(S) SCRUTINY PANEL –**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Place(s) Scrutiny Panel held on 6 and 28 February, 7 March, 12 and 19 July 2023 be received.

2947 **CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY PANEL –**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Children and Education Scrutiny Panel held on 30 November and 7 December 2022, 17 January, 14 February and 20 March 2023 be received with the exception of minute 139 –

2948 **SUPPORT CARERS FOR CARE LEAVERS – PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND SENIOR COLLEAGUES (MINUTE 139)**

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor T Foster and seconded by Councillor L Yeadon -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2949 **CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL –**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Children's Scrutiny Panel held on 27 July and 13 September 2023 be received with the exception of minute 15 –

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2950 **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023/24 DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND KEY OFFICERS (MINUTE 15)**

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor T Foster and seconded by Councillor L Yeadon -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2951 **APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE –**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Appointment and Employment Committee held on 19 June, 12 July and 14 September 2023 be received with the exception of minutes 92 and 95 –

2952 **CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT MATTER (MINUTE 92)**

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor R Waltham MBE and seconded by Councillor R Hannigan -

That the minute be received.

Moved by Councillor L Foster and seconded by Councillor S Swift as an amendment-

That the minute be received with regret at the decision arrived at by the committee.

Amendment Lost
Motion Carried

2953 **RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (MINUTE 95)**

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor R Waltham MBE and seconded by Councillor R Hannigan -

That the minute be received.

Moved by Councillor L Foster and seconded by Councillor S Swift as an amendment-

That the minute be received with regret at the decision arrived at by the committee.

The names of members voting for, against and abstaining from the motion

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are as follows :-

FOR: Councillors Armiger, Briggs, Clark, J Davison, T Foster, Garritt, Hannigan, Kennedy, Longcake, Marper, Mitchell, Ogg, Patterson, Poole, Reed, Robinson, Rose, Ross, Rowson, C Sherwood, N Sherwood, K Vickers, P Vickers, Walshe, Waltham MBE and Wells.

AGAINST: Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Bell, A Davison, Ellerby, L Foster, Gosling, Grant, Matthews, O'Sullivan, Rayner, Southern, Swift, Yates and Yeadon,

ABSTAINING: Nil

Amendment Lost
Motion Carried

2954 **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – Resolved** – That the minutes of the meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 18 November 2022, 30 January, 6 March and 19 June 2023 be received with the exception of minutes 476, 478 and 525 –

2955 **UPDATE ON ICS AND NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE PLACE PARTNERSHIP – REPORT OF THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE PLACE DIRECTOR (MINUTE 476)**

With regard to the excepted portion (a) it was -

Moved by Councillor R Waltham MBE and seconded by Councillor R Hannigan -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2956 **SEASONAL VACCINATION PROGRAMME (MINUTE 478)**

With regard to the excepted portion (b) it was -

Moved by Councillor R Waltham MBE and seconded by Councillor R Hannigan -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

2957 **APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY FIRST STRATEGY (MINUTE 525)**

With regard to the excepted portion (c) it was -

Moved by Councillor R Waltham MBE and seconded by Councillor R

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Hannigan -

That the minute be received.

Motion Carried

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

5 October 2023

- Present -

THE MAYOR - Councillor Janet Longcake

Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Armiger, Bell, Briggs, Clark, A Davison, J Davison, Ellerby, L Foster, T Foster, Garritt, Gosling, Grant, Hannigan, Kennedy, Marper, Matthews, Mitchell, O'Sullivan, Ogg, Patterson, Poole, Rayner, Reed, Robinson, Rose, Ross, Rowson, C Sherwood, N Sherwood, Southern, Swift, K Vickers, P Vickers, Walshe, Waltham MBE, Yates and Yeadon

The Council met at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

2958 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

2959 **SUSPENSION/VARIATION OF CONSTITUTION PROCEDURE RULES - Resolved Unanimously** – That the following suspension/variation of the Council's Constitution Procedure Rules be agreed -

(i) D1.15 Notices of Motion - to allow for a joint motion to be considered and moved jointly and seconded jointly at the Extraordinary Meeting, and

(ii) D1.18 Rules of Debate – to allow for the joint movers of the joint motion to both speak for not more than ten minutes each (both with a right of reply). Joint seconders of the joint motion and all other members who have been listed to speak in the Order of Business to speak for not more than five minutes.

2960 **NOTICE OF JOINT MOTION - PROPOSED TRANSFER OF SOME NHS SERVICES FROM SCUNTHORPE GENERAL HOSPITAL TO DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPITAL, GRIMSBY -**

It was moved jointly by Councillor L Foster and Councillor R Waltham MBE and seconded jointly by Councillor R Hannigan and Councillor T Gosling –

'This council strongly objects to the clinician-led proposals recently announced by the ICB regarding the transfer of some vital NHS services from Scunthorpe General Hospital to Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby. Transferring services to Grimsby would mean that patients and visitors would face additional transport costs which is an unnecessary barrier to accessing important health services.

However, what is currently proposed can only be described as a major downgrading of Scunthorpe General Hospital and its services to the detriment

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of our communities, and will only benefit those who live in North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire.

We will work with all local MPs and we will defend robustly the health needs of our children, families and older and disabled residents to protect our NHS services in Scunthorpe. The Council reserves the right to apply for a full judicial review should the outcome of the consultation and the resulting recommendations not be in the best interests of North Lincolnshire residents’.

The names of members voting for, against and abstaining from the joint motion are as follows :-

FOR: *Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Armiger, Bell Briggs, Clark, A Davison JDavison, Ellerby, L Foster, T Foster, Garritt, Grant, Hannigan, Kennedy, Longcake, Marper, Matthews, Mitchell, O’Sullivan, Ogg, Patterson, Poole, Rayner, Reed, Robinson, Rose, Rowson, C Sherwood, Southern, Swift, K Vickers, P Vickers, Walshe, Waltham MBE, Yates and Yeadon*

AGAINST: *Nil*

ABSTAINING: *Nil*

Joint Motion Carried Unanimously.

Public Document Pack

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

3 November 2023

- Present -

THE MAYOR - Councillor Janet Longcake

Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Armiger, Armitage, Bell, Briggs, Clark, A Davison, Ellerby, L Foster, T Foster, Garritt, Gosling, Grant, Hannigan, Lee, Marper, Matthews, Mitchell, Ogg, Patterson, Poole, Reed, Rose, Ross, N Sherwood, Swift, K Vickers, P Vickers, Walshe, Waltham MBE, Wells, Yates and Yeadon

The Council met at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

2961 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS -**

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

2962 **TO CONSIDER PARAGRAPH D1.30 OF PART D RULE 1 - COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES BELOW AND TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 -**

The Mayor in relation to item 3 on the agenda (minute 2963 refers) requested the Council to consider paragraph D1.30 of Part D Rule 1 – Council Procedure Rules as follows –

‘No meeting of the Council, the Executive, Committee or Sub-Committee shall consider any issue relating to the appointment, promotion, dismissal, salary, superannuation, conditions of service or the conduct of any employee, or former employee until it has considered whether to exercise the power of exclusion of the public under section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972’ –

and subsequently whether or not the meeting for this item, should be held in public or not.

Resolved Unanimously – That item 3 on the agenda (minute 2963 refers) be considered in public.

2963 **POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE - TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2023 -**

The Director: Outcomes reported orally that under the Council’s Officer Employment Procedure Rules, it was required that chief officers were appointed by a committee of the Council. The Appointment and Employment Committee therefore make decisions in relation to the appointment of chief

COUNCIL
3 November 2023

officers, but Council must approve recommendations in relation to the appointment of the council's post designated as the Head of Paid Service, which is the position of Chief Executive.

A recruitment and selection process had been undertaken for this vacant post. The recruitment exercise resulted in four applicants being shortlisted with three going forward to a 'selection day' which took place on 30 October 2023. The Appointment and Employment Committee carried out the final part of this process which included the candidates giving a ten-minute unseen presentation prepared earlier in the day followed by a number of questions being answered which were asked by all members of the Committee.

Following the Committee's deliberations, it "Recommended to Council – (a) That the next appointment to the post of Chief Executive be made, and Alison Barker be appointed as the Chief Executive of North Lincolnshire Council, and (b) that a start date be agreed by the Director: Outcomes in consultation with the Leader", and the Director requested Council to consider the recommendations of the Appointment and Employment Committee.

Members thanked the Director and all officers involved in the recruitment and selection process.

Moved by Councillor R Waltham MBE and seconded by Councillor R Hannigan-

"That the recommendations of the Appointment and Employment Committee (above) be approved and adopted".

Motion Carried Unanimously

Report of the Head of Paid Service/Director:
Outcomes

Item Number: 4
Meeting: 4 December 2023

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

A DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE AND COMMENCE CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 This report asks the Council to 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.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 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.

2.2 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. 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 2022 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).
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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 taking/reaching a decision.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Council is asked to consider and support the proposed decisions as set out in the Executive (Leader of the Council) 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
 - Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Council is asked to support the following options:

- a. Support the draft proposal for the creation of a new Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority to give effect to the devolution deal and support the carrying out of a public consultation on the Proposal 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 from May 2025.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of North Lincolnshire Council, Lincolnshire County 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.
- 4.2 A devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire has now received. This report progresses the steps required to deliver on an historic devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and to progress the process for creation of a Combined County Authority covering North Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act - as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.
- 4.3 The recommendations support and inform decision making by the executive and ensures 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.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with this report. Members attention is drawn to the resourcing and legal comments detailed in the Executive (Leader of the Council) decision report attached.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Members attention is drawn to the equality implications detailed in the Executive(Leader of the Council) decision report and the Equality Impact Assessment appended to that report.

6.2 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

6.3 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.

6.4 The devolution proposal includes provisions for the devolution of powers and funding that could be used to "invest to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs and to "invest to take advantage of our unique natural environment in a responsible way, whilst protecting our communities from climate change impact" which are viewed as supportive to the Council's commitment to be a carbon net zero organisation by 2030 and to ensure that the local natural environment is protected, enhanced and self-sustaining.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 n/a

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Members of the council have received a briefing at the briefing meeting held on 27 November 2023. The views of members will be reported to the Leader of the Council to inform the decision making.

8.2 Further details of consultation are set out in the substantive body of the Executive (Leader of the Council) report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that the council considers the report to the Leader of the Council attached as appendix 1 and supports:

- (i) the devolution deal document attached at Appendix A
- (ii) 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
- (iii) the carrying out of public consultation on the proposal in accordance with paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Executive (Leader of the Council) Report and the Consultation document at Appendix C, and
- (iv) delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service/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.

HEAD OF PAID SERVICE/DIRECTOR: OUTCOMES

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Post Code DN15 6NL

Author: Matthew Garrard (LCC, Head of Policy) and Richard Mell/Caroline Emerson
Date: 22 November 2023

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

Background Paper	Where it can be viewed
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
Report to Council December 2022 - A Devolution Deal for North Lincolnshire	Item 6 - A Devolution Deal for North Lincolnshire.docx

Report of the Head of Paid Service/Director:
Outcomes

Item Number:
Date: 4 December 2023

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE A DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE AND COMMENCE CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 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 2.26 to 2.30 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.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 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.

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.

2.9 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.

2.10 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.

2.11 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.

2.12 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

- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 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

- 2.17 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.
- 2.18 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.
- 2.19 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.
- 2.20 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.
- 2.21 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.
- 2.22 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.
- 2.23 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

2.24 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.

2.25 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.

2.26 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.

- 2.27 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.
- 2.28 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.
- 2.29 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.
- 2.30 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.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Leader of the Council is asked to consider the following options:

- a. Approve the 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 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 from May 2025.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of North Lincolnshire Council, Lincolnshire County 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.
- 4.2 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 North Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act - as the only mechanism for delivering on that deal.
- 4.3 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.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 The creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority is intended 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 here.
- 5.2 The devolution deal includes initial funding for 2024/25 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.
- 5.3 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 resourcing.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 The devolution proposal includes provisions for the devolution of powers and funding that could be used to "invest to achieve net zero, to drive productivity and to grow jobs and to "invest to take advantage of our unique natural environment in a responsible way, whilst protecting our communities from climate change impact" which are viewed as supportive to the Council's commitment to be a carbon net zero organisation by 2030 and to ensure that the local natural environment is protected, enhanced and self-sustaining.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 n/a

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Members of the council have been briefed and also the full Council invited to consider and support the contents of this report at its meeting on 4 December 2023. The views of members have been received and reported to the Leader of the Council to inform the decision making.

8.2 Further details of consultation are set out in the substantive body of the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Leader of the Council: -

- i. approves the devolution deal document attached at Appendix A;
- ii. 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;
- iii. approves the carrying out of public consultation on the Proposal in accordance with paragraphs 2.26 to 2.30 of the Report and the Consultation document at Appendix C; and
- iv. delegates authority to the Head of Paid Service/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.

HEAD OF PAID SERVICE/DIRECTOR: OUTCOMES

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Post Code DN15 6NL

Author: Matthew Garrard (LCC, Head of Policy) and Richard Mell/Caroline Emerson

Date: 22 November 2023

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

Background Paper	Where it can be viewed
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
Report to Council December 2022 - A Devolution Deal for North Lincolnshire	Item 6 - A Devolution Deal for North Lincolnshire.docx

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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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Appendix A: Table of Powers/Functions

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	Provision for the discharge of functions jointly with other authorities (s101(5)) Power to place staff at the disposal of other local authorities (s113) 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)) Power to encourage visitors to the area and provide or encourage the provision of facilities for conferences, trade fairs or exhibitions (s144) 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) Power to prosecute, defend or appear in legal proceedings and make representations at a public inquiry (s222)	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)	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)) Duty to determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow (s3)	Local Authority	Yes	MCCA Mayoral	No No	CCA budget decisions require the Lead Members of the Constituent Council to vote in favour, 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



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

SKILLS AND EDUCATION *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
Education and Skills Act 2008 Sections 10, 12, 68, 70, 71 and 85	<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>	Local Authority Upper tier councils	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor
Further and Higher Education Act 1992 Section 51A	Power to require a further education institution providing education to persons over compulsory school age but under 19 to provide education to specified individuals	Local Authority Upper tier councils	Yes - with upper tier councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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>

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HOUSING AND PLANNING *Continued*

Legislative Provisions	Summary	Local Authority/ Public Authority	Concurrent exercise?	Mayor or MCCA	Consent	Voting
Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 Section 9(2)	Power to acquire land compulsorily	Public Authority Powers corresponding to powers conferred on the Homes and Communities Agency (Homes England)	Yes	Mayor	Requires consent of <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. 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
Housing Act 1985 Sections 8(1), 11, 12, 17 (excluding 17(3)) and 18	Duty to consider housing conditions and the needs of the area with respect to the provision of further housing accommodation (s8(1)) Power to provide board and laundry facilities in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s11) Power to provide shops, recreation grounds and other building having a beneficial purpose in connection with the provision of housing accommodation (s12) Power to acquire land for housing purposes (s17) 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)	Local Authority City Council and District/ Borough powers	Yes - with city/ district/ borough councils	MCCA	No	Simple majority which includes the Mayor

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>

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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)) (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>

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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

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>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<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>
Marriage and civil partnership	<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.

Adverse or negative impacts

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)

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 \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt-in-britain-work-report.pdf)

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

This EIA has informed the devolution deal consultation stakeholder analysis.

To ensure everyone has a fair and open opportunity to share their views on the devolution deal.

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.

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	
Religion or belief	

Protected characteristic	Response
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		

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved

Version	Description	Created or amended by	Date created or amended	Approved by	Date approved

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

CALCULATING THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and approve the Council Tax base to be used for each part of the Council's area for formula grant and tax setting purposes.
- 1.2 The key elements of this report are:
 - To note the council tax base for grant purposes, as submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
 - To set a tax base for setting Council Tax for the council, local parishes and major precepting authorities.
 - To confirm the implementation of the empty property surcharge for properties empty for between 12 and 23 months from 2024/25.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1. North Lincolnshire Council has the power in statute to raise a tax on households in its area to pay for the provision of local services. It is designated as the billing authority for the area. This means that it is responsible for levying a council tax to meet its own demands and to meet the precepts of lower and higher tier authorities in the area. The precepting bodies are:

- Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner
- Humberside Fire Authority
- Parish and Town Councils in North Lincolnshire

It also provides details of its tax base to levying bodies to which it must pay a contribution for the cost of services provided in the area. That includes the Environment Agency (Anglian and Severn Trent Regions) and the Port Health Authority.

2.2. Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 2012 requires the council to determine its tax base for council tax purposes each year. This is the basis on which the council tax is raised. The Council keeps a database of the properties in its area. Properties are recorded in 8 national bands by value (A to H) as determined by the independent Valuation Office Agency. Band H

taxpayers pay twice as much as those in band D and three times as much as those in band A. The number of properties is expressed as a number of Band D equivalent properties for the purposes of calculating what £1 on the council tax would raise.

- 2.3. All precepting bodies have a right to receive the tax base figure for the area or their part of the area no earlier than 1 December and no later than 31 January in advance of the relevant tax year. It is this tax base that they will use to calculate a precept to fund their services, which they will direct the Council to collect on their behalf. The tax base is subject to change as new properties are built or converted and old properties demolished, so the tax base needs to be recalculated each year. The Government also requires information on the council tax base to determine the council's share of national grant funding and notional spending power.
- 2.4. North Lincolnshire Council will use the tax base to calculate a combined council tax requirement for 2024/25 for itself, Humberside Police & Crime Commissioner, Humberside Fire Authority and Parish and Town Councils. The council tax collected is pooled in a collection fund and then distributed to North Lincolnshire Council and the precepting bodies, based on their tax decisions.
- 2.5. The calculation of the tax base is informed by the number of Band D equivalent properties and is adjusted by anticipated collection rates and the cost of applicable discounts made to relevant households. This includes several nationally determined discounts and the local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS). The CTSS requires working age households to pay a proportion of their council tax bill.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. To note the council tax base applied for grant purposes.
- 3.2. To maintain the current level of council tax support scheme and discretionary reliefs.
- 3.3. To set the council tax base for the council, parishes and major precepting bodies in 2024/25.
- 3.4. To confirm the application of a 100% surcharge for properties empty for between 12 and 23 months (previously only charged on properties that have been empty longer than 24 months).

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Tax Base for Grant Purposes 2024/25

- 4.1. The Government uses taxbase data when it determines the amount of formula grant to be paid to each local authority. It makes use of the CTB form which billing authorities are required to submit every October. The submission is summarised in Appendix 1. The Government uses this

information to determine the council's share of formula grant. This data is also used by Government to notionally estimate the Council's spending power, published in the Local Government finance settlement.

Tax Base for Council Tax Purposes 2024/25

- 4.2. To determine the taxbase for Council Tax purposes for the council and those which precept on it, a comprehensive calculation is carried out which makes a series of adjustments to the gross taxbase to result in a revised estimate which provides the basis for the council tax requirement.
- 4.3. The gross taxbase is equivalent to the number of properties on the rating list at a point in time. A series of national discounts and exemptions are applied to the gross taxbase, together with local discounts (CTSS) and the empty property surcharge. Officer judgements in respect of property growth, non-collection and other adjustments then combine into a taxbase estimate.
- 4.4. Appendix 2 sets out the calculation steps which demonstrate how the revised taxbase has been arrived at and includes commentary which sets out the key assumptions which support the taxbase estimate. This report proposes a taxbase of 51,824.10 band D equivalents, which represents a 1.1% increase from the approved 2023/24 taxbase.
- 4.5. There remain short and medium-term risks to the taxbase associated with ongoing economic pressures to the cost of living as well as uncertainty and risks around the Steelworks and associated business in Scunthorpe which could increase the risk of non-collection. The Council maintains a robust taxbase management processes to ensure line of sight in respect of material changes to the assumed position.
- 4.6. The taxbase increase referred to in 4.4 comprises adjustments in respect of the following (with band D impact):
 - An increase in the number of gross properties (463)
 - Assumed collection rate percentage remaining at 98%
 - Reduction in empty property surcharge cases (100 – see 4.7)
 - A natural reduction in council tax support recipients (273)
 - An increase in the number of single adult households (100)
 - An increase in exempt properties (127)

Further detail on each factor can be found in appendix 2.

- 4.7. The Council operates surcharges on properties empty for longer than two years, five years and 10 years (100%, 200% and 300% respectively) to stimulate a reduction in the number of long-term empty properties, in support of the Council's priority to have flourishing communities. Commencing in 2021 legislation was introduced that allowed billing authorities to charge council taxpayers a 300% premium for properties empty for 10 years or longer. This surcharge was implemented for properties empty for over ten years from 2023/24. Further legislation was introduced in 2023 allowing billing authorities to charge council taxpayers a 100% premium for properties

that have been empty for 12 month and over rather than from the existing 24 month period. Further details on the surcharge can be found in appendix 2.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1. The Council must calculate the tax base each year in accordance with The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 2012.
- 5.2. Changes to the taxbase increase the tax base by 1.1% from the 2023/24 base, reflecting an increase in resources of £0.9m in 2024/25 at the current North Lincolnshire Council band D level of tax.
- 5.3. The actual amount collected in any year may differ from the estimate so that a surplus or deficit can arise on the Collection Fund. This surplus or deficit is shared between the council and the major precepting authorities and is applied in the following year as required by legislation. If long-term collection rates fall below that assumed, there is a risk that a deficit may arise on the fund, which would need to be made up in a subsequent year. However, the fund has a track record of high long-term collection rates, and low levels of council tax write offs suggesting moderate risk.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.1. Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1. No impact assessment is required for the purpose of this report.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1. Whilst no consultation is required to adopt the legislative changes to the empty property surcharge, as when previous surcharges were introduced, awareness raising communications will be issued.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. That the council taxbase for grant purposes is noted (appendix 1).
- 9.2. That the council taxbase for the Council and other precepting bodies in 2024/25 be set at 51,824.10 band D equivalents (appendix 2 and 3).
- 9.3. That the empty property surcharge 100% premium be charged to properties when they become empty for 12 months and over from 2024/25.

DIRECTOR: OUTCOMES

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Author: Mark Kitching/Louise Allison

Date: November 2023

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Local Government Finance Act 1992, 2003, 2012

The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base Regulations 1992, 1994 and 2012)

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 - The North

Lincolnshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2017

The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018

CTB (October 2023) Submission to DLUHC

COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR GRANT PURPOSES

Appendix 1

Data Extracted from CTB1 Form	Band A (disabled relief)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	TOTAL
Number of dwellings equivalents	172.3	30,956.0	14,544.3	10,442.5	7,254.8	3,775.5	1,595.5	509.0	10.0	69,259.8
Ratio to band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Total number of band D equivalents	95.7	20,637.3	11,312.2	9,282.2	7,254.8	4,614.5	2,304.6	848.3	20.0	56,369.6
Band D equivalents in lieu (MOD Properties)										9.0
Tax base for Grant Purposes										56,378.6

Table 1 – Council Tax Base Calculation Summary

Council Tax Base Calculation Summary	Band D Equivalents		*Total Yield (£000)*	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
Gross Properties	62,203.9	62,666.8	102,206	102,966
National Discounts and Exemptions:				
Exempt properties	(990.2)	(1,117.0)	(1,627)	(1,835)
Disabled reduction	(86.1)	(84.8)	(141)	(139)
Single person discount	(4,932.0)	(4,988.4)	(8,104)	(8,196)
25% discounts (DSGD)	(127.4)	(130.6)	(209)	(215)
50% discounts (DSGD)	(92.3)	(94.9)	(152)	(156)
Family annex discount	(10.4)	(11.1)	(17)	(18)
Council Tax Support Scheme:				
Pensioner	(2,633.3)	(2,468.4)	(4,327)	(4,056)
Working Age	(1,800.2)	(1,742.3)	(2,958)	(2,863)
Technical Increases to Taxbase:				
Empty property premium (>2 years)	202.8	95.6	333	157
Empty property premium (>5 years)	168.3	66.7	276	110
Empty property premium (>10 years)	-	30.2	-	50
MoD properties	12.4	9.0	20	15
Taxbase Adjustments & Assumptions:				
Property growth	351.4	472.1	577	776
Natural reduction in CTSS recipients	49.6	99.9	82	164
Empty property premium (12-24 months)	-	79.1	-	130
General Non-Collection Adjustment	(1,046.0)	(1,057.8)	(1,719)	(1,738)
Council Tax Base	51,270.5	51,824.1	84,241	85,151

* 2023/24 band D rate (general rate plus ASC precept) £1,643.07

Table 2 – Council Tax Base and Rate Regional Comparison

2023/24 Council Tax Base, Rate and Yield Comparator Analysis	Band D Taxbase	Band D Rate (£)	Yield (£000)
North Lincolnshire	51,270.50	1,643.07	84,241
North East Lincolnshire	45,710.40	1,787.25	81,696
East Riding of Yorkshire	122,527.80	1,697.47	207,987
Hull	64,983.00	1,618.83	105,196

Analysis of Council Tax Base

1. This appendix sets out further information around the adjustments made to the gross taxbase to result in the taxbase for budget setting purposes, supported by data, trends and other information as appropriate.

Property Growth

2. The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) maintain a list of domestic properties, which the Council must then bill from. As a minimum, the VOA report weekly changes to the rating list, incorporating additions and deletions, and other changes. On the rating list at 11/09/2023, the Council had 77,442 properties which converts to 62,666.8 band D properties. This means the average property in North Lincolnshire is either a band B or C property.
3. Since last year, the taxbase has grown by 515 properties equating to 463 band D equivalents. In the twelve months previously, there had been 382 property completions equating to 354 band D equivalents. Forward growth has been assumed in the calculation to reflect property completions informed the Council's 5-year housing plan for larger developments and average forward growth assumed for smaller developments to reflect property completions between during 2024/25.

National Discounts and Exemptions

4. There are a series of centrally determined council tax discounts and exemptions, such as the 25% single person discount and disabled banding relief. A discount or exemption reduces the collectable taxbase. The majority of discounts and exemptions tend to remain fairly static over time, with some fluctuation in year.
5. The single person discount and properties where all but one occupant is disregarded (25% discounts) had steadily grown over recent years. It is currently applied to over 27,000 properties representing almost 35% of the gross tax base in which and is anticipated to continue at these levels during 2024/25. It is assumed that all new property growth will see the same percentage of single person discount applicable to them.

Council Tax Support Scheme

6. There are no changes to the council tax support scheme proposed for 2024/25. Notwithstanding this, there are fewer households eligible for council tax support which reflects a natural reduction in the cohort. A further reduction is assumed in the pensioner category for 2024/25 (-8%), which reflects the recent trend which has since October 2013. There has been a smaller decrease in the number of working age recipients eligible for CTSS with a reduction of 58 properties (-3%) assumed in 24/25. In total, the cost of the current scheme is expected to equate to 4,110 band D equivalents (7% of the gross tax base).

Empty Property Surcharge

7. The use of the empty property surcharge is principally borne out of the Council's desire to see a significant reduction in the stock of long-term empty properties,

which have implications for communities and restrict local housing supply. The consequence of the change is that a minimal amount of additional council tax will be collectable from a small cohort in the short-term, until property owners have taken the necessary action to reduce the current empty status.

8. A full review of properties eligible for the empty property premium has been conducted and households will be charged from 1st December 2023. As a result of this review, a total 214 properties will be charged the 100% premium as they have been empty for 2 years or longer (an increase from 51 properties in October 2023). Additionally, from April 2024 properties that have been empty for more than 12 months will also be charged the 100% premium. This change would see 393 properties reviewed for the additional charge although it is anticipated, based on previous reviews of empty properties, that 26% may not be eligible for the charge (e.g., because it's marketed for sale). All properties will be notified of this charge, in advance of the introduction in April 2024. For the tax base calculation, it is assumed that action will have been taken to reduce the number of these new category of empty properties by 50% by the end of 2025.
9. There are currently 51 properties which have now passed the threshold of being empty for longer than two years, 46 which have been empty for longer than 5 years and 15 properties which have been empty for more than 10 years. As such, these are now being charged the 100%, 200% & 300% surcharges with a clear pathway of further surcharge increases if action is not taken to resolve this. These numbers are significantly lower than previously anticipated suggesting the premium charges are resulting in more properties being returned to an occupied status specifically the number of properties being charged the 100% premium.
10. It is expected that the number of properties receiving surcharges will reduce during 2024/25. This is in line with the Council's desire to see a reduction in long-term empty properties and targeted additional action underway to support homeowners to help reduce the number of empty properties. A monitoring system is in place to identify properties eligible for surcharges to ensure surcharges are applied as the eligibility criteria is met.

Collection Rate

11. The collection rate is an estimate of how much is expected to be collected as a percentage of the amount that would have been collected if everyone liable had paid what they were supposed to. A long-term collection rate is set, but collection up to this level will take several years. For example, a collection rate of 98.1% was set for 2019/20 and at the end of that year 95.3% had been collected. This had increased to 98.0% by the end of September 2023, thereby almost reaching the assumed collection rate 3 and a half years after the financial year end (with the remaining amount anticipated over the coming months). While long term collection rates are being achieved the time taken to collect outstanding amounts has been increasing over time.
12. The Council Tax Base is based on a collection rate of 98% in 2024/25, which retains the same assumed rate for the third year in a row. While there remain risks for the

year ahead (e.g. ongoing uncertainty over Steel works in Scunthorpe) a 98% collection rate is considered to be achievable for 2024/25.

Summary

13. The Council tax base set out in this report represents an increase from the level that had previously been assumed in 2024/25 (51,662.4). This (in isolation) enables an increase in spending power over the 2024/27 medium term financial plan period. Proactive taxbase management will continue to be required in year so that the Council has early sight of progress against the targets set.

COUNCIL TAX BASE BY PARISH 2024/25

Appendix 3

Parish/Town or Area	Tax Base after discounts	Allowance for Non-Collection	MOD Properties	Tax Base 2024/25
Alkborough	169.10	(3.40)		165.70
Amcotts	81.70	(1.60)		80.10
Appleby	240.40	(4.80)		235.60
Ashby Parkland	240.80	(4.80)		236.00
Barnetby le Wold	585.30	(11.70)		573.60
Barrow on Humber	1,104.50	(22.10)		1,082.40
Barton on Humber	3,835.90	(76.70)		3,759.20
Belton	1,264.80	(25.30)		1,239.50
Bonby	201.20	(4.00)		197.20
Bottesford	3,707.50	(74.20)		3,633.30
Brigg	1,827.00	(36.50)		1,790.50
Broughton	1,747.20	(34.90)		1,712.30
Burringham	222.90	(4.50)		218.40
Burton Stather	988.80	(19.80)		969.00
Cadney cum Howsham	159.60	(3.20)		156.40
Crowle	1,674.60	(33.50)		1,641.10
East Butterwick	46.20	(0.90)		45.30
East Halton	211.70	(4.20)		207.50
Eastoft	150.60	(3.00)		147.60
Elsham	173.90	(3.50)		170.40
Epworth	1,630.90	(32.60)		1,598.30
Flixborough	546.90	(10.90)		536.00
Garthorpe & Fockerby	146.90	(2.90)		144.00
Goxhill	834.10	(16.70)		817.40
Gunness	656.70	(13.10)		643.60
Haxey	1,738.40	(34.80)		1,703.60
Hibaldstow	862.60	(17.30)		845.30
Horkstow	61.20	(1.20)		60.00
Keadby with Althorpe	520.20	(10.40)		509.80
Kirmington & Croxton	139.70	(2.80)		136.90
Kirton Lindsey	1,213.60	(24.30)	9.0	1,198.30
Luddington & Haldenby	127.90	(2.60)		125.30
Manton	44.40	(0.90)		43.50
Melton Ross	75.30	(1.50)		73.80
Messingham	1,354.00	(27.10)		1,326.90
New Holland	280.90	(5.60)		275.30
North Killingholme	94.40	(1.90)		92.50
Owston Ferry	476.40	(9.50)		466.90
Redbourne	165.10	(3.30)		161.80
Roxby cum Risby	157.70	(3.20)		154.50
Saxby all Saints	96.30	(1.90)		94.40
Scawby cum Sturton	850.60	(17.00)		833.60
Scunthorpe	17,372.60	(347.50)		17,025.10
South Ferriby	218.20	(4.40)		213.80
South Killingholme	319.40	(6.40)		313.00
Thornton Curtis	103.90	(2.10)		101.80
Ulceby	631.20	(12.60)		618.60
West Butterwick	293.40	(5.90)		287.50
West Halton	117.20	(2.30)		114.90
Whitton	85.70	(1.70)		84.00
Winteringham	347.30	(6.90)		340.40
Winterton	1,537.20	(30.70)		1,506.50
Wootton	203.30	(4.10)		199.20
Worlaby	211.40	(4.20)		207.20
Wrawby	535.30	(10.70)		524.60
Wroot	188.50	(3.80)		184.70
Tax Base 2024/25	52,872.50	(1,057.40)	9.0	51,824.10

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Report of the Director:
Outcomes

Item Number: 6
Meeting: 4 December 2023

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2023/24

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of the Council's treasury performance during the first six months of 2023/2024 and sets out national factors that affect the Council's Treasury activity.
- 1.2. The key points are that the Council's:
 - Investment returns in the first six months of the year amounted to £1.021m due to increases in interest rates.
 - Interest Rates are currently forecast to remain at 5.25% until the middle of next year as the bank of England seeks to reduce inflation.
 - Borrowing remains comfortably within the control levels set and no new borrowing was undertaken.
 - Treasury activity was compliant with the Prudential Indicators set for the financial year.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), previously Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Investment Guidance. The CIPFA Code requires that Full Council receive a report at the start of the financial year, mid-year and year end. The Audit Committee also receive regular updates regarding treasury activity, providing assurance on the effectiveness of the Council's treasury management arrangements.³
- 2.2 The CIPFA Code sets out the following objectives for treasury management:

"It is important that treasury management policies adequately reflect risk and in particular security, liquidity and yield risk, in that order of importance. No treasury management transaction is without risk and management of risks is the key purpose of the treasury management strategy."
- 2.3 Full Council agreed the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2023/24 in February 2023.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 This is a report on past performance for Council to consider the mid-year performance and treasury management activity. Full details of the mid-year review are attached in appendix 1.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The key messages are:

- 4.1.1 Interest rates remain high and are not expected to fall significantly until at least 2025. The bank rate is expected to remain at 5.25% into next year with gradual reductions during 2024, not reaching 4.00% until March 2025.
- 4.1.2 The Council aims to achieve optimum return on its investments in accordance with its priorities of security, liquidity and yield appetite.
- 4.1.3 The Council's average level of funds for investment during the first six months of the year were £44.7m and is therefore able to meet its liabilities, while managing risks associated with carrying cash balances.
- 4.1.4 Interest earned in the first six months amounted to £1.021m an average of 4.67%. This is 0.3% higher than the SONIA benchmark. We continue to prioritise security, liquidity and yield in that order.
- 4.1.5 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.
- 4.1.6 The current forecast is that cash balances will continue to reduce towards year end. This being due to increased levels of capital expenditure, repayment of existing borrowing and planned use of reserves. It is anticipated that borrowing will be required towards the end of this financial year.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 Risk and external factors are considered in the monitoring report.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1. Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Council notes the mid-year treasury management performance 2023/24.

DIRECTOR: OUTCOMES

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Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Author: Tracy Falshaw
Date: 3rd November 2023

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Council

2023-24 Treasury Management Strategy
2023-24 Capital Programme

CIPFA Publications

Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (2017 Edition)
The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017 Edition)

Legislation and Central Government Guidance

Local Government Act 2003
The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003
DLUHC

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Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

**Mid-Year Review Report
2023/24**

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1. Background

1.1 Capital Strategy

In December 2021, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA), issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. These require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following: -

- a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed;
- the implications for future financial sustainability.

1.2 Treasury management

The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low-risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

2. Introduction

This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021).

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report, covering activities during the previous year.
4. Receipt by the audit committee of Quarterly reports for the periods ending April to June and October to December.
5. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
6. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is The Audit Committee:

This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first half of the 2023/24 financial year;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2023/24;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2023/24;
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2023/24;
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2023/24.

3. Economics and Interest Rates

3.1 Economics Update

- The first half of 2023/24 saw:
 - Interest rates rise by a further 1%, taking Bank Rate from 4.25% to 5.25%. In its latest monetary policy meeting on 20 September, the Bank of England left interest rates unchanged at 5.25%.
 - A 0.5% month on month decline in real GDP in July.
 - CPI inflation falling from 8.7% in April to 6.7% in September, its lowest rate since February 2022.
 - Core CPI inflation declining to 6.1% in September from 7.1% in May, a then 31 year high.
 - A cooling in labour market conditions, but no evidence yet that it has led to an easing in wage growth (as the 3 month year on year growth of average earnings rose to 7.8% in August, excluding bonuses).

3.2 Interest Rate Forecasts

The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 0.2%) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

The latest forecast on 25th September sets out a view that short, medium and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some little while, as the Bank of England seeks to squeeze inflation out of the economy.

Link Group Interest Rate View	25.09.23												
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80
6 month ave earnings	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.60	3.10	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90
12 month ave earnings	5.80	5.70	5.50	5.20	4.70	4.20	3.70	3.20	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
5 yr PWLB	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50
10 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50
25 yr PWLB	5.40	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80
50 yr PWLB	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.60

4. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Update

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, (TMSS), for 2023/24 was approved by this Council on 13th February 2023.

- There are no policy changes to the TMSS; the details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and budgetary changes already approved.

5. The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

5.1 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

This table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed at the Budget.

Capital Expenditure by Service	2023/24 Original Estimate £m	Current Position £m	2023/24 Revised Estimate £m
Communities	29.5	13.5	37.2
Children & Families	10.2	3.2	9.8
Adults & Health	1.7	0.7	2.4
Central & Technical	3.0	0.0	2.3
Outcomes	2.0	0.8	2.4
Total	46.4	18.2	54.1

5.2 Changes to the Financing of the Capital Programme

The table below draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans (above), highlighting the original supported and unsupported elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing need may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

Capital Expenditure	2023/24 Original Estimate £m	Current Position £m	2023/24 Revised Estimate £m
Total capital expenditure	46.4	21.9	54.1
Financed by:			
Capital receipts	3.0	1.2	3.0
Capital grants	25.8	14.4	35.6
Revenue	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total financing	28.8	15.7	38.7
Borrowing requirement	17.6	6.2	15.4

5.3 Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), External Debt and the Operational Boundary

The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period, which is termed the Operational Boundary.

Prudential Indicator – Capital Financing Requirement

We are currently forecasting that the Capital Financing Requirement will be £2.2m lower than estimated.

Prudential Indicator – the Operational Boundary for external debt

	2023/24 Original Estimate £m	Current Position £m	2023/24 Revised Estimate £m
Prudential Indicator – Capital Financing Requirement			
Total CFR	258.771	247.371	256.571
Net movement in CFR	11.1	-0.3	8.9
Prudential Indicator – the Operational Boundary for external debt			
Borrowing	183.564	183.564	183.564
Other long-term liabilities*	0	0	0
Total debt (year end position)	183.564	183.564	183.564

* On balance sheet finance leases etc.

5.4 Limits to Borrowing Activity

The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. **Gross external borrowing** should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2023/24 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy of not borrowing in advance of need.

	2023/24 Original Estimate £m	Current Position £m	2023/24 Revised Estimate £m
Borrowing	134.3	136.0	154.3
Other long-term liabilities*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total debt	134.3	136.0	154.3
CFR* (year end position)	258.8	247.4	256.6

* Includes on balance sheet finance leases etc.

A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is **the Authorised Limit** which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Authorised limit for external debt	2023/24 Original Indicator £m	Current Position £m	2023/24 Revised Indicator £m
Borrowing	193.6	193.6	193.6
Other long-term liabilities*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	193.6	193.6	193.6

*

Includes on balance sheet finance leases etc.

6. Borrowing

The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2023/24 is £256.6m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing), or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions.

The capital programme is being kept under regular review due to the effects of inflationary pressures, shortages of materials and labour. Our borrowing strategy will, therefore, also be regularly reviewed and then revised, if necessary, to achieve optimum value and risk exposure in the long-term.

It is anticipated that further borrowing will be undertaken during this financial year.

7. Debt Rescheduling

No debt rescheduling has been undertaken to date in the current financial year.

8. Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the half year ended 30th September 2023, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24. The Director of Finance reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

9. Annual Investment Strategy

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2023/24, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 13th February 2023. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit quality financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach.

Creditworthiness.

Moody's, S&P and Fitch placed the UK sovereign debt rating on Negative Outlook for the first half of 2023-2024. Moody's and S&P have since updated this rating to stable.

Investment Counterparty criteria

The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.

CDS prices

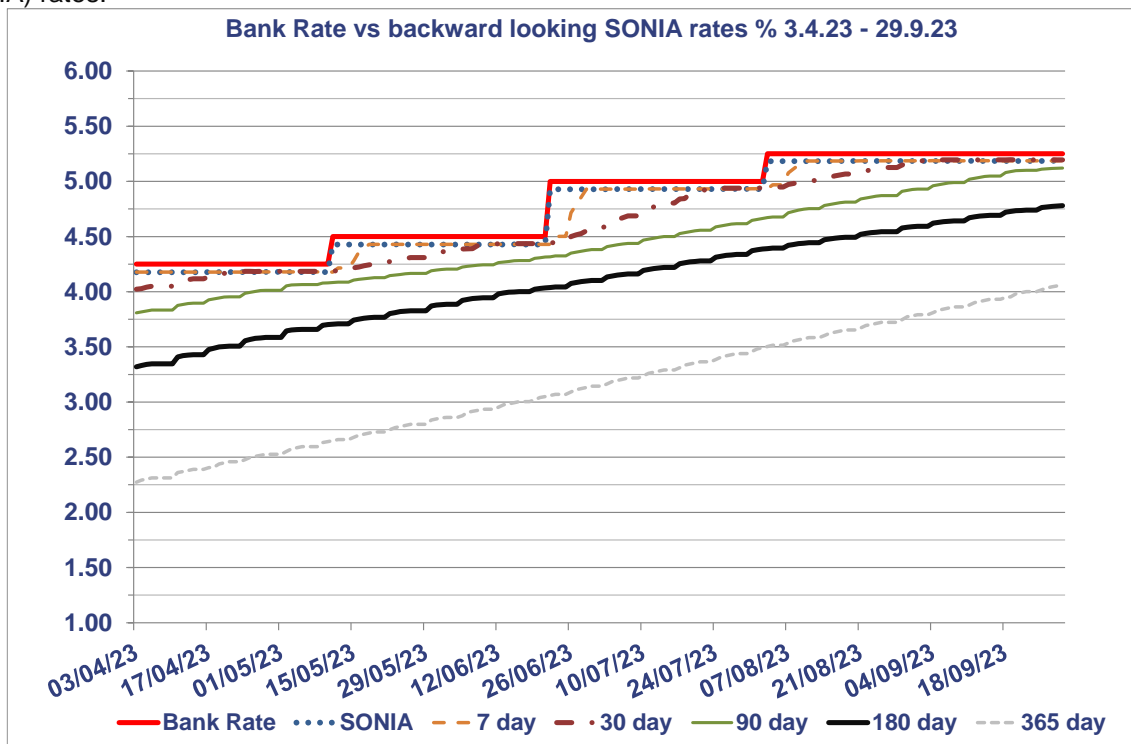
It is noted that sentiment in the current economic climate can easily shift, so it remains important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances.

Investment balances

The average level of funds available for investment purposes during the first half of the financial year was **£44.7m**. These funds were available on a temporary basis, and the level of funds available was mainly dependent on the timing of precept payments, receipt of grants and progress on the capital programme.

Investment performance year to date as of 30th September 2023

The levels shown below use the traditional market method for calculating Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) rates.



	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
High	5.25	5.19	5.19	5.20	5.12	4.78	4.06
High Date	03/08/2023	29/09/2023	04/09/2023	27/09/2023	29/09/2023	29/09/2023	29/09/2023
Low	4.25	4.18	4.18	4.02	3.81	3.32	2.27
Low Date	03/04/2023	04/04/2023	11/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023
Average	4.81	4.74	4.71	4.64	4.44	4.10	3.16
Spread	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.17	1.31	1.46	1.79

The table above covers the first half of 2023/24.

Investment performance year to date as of 30th September 2023

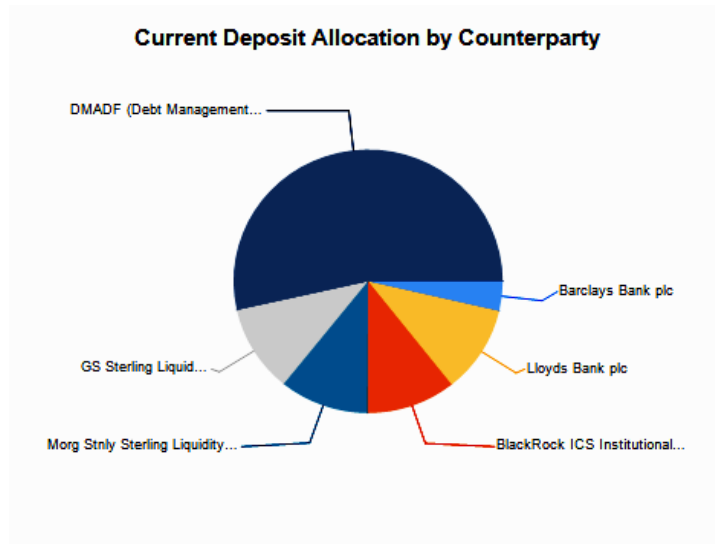
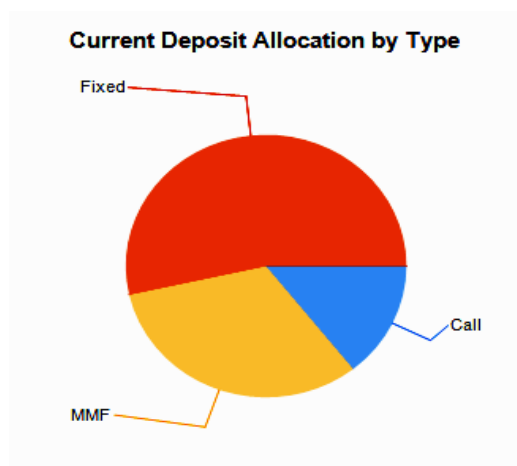
Period	SONIA benchmark return	Council performance	Investment interest earned
1 month	4.64	4.67	1.021m

As illustrated, the Council *outperformed* the benchmark by **0.03%**. The Council's budgeted investment return for 2023/24 is **£0.525m**, the investment return to the 30th September 2023 was **£1.021m**.

Fund investments

- Money Market Funds (MMFs)
- DMO Deposits
- Interest earning call accounts

Investments As at 30 September 2023			
Type	Counterparty	Rate	Principal O/S (£)
Fixed	DMADF (Debt Management Account Deposit Facility)	5.30%	24,950,000.00
Call	Barclays Bank plc	2.02%	1,686,461.12
Call	Bank Of Scotland plc	5.14%	5,000,000.00
MMF	Morgan Stanley Sterling Liquidity Inst	5.26%	5,000,000.00
MMF	BlackRock Institutional Sterling Liquidity	5.24%	5,000,000.00
MMF	Goldman Sachs MMF	5.21%	5,000,000.00
Total			46,636,461.12



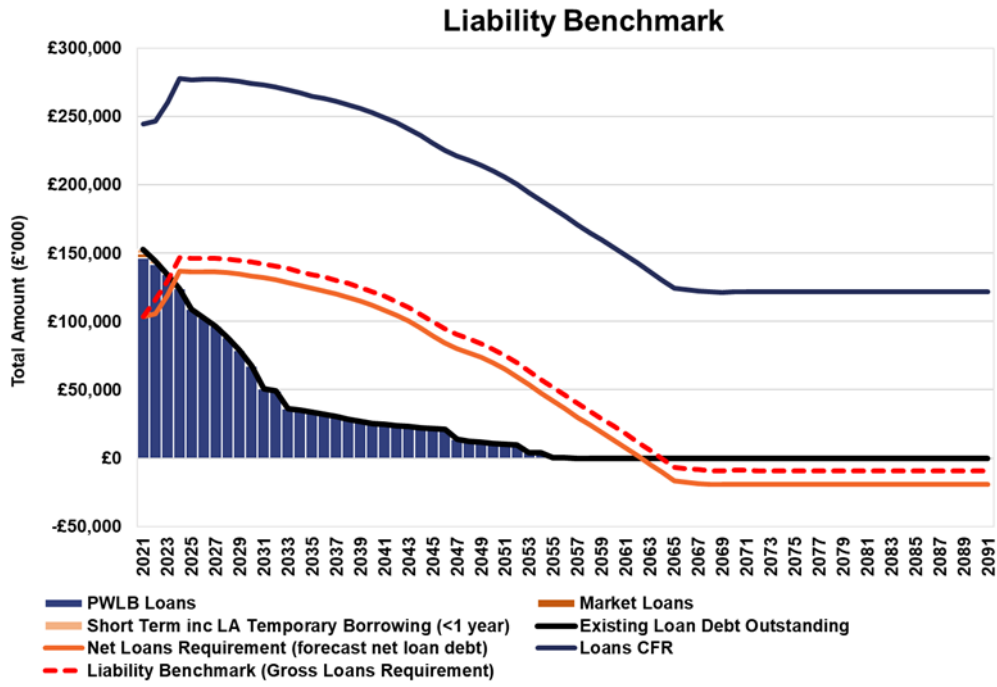
Approved limits

Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the period ended 30th September 2023.

10. Other

There are no other issues to report.

APPENDIX 1: the CFR, Liability Benchmark and Borrowing



Report of the Director:
Outcomes

Item Number: 7
Meeting: 4 December 2023

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

REVIEW OF PROTOCOL OF MEMBER OFFICER RELATIONS (PART E CODE 3 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION)

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider, approve and adopt a draft revised 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' (Part E Code 3 of the council's Constitution) attached as appendix 2, as recommended to Council by the Standards Committee.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council at its meeting on 5 October 2023 (minute 2927 refers) approved a review of the above protocol as requested by the Leader of the Council and his Executive, which complied with good practice to review regularly codes and protocols contained within Part E of the council's Constitution. In accordance with requirements of Article 15 (15.01) 'Review and Revision of the Constitution' this review and a recommended revised draft protocol has been carried out through and considered by the council's Standards Committee at its meeting on 9 November 2023. The Committee recommended to Council that the reviewed draft protocol be approved and adopted.
- 2.2 The review of the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations included research of corresponding protocols of other councils, and considered the associated content of the council's Code of Conduct for Members, Code of Conduct for Officers and the council's Media Relations and Publicity Management Policy. The council's current 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' is attached as appendix 1 and a draft revised protocol is attached as appendix 2.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To approve and adopt the revised draft protocol on Member/Officer Relations at appendix 2.

3.2 That the revised draft protocol on Member/Officer Relations not be approved and adopted and be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 A review of Part E Code 3 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' was carried out in accordance with good practice and complies with Article 15 'Review and Revision of the Constitution. The revised draft protocol provides an enhanced guide for members and officers of the Council in their relations with one another in such a way as to ensure the smooth running of the Council and to foster good working relationships.

4.2 The protocol also seeks to reflect the principles underlying the respective Codes of Conduct which apply to members and officers. The shared objective of these Codes is to enhance and maintain the integrity of local government and the Codes, therefore, they demand very high standards of personal conduct. Members and officers must at all times observe the protocol. Consequently, a breach of the provisions of the protocol may also constitute a breach of those Codes.

4.3 Not to recommend approval of the revised draft 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' will not comply with good practice, not provide an enhanced guide for members and officers of the Council in their relations with one another, which may impact upon their working relations and the operations, outcomes and reputation of the council and local government.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no direct financial/resource implications associated with this report.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Effective member/officer working relations enhances and increases opportunities to deliver the desired outcomes of the Council Plan.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required for this report.

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 The Monitoring Officer and Head of Corporate Marketing and Communications were consulted as part of the review of the protocol.

8.2 There are no conflicts of interest.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That the revised draft 'Protocol on Member/Officer Relations' Relations' be approved and adopted and included as Part E Code 3 of the council's Constitution.

DIRECTOR: OUTCOMES

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SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Post Code: DN15 6NL
Author: RAMell
Date: 21 November 2023

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

The corresponding protocols of other councils, the council's Code of Conduct for members and for officers, and the council's Media Relations and Publicity Management Policy.

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PART E CODE 3 - PROTOCOL ON MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

E3.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The following general principles shall govern the relations between members and employees.

- (a) Members and employees recognise that they have an essential role to play in the success of the council in achieving its vision, mission and promise.
- (b) Members and employees will work to develop relationships which are based on mutual respect, trust and support.
- (c) Members and employees recognise that both are subject to and must abide by national and local codes of conduct.
- (d) Members and employees will avoid actions which may be seen as promoting personal gain but will work to achieve the Council's agreed objectives.
- (e) Employees will at all times abide by the politically restricted post provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder and, except in the case of political assistants, will not act in the course of their employment in a manner which could create a suspicion that they favour one political group above another.
- (f) Members and political groups will seek advice only on Council business and not use council resources for political business.
- (g) It is recognised by members and employees that occasions will arise when politically sensitive information is communicated to an employee in confidence. In those circumstances the employee will not communicate that information to other party groups.

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PART E CODE 3 - PROTOCOL ON MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 The objectives of this protocol are to guide members and officers of the Council in their relations with one another in such a way as to ensure the smooth running of the Council and to foster good working relationships.
- 1.2 The Council has adopted Codes of Conduct for both members and officers. The protocol also seeks to reflect the principles underlying the respective Codes of Conduct which apply to members and officers. The shared objective of these Codes is to enhance and maintain the integrity (real and perceived) of local government and the Codes, therefore, demand very high standards of personal conduct.
- 1.3 Members and officers must at all times observe this protocol. This protocol is a local extension of the Members' and Employees' Codes of Conduct. Consequently, a breach of the provisions of this protocol may also constitute a breach of those Codes.
- 1.4 This protocol should be read in conjunction with the Members' and Employees' Codes of Conduct, the Council's Constitution and any guidance issued by the Standards Committee and/or Monitoring Officer.
- 1.5 This protocol is to a large extent a written statement of current practice and convention. It seeks to promote greater clarity and certainty. If the protocol is followed it should ensure that members receive objective and impartial advice and that officers are protected from accusations of bias and any undue influence from members.
- 1.6 Given the variety and complexity of relations between members and officers of the Council, this protocol does not seek to be comprehensive. It is hoped, however, that the framework it provides will serve as a guide to dealing with a range of circumstances.
- 1.7 The provisions of the protocol are to be interpreted in accordance and in conjunction with the general seven principles applying to public life/office. These are the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

2.0 THE ROLE OF MEMBERS

- 2.1 Members have a number of roles and need to be alert to the potential for conflicts of interest which may arise between the roles. Where such conflicts are likely, members may wish to seek the advice of senior colleagues, the relevant senior officer(s), and/or the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.2 At all times members should be aware that the role they are performing may impact upon the nature of their relationship with officers and the expectations that officers may have of them.
- 2.3 Collectively, members are the ultimate policymakers determining the core values of the council and approving the council's policy framework, strategic plans, and budget.
- 2.4 Members represent the community, act as community/place leaders, and promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the community often in partnership with other agencies.
- 2.5 Every member represents the interests of, and is an advocate for, their ward and individual residents. They represent the council in the ward, respond to the concerns of residents, meets with partner agencies, and often serves on local bodies.
- 2.6 Some members have roles relating to their position as members of the Executive, Scrutiny Committees/Panels and other regulatory and/or quasi-judicial committees/board and sub-committees of the council. Some members may be appointed to represent the council on local, regional or national 'outside' bodies.
- 2.7 As politicians, members may express the values and aspirations of the party-political groups to which they belong, recognising that in their role as members they have a duty always to act in the public interest.
- 2.8 Members are not authorised to instruct officers other than:
 - i. through the formal decision-making process.
 - ii. to request the provision of consumable resources provided by the council for members' use
- 2.9 Members are not authorised to initiate or certify financial transactions, or to enter into a contract on behalf of the council, although they may be consulted on them.
- 2.10 Members must avoid taking actions which are unlawful, financially improper, or likely to amount to maladministration.
- 2.11 Members must respect the impartiality of officers and do nothing to compromise it, e.g. by insisting that an officer change their professional advice.

- 2.12 Members should only become involved in commercial transactions at the formal decision-making stage. When dealing with a commercial transaction members should be aware of the requirements of the council's Contracts Procedure Rules.

3.0 THE ROLE OF OFFICERS

- 3.1 Officers are responsible for giving advice to members to enable them to fulfil their roles. In doing so, officers will take into account all available relevant factors.
- 3.2 Under the direction and control of the council, officers manage and provide the council's services within the framework of responsibilities delegated to them. This includes the effective management of employees and operational issues.
- 3.3 Officers have a duty to implement decisions of the council which are lawful, and which have been properly approved in accordance with the requirements of the law and the council's constitution, and duly minuted/recorded.
- 3.4 Officers have a contractual and legal duty to be impartial. They must not allow their professional judgement and advice to be influenced by their own personal views.
- 3.5 Officers must assist and advise all parts of the council. They must always act to the best of their abilities in the best interests of the council as expressed in the council's formal decisions.
- 3.6 Officers must be alert to issues which are, or are likely to be, contentious or politically sensitive, and be aware of the implications for members, the media or other sections of the public.
- 3.7 Officers have the right not to support members in any role other than that of a member, and not to engage in actions incompatible with this protocol. In particular, there is a statutory limitation on officers' involvement in political activities.
- 3.8 Some officers may be appointed to local, regional or national bodies because of their particular skills and expertise. They may be appointed specifically to represent the Council or in their personal capacity.

4.0 THE RELATIONSHIP: GENERAL POINTS

- 4.1 Members are elected by, and officers are servants of the public and members and officers are indispensable to one another. However, their responsibilities are distinct. Members are accountable to the electorate and serve only so long as their term of office lasts. Officers are accountable to the council as a whole. Their job is to give advice to members (individually and collectively) and to carry out the council's work under the direction and control of the council.
- 4.2 The conduct of members and officers should be such as to instil mutual confidence and trust. The key elements are a recognition of and a respect for each other's roles and responsibilities. These should be reflected in the behaviour and attitude of each to the other, both publicly and privately.
- 4.3 At the heart of the Codes, and this protocol, is the importance of mutual respect. Member/officer relationships are to be conducted in a positive and constructive way. Therefore, it is important that any dealings between members and officers should observe standards of courtesy and that neither party should seek to take unfair advantage of their position nor seek to exert undue influence on the other party. The use of more extreme forms of behaviour and emotion is rarely conducive to establishing mutual respect and is not a basis for constructive discussion.
- 4.4 Informal and collaborative two-way contact between members and officers is encouraged. But personal familiarity can damage the relationship, as might a family or business connection. Inappropriate relationships can be inferred from language/behaviour. Close personal familiarity between individual members and officers can damage the relationship of mutual respect and prove embarrassing to other members and officers. To protect both members and officers, officers should address members as 'councillor' and/or mayor, save where circumstances clearly indicate that a level of informality is appropriate, for example, a one-to-one meeting between a director and their respective executive/cabinet member.
- 4.5 Members and officers should inform the Monitoring Officer of any relationship which might be seen as unduly influencing their work in their respective roles.
- 4.6 It is not enough to avoid actual impropriety. Members and officers should always be open about their relationships to avoid any reason for suspicion and any appearance of improper conduct. Where a personal relationship has been disclosed, those concerned should avoid a situation where conflict could be perceived. Specifically, a member should not sit on a body or participate in any decision which directly affects the officer on a personal basis.

- 4.7 A member should not raise matters openly or through the media relating to the conduct or capability of an officer in a manner that is incompatible with the objectives of this protocol and particularly in relation to any pending or ongoing complaint or disciplinary process involving the officer. This is a long-standing tradition in public service. An officer has no means of responding to such criticisms in public. Furthermore, open criticism may prejudice the bringing of disciplinary proceedings in circumstances where this might otherwise be appropriate.
- 4.8 A member who feels they have not been treated with proper respect, courtesy or has any concern about the conduct or capability of an officer should:
- i. avoid personal attacks on, or abuse of, the officer at all times,
 - ii. ensure that any criticism is well founded and constructive,
 - iii. never make a criticism in public, and
 - iv. take up the concern with the officer privately.
- 4.9 If direct discussion with the officer is inappropriate (e.g. because of the seriousness of the concern) or fails to resolve the matter, they should raise the matter with the respective Director. The Director will then look into the facts and report back to the member. If the member continues to feel concern, then they should raise the issue with the Chief Executive who will look into the matter afresh. Any action taken against an officer in respect of a complaint will be in accordance with the provisions of the council's Human Resources disciplinary rules and procedures.
- 4.10 Challenge in a constructive and non-confrontational way is important in ensuring policies and service performance are meeting the council's strategic objectives, especially during the overview and scrutiny process. Nothing in this paragraph is therefore intended to stop members holding officers to account for their decisions made under delegated powers. Officers are accountable to the council for any decision they make and may be required to report to and answer questions from a scrutiny panel except in relation to council functions. The scrutiny panels may also call-in executive decisions before they are implemented including key decisions taken by officers. Members may also individually request sight of delegated officer decision records and raise queries about a decision with the decision-maker or an appropriate senior officer.

- 4.11 Where an officer feels that they have not been properly treated with respect and courtesy by a member or have been bullied by a member, they should raise the matter with their Director especially if they do not feel able to discuss it directly with the member concerned. In these circumstances the Director, will after consultation with the complainant take appropriate action either by approaching the individual member and/or political group leader/secretary or by referring the matter to the Monitoring Officer in the context of the Standards Committee considering the complaint.

5 THE RELATIONSHIP: DECISION MAKING

- 5.1 The Executive arrangements adopted by the council provide for an officer scheme of delegation. The details of this scheme are set out in the council's Constitution.
- 5.2 Both members and officers have responsibility for decision making for functions of the Council, Executive, overview and scrutiny and regulatory committees/board and sub-committees. These are set out within the council's Constitution and officer Scheme of Delegations and Appointment of Proper Officers.
- 5.3 Members and officers will comply with the advice and guidance set out in the council's Constitution Articles, Functions, Procedure Rules and in addition to any other associated relevant code of conduct, guidance and protocol whilst involved in the decision-making processes.

6 THE RELATIONSHIP: OFFICER SUPPORT TO MEMBERS: GENERAL POINTS

- 6.1 Officers are responsible for day-to-day managerial and operational decisions within the council and members should avoid inappropriate involvement in such matters.
- 6.2 Officers will provide support to both the Executive and all members in their respective roles.
- 6.3 The respective roles and responsibilities of members and officers in relation to employment issues are set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules.
- 6.4 A member should not sit on an appeal hearing if the appellant is a friend, a relative, or an officer with whom the member has had a close working relationship.

- 6.5 Certain statutory officers – Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer as the S151 officer – have specific statutory roles. These are addressed in the council's Constitution. The roles need to be understood and respected by all members.
- 6.6 The following key principles reflect the way in which the officer generally relates to members:
- i. all officers are employed by, and accountable to the council as a whole.
 - ii. they have a duty to implement the properly authorised decisions of the council.
 - iii. support from officers is needed for all the council's functions including full Council, Scrutiny Panels, the Executive, Regulatory committees/board and individual members representing their communities etc.
 - iv. day-to-day managerial and operational decisions remain the responsibility of the Chief Executive and other officers.
 - v. Officers will be provided with training and development to help them support the various member roles effectively and to understand associated structures.
- 6.8 On occasion, a decision may be reached which authorises named officers to take action following consultation with a member or members. The member or members may offer their views or advice to the officer who must take them into account. The member or members must not apply inappropriate pressure on the officer. The decision remains the responsibility of the officer themselves. It must be recognised that it is the officer, rather than the member or members, who takes the action, and it is the officer who is accountable for it.
- 6.9 Finally, it must be remembered that officers are accountable to a Director. That is,
- Officers work to the instructions of their senior officers, not individual members. It follows that, whilst such officers will always seek to assist a member, they must not be asked to exceed the bounds of authority they have been given by their managers. Except when the purpose of an enquiry is purely to seek factual information, members should normally direct their requests and concerns to a senior officer, at least in the first instance.
- 6.10 Whilst officers should always seek to assist a member, they must not, in so doing, go beyond the bounds of whatever authority they have been given by their Director. Where appropriate, officers should make a member aware of the limits of the officer's authority and explain that the matter would have to be referred to the Director.

6.11 Officers will do their best to give timely responses to members' enquiries. Officers' work priorities are set and managed by senior managers. Members should avoid disrupting officers' work by imposing their own priorities.

6.12 Members will endeavour to give timely responses to enquiries from officers.

7 THE RELATIONSHIP: OFFICER SUPPORT TO MEMBERS AND PARTY GROUPS

7.1 It must be recognised by all members and officers that in discharging their duties and responsibilities, officers serve the council as a whole and not any political group, combination of groups or any individual member of the council.

7.2 There is statutory recognition for political party groups, and it is common practice for such groups to give preliminary consideration to matters of council business in advance of such matters being considered by the relevant council decision making body. Officers may properly be called upon to support and contribute to such deliberations by political groups but must at all times maintain political neutrality. All officers must, in their dealings with political groups and individual members, treat them in a fair and even-handed manner.

7.3 The support provided by officers can take many forms. Whilst in practice such officer support is likely to be in most demand from whichever political group is for the time being in control of the council, such support is available to all political groups.

7.4 Certain points must, however, be clearly understood by all those participating in this type of process, members, and officers alike. In particular:

- i. Officer support must not extend beyond providing information and advice in relation to matters of council business. Officers must not be involved in advising on matters of political party business. The observance of this distinction will be assisted if officers are not present at meetings or parts of meetings, when matters of political party business are to be discussed.
- ii. Political group meetings, whilst they form part of the preliminaries to council decision making, are not empowered to make decisions on behalf of the Council. Conclusions reached at such meetings do not therefore rank as 'council

decisions' and it is essential that they are not interpreted or acted upon as such.

- iii. the presence of an officer confers no formal status on such meetings in terms of council business and must not be interpreted as doing so.
- iv. where officers provide information and advice to a political group meeting in relation to a matter of council business, this cannot act as a substitute for providing all necessary information and advice to the relevant decision making body, committee or sub-committee when the matter in question is considered.

- 7.5 Special care needs to be exercised whenever officers are requested to provide information and advice to a political group meeting which includes persons who are not members of the council. Such persons are not bound by the Members' Code of Conduct (in particular, the provisions concerning the declaration of interests and confidentiality) and for this and other reasons, officers may not be able to give the same level of advice as they would to a member only meeting nor give advice to such meetings.
- 7.6 Officers have the right to refuse a request to attend a political group meeting and will normally not attend a meeting of a political group where some of those attending are not members of the council.
- 7.7 The duration of an officer's attendance at a political group meeting will be at the invitation/discretion of the group, but an officer may leave at any time if they feel it is no longer appropriate to be there.
- 7.8 An officer accepting an invitation to the meeting of one political group shall not decline an invitation to advise another political group about the same matter. They must give substantially the same advice to each.
- 7.9 An officer who is not a senior officer shall not be invited to attend a political group meeting, but a senior officer may nominate another appropriate officer to attend on their behalf.
- 7.10 An officer should be given the opportunity of verifying comments and advice attributed to them in any written record of a political group meeting.

- 7.11 No member will refer in public or at meetings of the council to advice or information given by officers to a political group meeting.
- 7.12 Officers must respect the confidentiality of any political group discussions at which they are present in the sense that they should not relay the content of any such discussion to another political group or to any other members. This shall not prevent an officer providing feedback to other senior officers on a need-to-know basis.
- 7.13 In relation to budget proposals:
- (i)the controlling political group shall be entitled to confidential discussions with officers regarding options and proposals. These will remain confidential until determined by the group, until published in advance of the full Council meetings or as part of a prepared motion to be circulated at that meeting; and
- (ii)the opposition group(s) shall also be entitled to confidential discussions with officers to enable them to formulate alternative budget proposals. These will remain confidential until determined by the opposition group(s) or until published in advance of the full Council meeting or as part of a prepared amendment (to the ruling group's prepared motion) to be circulated at that meeting.
- 7.14 It must not be assumed by any political group or member that any officer is supportive of any policy or strategy developed because of that officer's assistance in the formulation of that policy or strategy.
- 7.15 Any particular cases of difficulty or uncertainty in this area of officer advice to political groups should be raised with the Chief Executive who will discuss them with the relevant political group leader(s).

8 OFFICER SUPPORT TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- 8.1 The appropriate Directors, and/or senior officers may offer to arrange regular informal meetings with chairs of committees and sub-committees.
- 8.2 Senior officers (including the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer equivalent) have the right to present reports and give advice to committees and sub-committees.
- 8.3 Members of a committee or sub-committee shall take decisions within the remit of that committee or sub-committee and will not otherwise instruct officers to act on such matters.

9 OFFICER SUPPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE

- 9.1 It is important that there should be a close working relationship between Executive members (as political managers/leaders of the council) and officers who support and/or interact with them. However, such relationships should never be allowed to become so close, or appear to be so close, as to bring into question the officer's ability to deal impartially with other members and other party groups.
- 9.2 Whilst Executive members will routinely be consulted as part of the process of drawing up proposals for consideration or the agenda for a forthcoming meeting, it must be recognised that in some situations an officer will be under a professional duty to submit a report. Similarly, a Director or other senior officer will always be fully responsible for the contents of any report submitted in their name. This means that any such report will be amended only where the amendment reflects the professional judgement of the author of the report. This is to be distinguished from a situation where there is a value judgement to be made. Any issues arising between an Executive member and a Director in this area should be referred to the Chief Executive for resolution in conjunction with the Leader of the Council
- 9.3 The Executive and its Members have wide ranging leadership roles, They will:
- i. lead the community planning process and the search for best value, with input and advice from scrutiny panels, relevant committees and any other persons as appropriate;
 - ii. lead the preparation of the council's policies and budget;
 - iii. take in-year decisions on resources and priorities, together with other stakeholders and partners in the local community, to deliver and implement the budget and policies decided by the full Council; and
 - iv. be the focus for forming partnerships with other local public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations to address local needs.
- 9.4 Executive members will take decisions in accordance with the Constitution and will not otherwise direct officers. Senior officers will be responsible for implementing Executive's decisions.

- 9.5 Officers will make arrangements for briefing members of the Executive about business within their remit. Senior officers and Executive members shall agree mutually convenient methods of regular contact.
- 9.6 Where functions which are the responsibility of the Executive are delegated to officers (or other structures outside the Executive), the Executive will nevertheless remain accountable to the Council for the discharge of those functions. That is to say, the Executive will be held to account for both its decision to delegate a function and the way that the function is being carried out. Scrutiny Panels may call in and review the decisions of the Executive and officers acting under delegated authority and report the outcome of its review in accordance with overview and scrutiny procedure rules or associated rules within the council's Constitution.
- 9.7 Officers work for and serve the council as a whole. Nevertheless, as the majority of functions are the responsibility of the Executive, it is likely that in practice many officers will be working to the Executive for most of their time. The Executive must respect the political neutrality of officers. Officers must ensure that, even when they are predominantly providing advice and assistance to the Executive, their political neutrality is not compromised.
- 9.8 In organising support for the Executive, there is a potential for tension between Directors and Executive members with portfolios. All Members and officers need to be constantly aware of the possibility of such tensions arising and both officers and members need to work together to avoid such tensions and conflicts existing or being perceived.
- 9.9 Administrative and clerical support available to Executive and their lead members is provided by staff within the relevant political group office.

10. THE RELATIONSHIP: OFFICER AND SCRUTINY PANELS

- 10.1 Scrutiny Panels roles and functions are set out within the council's Constitution, especially the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 10.2 In exercising the right to call-in a decision of the Executive, members of a scrutiny panel must seek officer advice if they consider the decision is contrary to the council's budget and/or policy frameworks, or is unlawful.
- 10.3 Provisions relating to the attendance of officers at a Scrutiny Panel are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules,

- 10.4 Members should not normally expect more junior officers to give evidence at scrutiny panels. All requests should be made to senior officers in the first instance.
- 10.5 When making requests for officer attendance, Scrutiny Panel members shall have regard to the workload of officers.
- 10.6 It is recognised that officers required to appear before a Scrutiny Panel may often be those who have advised the Executive or another part of the council on the matter under consideration and this should be recognised and not challenged by scrutiny panel members.
- 10.7 Officers should be prepared to justify advice given to the council, the Executive, scrutiny panels and other committees/board and sub-committees even if/when the advice was not accepted.
- 10.8 In giving evidence at scrutiny panels, officers must not be asked to give political views.
- 10.9 Officers should respect members in the way they respond to members' questions.
- 10.10 Members should not question officers in a way which could be interpreted as harassment or bullying.
- 10.11 Scrutiny proceedings must not be used to question the capability or competence of officers. Members need to make a distinction between reviewing the policies and performance of the council and its services, and appraising the personal performance of officers.
- 10.12 Members and officers should be aware of published guidance and good practice relating to the operation of Scrutiny Panels, and specifically their scrutiny role.
- 10.13 Officers' evidence given at scrutiny panels should so far as possible, be confined to questions of fact and explanation relating to policies and decisions.
- 10.14 Officers may explain what the policies are; the justification and objectives of those policies as the Executive sees them; the extent to which those objectives may have been met and how administrative/operational factors may have affected both the choice of policy measures and the manner of their implementation.
- 10.15 Officers may be asked to explain and justify advice they have given to members of the Executive prior to a decision being taken and they should

also be asked to explain and justify decisions they themselves have taken under delegations from the Executive.

- 10.16 As far as possible, officers should avoid being drawn into discussion of the merits of alternative policies where this is politically contentious. Any comment by officers on the Executive's policies and actions should always be consistent with the requirement for officers to be politically impartial.
- 10.17 In connection with the Scrutiny Panel's policy review and development role, officers may reasonably be expected to advise on the effects which would arise out of the adoption of alternative policy options. Any advice on the development of policies should be consistent with the requirement for officers to be politically impartial.
- 10.18 It is not a Scrutiny Panel's role to act as a 'disciplinary tribunal' in relation to the actions of members or officers. Neither is it the role of officers to become involved in what would amount to disciplinary investigations on behalf of a Scrutiny Panel. This is the Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive's function in relation to officers and the Monitoring Officer's and the Standards Committee's functions as regards the conduct of members.
- 10.19 Scrutiny Panel's questioning should be directed towards establishing the facts about what occurred in the making of decisions or implementing Council policies, and not towards the allocation of criticism or blame. (A Scrutiny Panel may recommend (but not require) the Chief Executive to institute a formal enquiry for this purpose).
- 10.20 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out general principles relating to all Scrutiny Panel witnesses. If questioning on the subject matter should stray substantially outside the matters that the Panel previously requested/indicated, the Chair should consider whether an adjournment may need to be considered to enable officers to provide the required information. Questioning should not stray outside any Terms of Reference of the relevant Scrutiny Panel.
- 10.21 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules enable Scrutiny Panels to appoint Working Groups and how these operate and report back to scrutiny panels.
- 10.22 In relation to complaints brought by an individual (Members, officers, or members of the public) about decisions affecting them individually, a Scrutiny Panel must not act as an alternative to procedures within the Corporate Complaints Procedure, or for statutory complaints (Children and Adult) or external procedures required by the Local Government Ombudsman, or an appeal to a Court for example. A Scrutiny Panel should not normally pass judgement on the merits of such a decision.

10.23 In respect of officer support to Scrutiny Panels, Scrutiny Panels are provided with dedicated professional and administrative scrutiny officer (Democracy Services) support to assist them in carrying out their duties. The Council's Directors remain responsible for providing specialised professional advice/information and should advise Scrutiny Panels of reasons if and why they would not wish to provide such services.

11. THE RELATIONSHIP, OFFICER SUPPORT TO REGULATORY COMMITTEES

- 11.1 At the request of a Chair of a Regulatory Committee, a briefing on business can be requested prior to a meeting of the Panel.
- 12.2 The Director: Outcomes is responsible for determining the agenda for a formally convened meeting of a Regulatory Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the Panel.
- 12.3 Members and officers need to be aware of additional codes and protocols which may refer to their specific service area, and arrangements for petitions and public speaking and site visits at Planning Committee and Licensing Committee (as part of the Constitution).

12. MAYOR AND OFFICERS

- 12.1 Officers will respect the position of Mayor (and Deputy Mayor) as first citizen and provide appropriate support.
- 13.2 Detailed guidance for supporting the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at civic and community functions/roles can be provided by the Head of Democracy.

13. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- 13.1 Members and officers serving on outside bodies will treat one another professionally and with respect.
- 13.2 Members and officers should be aware of their role on any outside body to which they are appointed. In particular they should be aware of whether they are appointed: -
 - i. As a representative of the council
 - ii. As a ward member, representing the local community.
 - iii. As a member of a political group, or
 - iv. In their individual capacity

- 13.3 Where members and officers are appointed to an outside body as a representative of the council, they should ensure that they are aware of the council's position in relation to matters within the body's remit
- 13.4 The appointee should seek to abide by the council's position in relation to that matter unless their duties and responsibilities to the outside body prevent this.
- 13.5 Should a member and an officer both be appointed to the same body as the council's representatives they should seek to agree their understanding of the council's position prior to any meeting of the body.
- 13.6 If a member or officer is appointed to an outside body in a capacity other than as the council's representative, they are not obliged to abide by the council's position in respect of any matter. They should however seek to ensure that any view that they express or action they take cannot be perceived as bringing the council into disrepute.
- 13.7 If a member and an officer have a disagreement in relation to a matter within the remit of that body, arising out of their respective roles on the body, they will treat that disagreement in a professional manner. In particular both the member and the officer will take steps to ensure that the disagreement does not affect the nature of their relationship within their respective roles as member and officer of the council.

14. SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEMBERS AND POLITICAL GROUPS

- 14.1 The only basis on which the council can lawfully provide support services (e.g. stationery, typing, printing, photocopying, transport etc) to members is to assist them in discharging their role as members of the council. Such support services must therefore only be used on council business. They should never be used in connection with party political or campaigning activity or for private purposes.

15. MEMBERS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND TO COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

- 15.1 Members have the ability to ask for information pursuant to their legal rights to information. Further details of these rights are set out in the Constitution's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

16. MEDIA AND PUBLICITY

- 16.1 In respect of all associated member and officer matters relating to media and publicity the council's current 'Media Relations and Publicity Management Policy' shall be applied.

17. ACCESS TO PREMISES

- 17.1 Officers have the right to enter council land and premises to carry out their work. Some officers may have the legal power to enter property in the ownership of others. Members have a right of access to council land and premises to fulfil their duties.
- 17.2 When making visits as individual members to fulfil their duties, members should;
- i. whenever practicable, notify and make advance arrangements with the appropriate manager or officer in charge.
 - ii. comply with health and safety, safeguarding, security and other workplace rules;
 - iii. not interfere with the services or activities being provided at the time of the visit;
 - iv. if outside their own ward, ideally notify ward members beforehand; and
 - v. take special care at schools and establishments serving vulnerable sections of society to avoid giving any impression of improper or inappropriate behaviour.

18. USE OF COUNCIL RESOURCES

- 18.1 The Council provides all members with services such as printing and photocopying, and goods such as stationery, laptops, mobile phones and personal computer equipment etc., to assist them in discharging their roles as members of the Council. These goods and services are paid for from the public purse. They should not be used for private purposes or in connection with party political or campaigning activities.
- 18.2 Members should ensure they understand and comply with the council's own rules about the use of such resources, particularly regarding ICT and data security.
- 18.3 Members should not put pressure on officers to provide resources or support which officers are not permitted to give. Examples are:
- i. business which is solely to do with a political party;

- ii. work in connection with a ward or constituency party political meeting; electioneering;
- iii. work associated with an event attended by a member in a capacity other than as a member of the council;
- iv. private personal correspondence;
- v. work in connection with another body or organisation where a member's involvement is other than as a member of the council; and
- vi. support to a Member in his/her capacity as a councillor of another local authority.

19 CO-OPTED MEMBERS

19.1 Officers should provide the same level of support to co-opted members of as they provide to other (elected) members, for example by providing them with the same agenda papers, associated documents, briefings and training opportunities. Officers and elected members should afford co-opted members the same level of respect and opportunity to contribute (so far as their role permits them to do so), as to any other member of a committee/panel/board.

20 BREACHES OF THE PROTOCOL

20.1 Allegations of breaches of this protocol by members may be referred to the Monitoring Officer initially, and if required by them to the relevant Leader and/or Chief Whip of a political group. However, in certain circumstances a breach of this protocol might constitute a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct, in which case a complaint could be submitted/considered in accordance with the council's Standards Arrangements.

20.2 Allegations of breaches by officers are to be referred to the employee's Director for consideration of appropriate action including disciplinary investigation under the Human Resources council disciplinary rules.

21 MONITORING, REVIEW AND INTERPRETATION

21.1 The Monitoring Officer will in accordance with good governance/practice monitor and review regularly this protocol and propose any significant amendments through the Standards Committee before approval by Council.

21.2 Interpretation of this protocol will be determined by the Monitoring Officer.

RAMOct23