

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION – CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION OUTCOMES AND SUBMISSION OF FINAL PROPOSAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

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

- 1.1 This report asks the Leader of the Council to agree further steps to secure devolution to Greater Lincolnshire, including consideration of the results of the recent public consultation, review of the devolution proposal and a decision on further implementation including submission of the final Proposal to the Secretary of State with associated delegations.

**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 strategic footprint.
- 2.2 In December 2022 the three upper tier councils of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, - the constituent councils – 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.
- 2.3 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.

2.4 The devolution deal set 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 jobs funding
- Local control over the Adult Education Budget from 2026
- A consolidated, multi-year transport fund, providing increased financial certainty.

2.5 In November/December 2023 the three upper tier councils supported the Deal and a draft Proposal to take forward devolution to Greater Lincolnshire and agreed to formally consult with residents, businesses and other stakeholders across the upper tier council areas and the wider region.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **Consultation on the Proposal for Devolution**

3.1 The Constituent Councils undertook statutory consultation on the Proposal to establish the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA) across Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. This consultation ran from 4 December 2023 to 29 January 2024. Alma Economics were appointed to support the Constituent Councils in undertaking the consultation and noted that the approach taken to the consultation was consistent with other recent devolution consultations.

3.2 The consultation was hosted through the Let's talk Lincolnshire consultation platform providing an established robust mechanism for engagement activities. It included the devolution deal, what it would mean, the benefits and an explanation about how devolution would build on the pre-existing strengths of the area. The website included a number of other pages, including a summary and full copy of the draft Proposal, associated background information and a detailed FAQ section. It also included an online response form for people to respond to the devolution proposal. Over 14,000 visits were made to the consultation platform generating over 4,000 consultation responses.

3.3 The consultation was widely promoted across the area using a broad range of channels including traditional and social media, e-newsletters and distribution of printed copies, 2,500 posters and 5,450 postcards to groups and service locations across the area:

- 14 libraries + 3 mobile libraries
- 33 community hubs
- 49 children's and 7 family centres
- GP surgeries
- 200 community groups
- 350 town and parish councils

Information on devolution was included in 3 magazines – County News, News Direct, Every Household – sent to households across the area. The online promotion included over 200 posts across five platforms reaching 578,054 through social media. The draft proposal for devolution was highlighted in 15 news releases with 63 linked pieces of coverage across online, print, tv and radio in Greater Lincolnshire.

3.4 In addition, a programme of engagement activities and events was undertaken to increase public awareness of the proposals, encourage participation in the survey, and ensure key stakeholder groups and communities of interest and identity were engaged in the consultation process. Consultation events were held in 22 communities across the area, along with 8 staff updates, 23 organisation/business network events, meetings with 31 community groups and a number of further events with seldom heard and hard to reach groups.

### **Responses to the consultation on the Proposal for Devolution**

3.5 4,101 responses were received to the consultation which was open to residents, businesses, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations in Greater Lincolnshire and beyond. Response to the consultation came from all areas of Greater Lincolnshire and wider interested parties. The overall number of responses achieved was greater than targeted at around 2,000.

3.6 An independent appraisal of the consultation by Alma Economics highlighted that relative to its total population of 1.1 million, Greater Lincolnshire achieved the highest response rate across all recent devolution consultations.

3.7 The overall response to the consultation shows broad support for the proposals with support across all six strands of the proposal from business, local government and other organisations and stakeholders.

3.8 Amongst individuals there was support for jobs and business growth, education and training, roads, buses and transport, homes and communities and Environment. There were fewer respondents in favour of the proposals relating to Governance. Full details on the results of the

consultation and analysis of the consultations responses by Alma Economics can be found at Appendix A.

	Individuals		Business		Local Government		Other organisations	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
<b>Jobs and business growth</b>	53%	33%	56%	33%	64%	21%	73%	17%
<b>Education and training</b>	56%	32%	65%	31%	70%	18%	84%	10%
<b>Roads, buses and transport</b>	56%	34%	67%	24%	73%	21%	77%	13%
<b>Homes and communities</b>	48%	38%	64%	31%	58%	21%	69%	17%
<b>Environment</b>	56%	31%	67%	25%	67%	21%	79%	15%
<b>Governance</b>	38%	50%	56%	40%	58%	29%	59%	25%

**Table 1: responses to questions 1 – 6 of the consultation**

3.9 A detailed response to each of the consultation themes and how that has been reflected within the final Proposal is shown at Appendix B. Overall, 70% of respondents chose to include comments about the Proposal.

3.10 The analysis of the responses to the consultation undertaken by Alma Economics separates the comments provides into themes under the following headings:

- a. New jobs and business growth.
- b. Education and training.
- c. Roads, buses and transport.
- d. Homes and communities.
- e. Environment; and
- f. Governance.

3.11 In relation to each of the above themes the analysis of the comments from respondents undertaken by Alma Economics indicates (other than in relation to governance) broad support for the elements of the Proposal relevant to each theme. The majority of the comments make suggestions which go towards implementation of matters within the

Proposal in the context of the GLCCA being established rather than opposing the Proposal, and are interpreted as being in support of the Proposal. A number of general themes were identified that do not relate directly to questions 1-6. To ensure full consideration of the comments both positive and negative themes are shown within the additional themes section of the report. The detailed assessment of the response to the consultation at Appendix B sets out the constituent councils' full analysis of and reply to the themes identified from the comments in response to the consultation. Appendix B should be read alongside Appendix A which sets out the corresponding Alma Economics analysis in relation to each theme.

- 3.12 Opposition to the proposal was focussed on issues relating to governance (including in particular relating to the Mayor, the extent to which a Mayor is necessary, that they may not have sufficient understanding of the region, the creation of an imbalance of power or focus of too much power in a single individual, and risk of corruption); the potential for additional administrative burdens and bureaucracy to be added; concerns around potential mismanagement of funds and a lack of skills within councils to make investments; concerns relating to the cost of implementation of the Proposal, and that this may result in a waste of money; concerns that Greater Lincolnshire is too large and diverse for devolution to be successful in the area; that devolution would weaken the power of local government; and doubts about the ability to achieve the aims of the Proposal both in terms of investment being insufficient and it being unclear as to how in practice the proposed devolution benefits will be achieved.
- 3.13 These concerns have been fully assessed in Appendix B and the considerations of the Constituent Councils in respect of each of these issues are set out in that document. These should be considered in full in deciding how to proceed.
- 3.14 The analysis provided by Alma Economics also identifies overarching themes of support and themes of suggestions in relation to the Proposal. These must be considered alongside the themes of concerns relating to the Proposal, and the considerations of the Constituent Councils in relation to these matters are also set out in Appendix B.
- 3.15 Following consideration of all views and issues, the original draft Proposal has been amended to take account of the consultation report and response. The proposed final Proposal for submission to the Secretary of State is shown at Appendix D

The resulting changes to the Proposal include:

- enhanced arrangements for scrutiny and accountability including the adoption of a best practice scrutiny protocol to ensure greater oversight and transparency.

- further clarity in the Proposal on the potential benefits of devolution for different parts of the Greater Lincolnshire geography and opportunities to work with other areas.
  - update to reflect changes to the Government's devolution framework and the introduction of a level 4 offer.
  - recognition that growth will require both the right infrastructure and services.
  - addition of a summary of the consultation informing development of the Proposal
  - updates to the creating a combined authority and next steps to reflect progress through the process and duration of the proposed transition period for transport powers.
  - clarifications to the powers table as a result of further discussions with Government.
- 3.16 Respondents to the consultation also provided views on the future operation of the proposed Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority and where appropriate this information will be used to inform the development of policy. These views are interpreted as being supportive.
- 3.17 The consultation responses have also been used to update the analysis undertaken as part of the Equality Impact Assessment attached at Appendix C and due regard must be had to the updated assessment.
- 3.18 For the reasons set out in Appendix B and having regard to the Equality Impact Assessment at Appendix C it is recommended that the Proposal proceed as amended at Appendix D.

### **Concerns raised regarding the Consultation Process**

- 3.19 A theme in the responses to the consultation was identified as being that the Proposal was considered to be “undemocratic” with some preferences for the decision to be resolved through a referendum. Alma Economics analysis of the responses to the consultation identified that some respondents described the information provided in the consultation as “skewed” given that it emphasised the benefits of the devolution with limited acknowledgment of the drawbacks. Alma Economics state that this was described as an undemocratic basis for the public to make any decisions, providing limited scope to disagree with the proposals.
- 3.20 These comments are acknowledged but the Act requires the production of a proposal for the establishment of a Combined County Authority, and it is this Proposal which must be consulted upon. That proposal must meet certain statutory tests referred to in paragraph 32 and so must make the case for why the Combined County Authority should be established. It would not have been appropriate or compliant with the Act for the consultation to set out various options for consultees to provide comment upon with the Constituent Councils then selecting from these to form a proposal to be presented to the Secretary of State in

accordance with the legislative requirements. This would not have amounted to a consultation on an identifiable proposal which is what the Act requires. Case law is very clear that it is lawful for a consulting body to support the subject matter of a consultation and that counter arguments need not be provided if to do so is inappropriate provided that any counter arguments are properly considered in deciding how to proceed.

- 3.21 Comments have been received as part of the consultation exercise which are both positive and negative towards various aspects of the draft Proposal. These have been fully considered and the outcome of those considerations is set out in Appendix B. The Constituent Councils consulted on the Proposal at a formative stage and have retained an open mind as to whether to proceed with the Proposal at all, as well as the potential to proceed on the basis of an amended Proposal.
- 3.22 It is also noted that during the consultation period there were media publications which set out opposition to the Proposal and therefore views contrary to Proposal were not only submitted in response to the consultation exercise but also made publicly available and could have influenced the responses of respondents.
- 3.23 The media publications refer to district councillors expressing dissatisfaction with the consultation process, arguing that it overly emphasises positive aspects of devolution while neglecting potential downsides. This reflects the point above and that was identified by Alma Economics as part of their analysis of the responses to the consultation.
- 3.24 It was also suggested that questions were asked in a way that would result in answers sought by the Constituent Councils. Concern is also expressed as to the Proposal encompassing too broad an area, and that funding may not be utilised for the benefit of all areas of Greater Lincolnshire.
- 3.25 All of the above matters were submitted by way of responses to the consultation, and form part of the themes that Alma Economics have identified and reported upon in relation to the consultation analysis. These matters have subsequently been assessed by the Constituent Councils and the position of the Constituent Councils is set out in Appendix B.

### **Process for devolution to Greater Lincolnshire**

- 3.26 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 process is triggered by the submission of the Proposal from the Constituent Councils, along with evidence of consultation on the Proposal.

3.27 Following any submission the Secretary of State will assess 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 Mayoral 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.

3.28 If the Proposal is accepted it will form the basis from which the Secretary of State will develop draft Regulations which will be submitted to Parliament before a Greater Lincolnshire 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 Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority which will be included in the Statutory Instrument. Further detail will be contained in the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority's constitution which is a matter for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority.

3.29. It is proposed that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executives of all other Constituent Councils to consider, finalise and consent to the making of the Regulations including any amendments which may arise. This delegation will be exercised following consultation with the Leader of the Council, and is proposed in order to ensure that timely consideration and response in relation to the production of the Regulations will be achievable in the context of the Parliamentary process that is required to be followed in relation to the Regulations.

3.30 Alternative Options (see analysis of alternative options in paragraph 4.6 below)

- (i) To agree not to submit a Proposal to the Secretary of State to establish a Mayoral Combined County Authority.
- (ii) To agree to submit the original draft Proposal to the Secretary of State without amendment.



- (iii) To seek alternative devolution arrangements for Greater Lincolnshire.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Upper tier councils in Greater Lincolnshire have agreed to seek a range of new powers and funding for the area through devolution. The final Proposal takes into account the consultation feedback and would progress the creation of a Combined County Authority covering Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire in accordance with The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (the Act).
- 4.2 The consultation findings are supportive of the devolution ambitions that are contained within the proposal document, subject to the amendments that have been made following the consultation exercise. Whilst it is recognised that there is some challenge around the governance arrangements, it is considered that the constituent councils can be satisfied that the governance arrangements are in themselves robust and strike an appropriate balance between constituent and non-constituent members and between the appointed members of the County Combined Authority and the directly elected Mayor. They also establish a suitable framework for collaboration, transparency and accountability in the operations of the new entity.
- 4.3 Whilst clear concerns were expressed concerning the principle of establishing a new body or having a directly elected Mayor both the Combined County Authority and a directly elected Mayor are, under current government policy a requirement for the devolution of Level 3 powers and funding to be secured for Greater Lincolnshire. Some concerns were expressed in the consultation that the levels of power and funding on offer were not sufficient to outweigh what some respondents saw as the disadvantages of the governance structure but on balance respondents were supportive of the benefits identified and the deal on offer to Greater Lincolnshire is significant compared with those on offer to other areas. Proceeding with the deal currently on offer also opens up opportunities for further devolution of powers and funding in future.
- 4.4 On balance therefore it is considered that the benefits available from a Level 3 deal justify proceeding with the Proposal including the establishment of a Combined County Authority with a directly elected Mayor.
- 4.5 The Act sets out a process for achieving devolution which is triggered through the submission of a proposal and associated consultation evidence to the Secretary of State. Subject to the Secretary of State agreeing devolution to the area, constituent councils will be required at a future stage to consent to the making of Regulations establishing the Combined County Authority. Regulations will be made through a Parliamentary process requiring timely responses and decisions from

constituent councils to support smooth progress. A delegation is sought to enable any further decisions to be made including finalising of the Regulations and the giving of consent to the final version in accordance with parliamentary timeline for achieving devolution.

The recommendations of the report enable the upper tier councils to progress the next stages of the process including approval of a final proposal for submission to Government.

#### 4.6 Analysis of alternative options –

- (i) To agree not to submit a Proposal to the Secretary of State to establish a Mayoral Combined County Authority - this is not recommended as the process would end, the Combined County Authority could not be established, and no powers or funding would be devolved.
- (ii) To agree to submit the original draft Proposal to the Secretary of State without amendment - this option is not recommended as the amendments to the draft Proposal reflected in the final Proposal are considered to take appropriate account of the views expressed in the consultation and recent developments.
- (iii) To seek alternative devolution arrangements for Greater Lincolnshire - this is not recommended because the proposal sets out arrangements that would allow for Greater Lincolnshire to receive the maximum amount of devolved powers and funding (a “Level 3” deal). There is no guarantee that an alternative arrangement would be supported by the Secretary of State, and anything less than a Level 3 deal would not deliver comparable benefits.

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

### Legal

#### 5.1 Consultation

The Gunning principles set out the common law principles to be observed when undertaking consultation. The Case of (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning) established these principles, and set out that a consultation is only lawful where these four principles are met:

- (i) Consultation takes place while the proposals are still at a formative stage – a final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision maker.
- (ii) 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.

(iii) 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 an eight-week consultation period was sufficient in this case. The adequacy of the length of time given for consultees to respond can vary depending on the subject.

(iv) “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.

The consultation was carried out lawfully and in compliance with the Gunning principles for the reasons set out in the report.

5.2 Section 45(4) of the Act provides that: before submitting a proposal under this section to the Secretary of State, the authority or authorities preparing the proposal must—

(i) carry out a public consultation across the proposed area on the proposal, and

(ii) have regard to the results of the consultation in preparing the proposal for submission to the Secretary of State.

It is important to note that the obligation on Constituent Councils under Section 45 of the Act is to carry out a consultation “across the proposed area” and consider the results of that consultation. This is a requirement for each Constituent Council to consider the consultation responses provided across the whole area, and not just those provided in their own area. The response to the consultation at Appendix B has considered responses to the consultation across the proposed area for the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority and is compliant with this requirement.

5.3 If the Constituent Councils agree to the submission of the final Proposal to Government, the Secretary of State will consider whether further consultation is necessary or whether to proceed to make Regulations formally establishing the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority. The formal consent to making of the Regulations will be required from the Constituent Councils.

Approval of recommendation (iii) by the constituent councils will trigger the above stages of the process.

Under the delegation set out in recommendation (v) the Chief Executive in consultation as set out in the recommendation will have authority to agree the form of the Statutory Instrument and give consent on behalf of the Council to the establishment of the Mayoral Combined County Authority.

## Resources

- 5.4 The creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority is expected to lead to substantial additional funding being made available to be spent within the combined county authority area on a range of different projects and schemes that will help promote economic growth and improve outcomes for the people who live and work across the region. Furthermore, securing a devolution agreement would mean the area is better placed to maximise any further devolution opportunities that may emerge in future, as has happened in other areas.
- 5.5 In the short-term, the devolution deal includes initial funding for 2024/25, which will be provided by Government towards the cost of establishing the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority as well as ongoing capacity funding in future years.

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

Supporting the recommendations will enable the three upper tier councils to progress to the next stages of the process. This includes approval of a final proposal for submission to Government and consenting to the arrangements to establish a combined county authority. In respect of the latter, this would require the support of various Council professional services to ensure that the new organisation has the right infrastructure in place to support its operations. The constituent councils will commit to review of administration arrangements to improve efficiency.

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

### Equalities

- 6.1 An initial equality impact assessment (EIA) was completed in respect of the Proposal prior to the Consultation. The feedback from the consultation has been used to review the content of the EIA and an updated equality impact assessment has been completed in respect of the proposal which takes account of consultation responses and identifies new potential impacts where these feature in responses together with relevant mitigations. It is attached as Appendix C and due regard must be given to the implications identified in it.
- 6.2 The EIA 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 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 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 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.

- The proposed GLCCA would become subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 and would be required to set equality objectives, publish annual equalities information and have due regard for equality matters when carrying out its functions, making decisions and delivering projects and programmes. The proposed GLCCA should give early consideration to how it will meet these and other duties, particularly as it further develops its priorities, strategies and plans, operation model and governance composition.

#### Health and Wellbeing (JNSA and JHWS)

- 6.4 The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision. The devolution proposal does not include for the transfer of health powers or budgets but the proposed Greater Lincolnshire MCCA could address some of the determinants of poor health across the area in particular through new approaches to support the people that live and work here to train for and access high skill high wage jobs.
- 6.5 Through the devolution of wider powers a new Greater Lincolnshire MCCA would be able to support delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy including developing better access to services - in its role as local transport authority, - integrating physical activity into strategic planning, enabling provision of good quality, safe housing and addressing poor standards of housing and the level of appropriate housing required.

#### Crime and Disorder

- 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 one of 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.

### **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 15 March 2024. 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) Notes and considers the outcomes of the public consultation attached at Appendix A,
- (ii) Has due regard to the response to the consultation outcomes attached at Appendix B and the updated Equality Impact Assessment attached at Appendix C,
- (iii) Notes the amendments that have been made to the Proposal to take account of the results of the consultation, and approves the document at Appendix D as the final Proposal relating to Devolution in Greater Lincolnshire,
- (iv) Approves the submission to the Secretary of State pursuant to section 45(1) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 of the final Proposal at Appendix D together with relevant associated documents proposing the establishment of a Combined County Authority for Greater Lincolnshire,
- (v) Delegates to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executives of the other constituent councils authority to take all decisions and approve all steps necessary to finalise the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority for Greater Lincolnshire up to and including the giving of consent to its establishment on behalf of the Council for the purposes of section 46(1)(d) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –**  
Reports to Council December 2022 and 2023 – ‘A Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire’.

Levelling Up White Paper	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom</a>
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023	<a href="https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155">https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155</a>