

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

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

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report invites Council to consider and support a report on:
- the outcomes of the public consultation on devolution proposals for Greater Lincolnshire,
 - the response of the constituent councils to the themes from the public consultation and the updated Equality Impact Assessment,
 - the amendments made to the Proposal to consider the consultation findings, and
 - the next steps, timelines and delegations set out within the report which would support devolution for Greater Lincolnshire.

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. This consultation ran from 4 December 2023 to 29 January 2024.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Decision making to submit devolution proposals to the Secretary of State is an Executive function of the Council. In accordance with process set out in the December 2022 and December 2023 Council reports, the Leader of the Council is seeking the support of the Council before taking/reaching a decision.
- 3.2 The attached report and appendices under consideration by the Leader of the Council within his executive portfolio (appendix 1 to this report) -
- Sets out a detailed analysis of the consultation findings to support the Leader in making a decision on whether to progress with ambitions for devolution in Greater Lincolnshire –
 - Details the response of the constituent councils to the consultation findings, along with revisions to the proposal and equality impact assessment.
 - Sets out that on balance, the consultation findings are supportive of the devolution ambitions.
 - Details and progresses the steps required to deliver on a historic devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire 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.

- 2.7 Council is requested to consider the attached report (appendix 1) and to support the recommendations under consideration by the Leader of the Council (as set out in the report, paragraph 9).
- 2.8 Alternatively, to not support the recommendations to the Leader of the Council.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Full analysis of options under consideration by the Leader of the Council are set out in paragraph 4 of the attached report (appendix 1).

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 legal and resources comments detailed in the Executive (Leader of the Council) decision report attached (appendix 1)

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

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with this report. Members attention is drawn to the equalities, health and wellbeing and crime and disorder comments detailed in the Executive (Leader of the Council) decision report attached. (appendix 1)

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 4 March 2024. The views of members have been received by the Leader of the Council to inform 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 the proposed recommendations within under consideration (as set out in paragraph 9).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Post Code: DN15 6NL

Author: Lee Sirdifield (LCC, Assistant Director: Corporate) and Richard Mell
Date: 5 March 2024

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	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023	https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155