

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

## **GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

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

- 1.1 To invite the Cabinet to consider and approve establishing a strategic joint committee with Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to be known as the 'Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee.' The Joint Committee will only relate to the discharge of member authorities' executive functions as referred to in paragraph 3.
- 1.2 An urgent decision is required to enable the Joint Committee to meet formally as soon as possible. Individual member authorities are required to approve its establishment, membership and terms of reference beforehand, as there is not another scheduled meeting of the Cabinet until 25 January 2021.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council continues to work alongside North East Lincolnshire Council, Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), strengthening partnership working to deliver growth and prosperity across the region.
- 2.2 Establishing a joint committee of upper tier authorities will provide a formal, and visible collaborative working arrangement, ensuring high levels of strategic alignment. It builds upon the existing working relationships and will provide the forum for exploring opportunities to work strategically together to improve service quality and bring benefits to our outcomes for residents. This also has the potential to enable funding to be utilised more effectively where scope and scale would be advantageous.
- 2.3 North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council are part of a similar committee across the Humber – the Humber Leadership Board.

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

- 3.1 **Establish a strategic joint committee** with Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, as set out in the report, to be known as the 'Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee.
- 3.2 Subject to the required approval of each of the three member upper tier authorities, the joint committee will exercise purely executive functions. It is not a decision making body, but will explore and promote greater levels of collaboration, alignment and integration of upper tier authority responsibilities. Any proposals that are developed by the joint committee will be approved through each member authority's executive decision making processes and associated overview and scrutiny functions.
- 3.3 **Approve and adopt the Terms of Reference** in Appendix 1. It is proposed that the joint committee will consist of the Leader and one Executive Member from each of the three member authorities. It is therefore for the Leader of the Council to appoint the executive member to the joint committee and decide their duration of office.
- 3.4 The Joint Committee will be chaired on a rotating basis, by the Leader of each of the three local authorities. There will also be attendance by a co-opted representative from the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP). The involvement of a representative from the GLLEP ensures the committee takes account of the needs of businesses within Greater Lincolnshire, as well as bringing a detailed understanding of the Greater Lincolnshire region. The Chief Executive of each authority, or a nominated substitute, will also attend the Joint committee.

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

- 4.1 Establishing the joint committee will ensure that there is a coherent strategic focus, alignment and further collaboration across upper tier functions, creating opportunities to work at scale and providing leadership for Greater Lincolnshire. Associated executive decisions will be taken by member council's through their own executive decision making processes, which also maintains local transparency, scrutiny and accountability.
- 4.2 Not establishing and being a member of the proposed joint committee, may undermine the strategic position, role and leadership of North Lincolnshire Council within Greater Lincolnshire and detract from the advantages and benefits to the area already described in paragraph 2 above.

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

- 5.1 There are no resource implications associated with this report.

5.2 The Local Government Act 1972, as amended, enables local authorities to establish joint committees to support joint working across different local authority areas. Like all such joint committees, this joint committee will be subject to access to information requirements and, more particularly, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012.

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

6.1. By establishing and being a member of the joint committee aligns with the Council Plan, maximising the opportunities for North Lincolnshire as part of a Greater Lincolnshire, to be the best place for our residents.

**7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable

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

8.1 Consultation has been ongoing, through strategic partnership working by the three upper tier local councils on proposals to establish the joint committee.

8.2 There are no conflicts of interest.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That the establishment of a strategic joint committee with Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council as set out in the report, to be known as the 'Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee' be approved.

9.2 That the strategic joint committees' Terms of Reference as set out in the appendix to the report be approved and adopted.

DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – None**

## APPENDIX 1

### **Summary of Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee arrangements**

The core functions of the Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Oversight Committee are to:

1. Facilitate cooperation and collaboration between Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, in so far as it relates to their executive functions on the following themes:
  - a) The development and application of strategy across the Greater Lincolnshire economic region
  - b) The development of opportunities to gain greater alignment across Greater Lincolnshire, where scale and scope are required and can enhance upper tier functions
  - c) The strategic alignment of investment across Greater Lincolnshire
2. Consider strategic use of public funds across the common functions and activities of the Councils, to benefit the economy and support the collective ambitions of the three councils and the region.
3. Act as a formal link between the three upper tier local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire on activity related to the above themes

### **Terms of Reference**

1. Develop and recommend for consideration by each of the authorities, proposals relating to the core functions of the committee.
2. Act as an advocate for investment in the sustainable economic development of Greater Lincolnshire and maintain oversight for delivery arrangements relating to the core functions.
3. Align and make recommendations on capital expenditure programmes that operate across Greater Lincolnshire, to ensure the strategic ambitions are effectively delivered in relation to the core functions.
4. Consider reports from sub-regional groups, or other such body or subcommittee/committee and refer recommendations back to the three Councils for further attention.
5. Consider and make recommendations in relation to strategic funding for activities aligned to the core functions.

6. The committee shall comprise of the Leader and one Executive Member from each Council. The committee will be chaired on a rotating basis by the Leader of each of the three local authorities. A co-opted representative from the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership will be in attendance as a non-voting member.
7. Any recommendations made by the joint committee must be referred back to each of the three authorities for consideration through existing democratic processes.
8. The Secretariat of the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Overview Committee is Lincolnshire County Council. Meetings are open to the press and public, and agendas, minutes and papers are published by the Secretariat, in line with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012.