



**Chair's Briefing - Council**

**Monday, 25 March 2024**

**Subject: Outcome of the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal  
Consultation Exercise**

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To present the findings of the consultation exercise and to highlight the proposed amendments to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal as a result of these findings.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council:

1. Note the findings of the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution consultation exercise;
2. Note the proposed amendments to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal, which have been approved by the three constituent authorities;
3. Continues to engage with the implementation of devolution arrangements.

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

The devolution proposal will create a Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA) as included in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. MCCAs are a new model of devolution introduced through this Act to reflect specific governance arrangements of areas with two-tier government.

District and Borough Councils do not sign off the MCCA as this is the responsibility of the three constituent councils (these being Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council). A level three devolution deal does not change the current structure of local government in Lincolnshire.

It is proposed that district councils will create a Joint Committee. To appoint four district leaders to the MCCA, and to act as a forum for district councils to consider matters connected to the functional competence of the MCCA. There will be opportunities for district councils to appoint members to serve on the MCCA itself, a scrutiny panel, and several advisory boards establish to further partnership governance in areas linked to the functional competence of the MCCA.

### **Financial : FIN/5/25/SL**

There are no financial implications arising from this report. Devolution will bring the opportunity to make the case for additional funding for projects within West Lindsey, to accelerate delivery of the council's vision and priorities for the district.

The devolution agreement does not commit the Council to financial liabilities, and the agreement requires the Mayoral Combined Authority to secure Council approval before it implements projects in the district which could create ongoing financial commitments.

### **Staffing :**

There are no staffing implications arising from this report. Officers linked to priorities for economic development, development management, housing strategy, and services linked to the environment, climate action, health and wellbeing may be involved in partnership groups and project collaboration, as they are currently.

The infrastructure required to manage the district contribution to the MCCA may require additional resources of a central nature to coordinate activity but this has not currently been determined. If any such requirement cannot be contained within existing budget, members will be advised.

### **Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

Not applicable in the context of this report.

### **Data Protection Implications :**

There are no data protection implications arising from this report.

### **Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

Not applicable in the context of this report.

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report, however, it is worth noting that in some devolved arrangements, the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner has been abolished and the powers and duties of the PCC have been transferred to the Mayor. This is not the case for Greater Lincolnshire and, under the current proposals, the role of the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner will remain unaffected by the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal.

**Health Implications:**

There are no health implications arising from this report.

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**

1. Levelling Up White Paper  
<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60018/Devolution%20Council%20Report%20With%20Appendix%201.pdf>
2. LCC Report on Devolution  
<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60018/Devolution%20Council%20Report%20With%20Appendix%201.pdf>
3. Devolution Agreement for Greater Lincolnshire  
<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s59997/Appendix%20A%20-%20Greater%20Lincolnshire%20devolution%20deal.pdf>
4. Devolution Proposal – Final  
<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s59998/Appendix%20B%20-%20Greater%20Lincolnshire%20Combined%20Authority%20Proposal%20final.pdf>
5. Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposal Consultation  
<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s59999/Appendix%20C%20-%20Devolution%20Questionnaire.pdf>
6. Devolution for Greater Lincolnshire – Report to Council, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024  
[https://democracy.sharedlincs.net/documents/g3395/Public%20reports%20pack%2022nd-Jan-2024%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=10&LO\\$=1](https://democracy.sharedlincs.net/documents/g3395/Public%20reports%20pack%2022nd-Jan-2024%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=10&LO$=1)
7. Greater Lincolnshire Devolution – Consideration of Public Consultation Outcomes and Submission of Final Proposal to the Secretary of State (LCC)  
<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8837/Public%20reports%20pack%2013th-Mar-2024%2010.30%20Council.pdf?T=10>
8. Greater Lincolnshire Devolution – consideration of the results of the recent public consultation and review of the devolution proposal (NE Lincs)  
<https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8837/Public%20reports%20pack%2013th-Mar-2024%2010.30%20Council.pdf?T=10>
9. Greater Lincolnshire Devolution – Consideration of Public Consultation Outcomes and Submission of Final Proposal to the Secretary of State (N Lincs)  
<https://northlincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s18358/Greater%20Lincolnshire%20Devolution.pdf>

**Risk Assessment :**

The devolution proposal does not introduce risk to the delivery of WLDC services or priorities, nor does it introduce legislative, regulatory or reporting requirements that impact delivery of council services.

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, the UK Government announced a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire. The proposed deal was subsequently agreed at Full Council meetings of the three constituent authorities, these being Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North-East Lincolnshire Council.
- 1.2 Following agreement to proceed with a devolution deal, the proposals were subject to a period of public consultation in the form of an online survey which was open to anybody living in, working in, or visiting Lincolnshire. The survey was led by Lincolnshire County Council and closed on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. WLDC promoted the survey on its website, on social media channels, and internally with staff and members. This report presents the high-level consultation findings for consideration. Full analysis can be found at Appendix A.
- 1.3 In March 2024, the three constituent authorities presented amendments to the proposal which reflected some of the findings of the consultation. These amendments were approved at each authority's respective Full Council meeting. This report also outlines the amendments for members consideration.

## **2 Background to the Consultation**

- 2.1 Between 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the three constituent councils undertook statutory consultation on the proposal to establish the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority across Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire. Alma Economics were appointed to support the constituent councils in undertaking the consultation, the approach to which was deemed to be consistent with other recent devolution consultation exercises.
- 2.2 The consultation took the form of an online survey, which was hosted through the "Let's Talk Lincolnshire" consultation platform. A copy of the proposed deal, what it would mean for the area, and a list of benefits were also included on the platform for context.
- 2.3 The consultation was led by LCC and was promoted using a broad range of social media and traditional channels, including printed copies which were made available in locations across the area. Consultation events were also held in 22 locations, including business networking events and meetings with 31 community groups.
- 2.4 In total, 4,101 responses were received, which exceeded the constituent authorities target of 2,000. This represents a response rate of 0.31% relative to the total population of 1.1 million people in the Greater Lincolnshire area.

### 3 Findings of the Consultation

- 3.1 The survey asked questions on six key strands: Jobs and Business Growth, Education and Training, Roads, Buses and Transport, Homes and Communities, Environment and Governance. Overall, the results showed broad support for four of the strands; whilst two of the strands, Homes and Communities and Governance were endorsed by fewer than 50% of respondents (48% and 38% respectively)..
- 3.2 A summary of the headline results for each of the six strands can be seen in the infographic below:



- 3.3 Additionally, respondents were able to record free-text comments for each of the strands. A selection of these can be viewed as part of the full analysis in Appendix A (Qualitative Insights).
- 3.4 It is possible to drill down into some of the statistical data to gain a better understanding of West Lindsey specific responses. The results, shown in full in the table below, reveal that support is higher than the average across all themes, as follows: new jobs and business growth (56%), education and training (59%), roads, buses and transport (60%), homes and communities (53%), the environment (62%) and governance (43%).
- 3.5 The table below breaks down the West Lindsey responses for each of the questions asked in the consultation, with the questions being “to what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to...?” The response rate for West Lindsey is approximately 0.4%, and for each of the six questions, West Lindsey ranked third highest of all Lincolnshire authorities in terms of support for the proposals. A full breakdown of responses for each of the Lincolnshire local authorities can be found within Appendix A for information.

Devolution Theme	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Total Responses
New Jobs & Business Growth	113 (25%)	140 (31%)	55 (12%)	47 (10%)	85 (19%)	11 (2%)	351
Education & Training	130 (29%)	137 (30%)	46 (10%)	56 (12%)	72 (16%)	10 (2%)	451
Roads, Buses & Transport	7 (35%)	115 (25%)	41 (9%)	41 (9%)	84 (19%)	12 (3%)	300
Homes & Communities	105 (23%)	135 (30%)	54 (12%)	57 (13%)	88 (19%)	14 (3%)	453
Environment	140 (31%)	138 (31%)	45 (10%)	41 (9%)	75 (17%)	13 (3%)	452

## 4 Amendments to the Proposed Devolution Deal

4.1 Following consideration of the consultation responses, the original draft proposal has been amended to take account of the views expressed. These amendments were endorsed at Full Council meetings of the three constituent authorities in March 2024. Copies of each Full Council report can be viewed via links 7, 8 and 9 in the “title and background papers” section of the covering page of this report. The amendments to the Proposal are listed below for members consideration:

- 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 the development of the Proposal.
- Updates to the ‘Creating a Combined Authority’ section and next steps to reflect progress through the process and duration of the proposed transition period for transport powers.

### 4.2 Next Steps

4.3 The amended final proposal will now be submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration and final decision. A copy of the amended proposal can be viewed [here](#) (within Appendix B).



- 4.4 Following submission, the Secretary of State will assess the Proposal against a number of statutory tests before deciding whether to accept the proposal. It is the considered view of the three constituent authorities that the Proposal contains the necessary information to enable the Secretary of State to conclude that the tests have been met.
- 4.5 As resolved by this Council, WLDC officers prepared a report and recommendations on the establishment of a Joint Committee for district councils, which was presented to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in March 2024. A final report will be presented to an appropriate Full Council meeting.