



**Governance and Audit
Committee**

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Subject: Establishment of the District Joint Committee

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| Report by: | Assistant Director People and Democratic Services |
| Contact Officer: | Lisa Langdon |
| Purpose / Summary: | <p>The Governance and Audit Committee are asked to RECOMMEND this Report to Council.</p> <p>This Report is seeking approval for the establishment of District Joint Committee for the purposes of devolution, that the Leader of the Council is to represent WLDC at this Joint Committee, to endorse and recommend the documentation it is proposed will govern the Joint Committee and to request Council delegate any further review or amendment of the District Joint Committee to the Governance and Audit Committee.</p> |

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Governance and Audit Committee are asked to:

- 1) RECOMMEND to Council that it approves the establishment of a District Joint Committee of the Lincolnshire Districts for the purposes of devolution and participation at the Mayoral Combined County Authority**
- 2) RECOMMEND to Council that the Leader of West Lindsey District Council represents the authority at the District Joint Committee**
- 3) endorse and RECOMMEND to Council for approval the proposed Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for the District Joint Committee**

- 4) **request that Council delegate any further review or amendment of the Terms of Reference to this Governance and Audit Committee.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The establishment of the Mayoral Combined County Authority is subject to legislative provisions which will be considered by the 3 constituent authorities (Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council), however for the purposes of the establishment of a Joint Committee of the district authorities, the relevant legislative provisions are section 11 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and section 101 Local Government Act 1972. These provisions provide the legal mechanism to allow WLDC to form a Joint Committee and participate in the Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Financial :

There are no direct financial implications in respect of this report. Attendance at the Joint Committee will be subject to the Remuneration Policy in the usual way.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Data Protection Implications :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

None directly arising as a result of this report.

Health Implications:

None directly arising as a result of a this report.

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

Establishment of the District Joint Committee for devolution purposes

[Agenda for Corporate Policy and Resources Committee on Thursday, 21st March, 2024, 6.30 pm | West Lindsey District Council \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](#)

Risk Assessment :

It is envisaged that the District Joint Committee will consist of all 7 District Councils, however it is outside the control of WLDC what other authorities will decide. Should any of the District Councils not receive approval to establish this Joint Committee, it is expected the Joint Committee will go ahead with those which do receive authority to participate.

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

X

Key Decision:

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

Yes

X

No

1. Introduction

- 1 A devolution agreement for Greater Lincolnshire was announced by the Government in November 2023 and subsequently agreed by Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council. These 3 authorities are the constituent members for the purposes of devolution and the creation of the Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). The 7 district authorities in Lincolnshire are the non constituent members for the purposes of devolution and the MCCA.
- 1.2 The devolution agreement will bring additional funds into Greater Lincolnshire over the next 30 years, such funds totalling £720 million. The additional funding will be used in relation to planning projects, transport projects, economic development and the improvement of skills and education across Greater Lincolnshire.
- 1.3 It is anticipated that the new arrangements will come into existence through an Establishment Order which is expected in Summer 2024. This will then allow for the establishment of the MCCA with an election of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayor taking place in 2025.
- 1.4 The 3 constituent authorities will lead on the new arrangements and the formation of the MCCA, however it is appreciated that the 7 district authorities in Lincolnshire must still have a voice and be able to represent the interests of the district authorities at the MCCA. The new arrangements therefore allow for the establishment of a Joint Committee of the 7 districts to provide a mechanism for participation at the MCCA.

2. The purpose of the District Joint Committee

- 2.1 The devolution deal document for Greater Lincolnshire published on 22nd November 2023, provides the following paragraph and the officers have been mindful of this paragraph when drafting the documentation that will form the District Joint Committee:

“Paragraph 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.”

- 2.2 The purpose of the District Joint Committee will be to establish a collaborative platform for coordination among the non-constituent authorities and be a mechanism through which their interests are represented on the MCCA. The District Joint Committee will seek to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the delivery of services and policies within the MCCA and promote the shared interests of the district authorities for the benefit of Greater Lincolnshire.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the District Joint Committee shall have the following scope, noting that a key role is to nominate 4 non-constituent members to participate in the MCCA and to nominate members to the MCCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Audit Committee:
- To exercise oversight of the initial formulation and development of the MCCA,
 - To approve or adopt any policy as required by the MCCA,
 - To facilitate joint decision making on matters defined within the MCCA's remit,
 - Where appropriate to oversee the implementation of shared initiatives and policies,
 - Encourage, promote and enable dialogue and cooperation between the 7 non-constituent authorities,
 - To nominate 4 non-constituent members to participate in the MCCA, such members to reflect the view and position of the 7 district authorities in their entirety.
 - To nominate members to the MCCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Audit Committee in line with the MCCA's requirements for those committees,
 - To consider any matters being discussed/proposed/implemented by the MCCA and provide collective feedback to the MCCA
 - To approve appointment and/or representation of a Member(s) on external bodies or groups where appropriate
- 2.4 It is proposed that the membership of the District Joint Committee be the Leader of each district authority, and in their absence a substitute member can be nominated on their behalf.

3. The necessary documentation

- 3.1 The District Joint Committee will require Terms of Reference and Standing Orders. Versions of both these documents have been drafted by the Monitoring Officers of the District Councils.

- 3.2 The District Council Leaders and Chief Executives have been consulted on these documents and amendments made following comments received.
- 3.3 The proposed Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee are at Appendix 1, the proposed Standing Orders for the Joint Committee are at Appendix 2.
- 3.4 The documentation may be amended to meet the needs of the Joint Committee and will be periodically reviewed by the District Joint Committee to ensure they remain fit for purpose and complement the evolution of the MCCA. It is proposed that any review and amendment of the Terms of Reference is considered by the Governance and Audit Committee.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to recommend to Council the establishment of the District Joint Committee, recommend to Council that the Leader of West Lindsey District Council represent the authority at the District Joint Committee, endorse and recommend to Council the proposed documentation, and request that Council delegate any further review or amendment of the Terms of Reference to the Governance and Audit Committee.