

**GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Establishing the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

The report provides an update on arrangements for the establishment and operation of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The proposals for the Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal were confirmed as being taken forward by the new Government in September 2024.
- 2.2 The deal, agreed with the previous Government, will include:
- £24m investment funding per year, for 30 years
 - £20m capital funding for 2024/25
 - £8.4m brownfield funding
 - Consolidated transport funding
 - Adult education budget
- 2.3 The statutory instrument for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA) has been laid before parliament and subject to approval the GLCCA will be formally established in the coming weeks.
- 2.4 The inaugural meeting will be held ahead of the commencement of the pre-election period for the election of the mayor, which will be held on Thursday, 1 May.

3. DETAIL OF OPTIONS/PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Work continues to prepare for the establishment of the GLCCA. The constitution will set out how the organisation will operate across seven sections:

- Part 1: Introduction – an introduction to the Combined County Authority (CCA) and the Authority’s Constitution.
 - Part 2: Articles – Provides for the Articles of the Constitution which set out the underpinning legal framework of the CCA.
 - Part 3: Responsibility for functions – sets out the responsibility for Functions setting out who is responsible for exercising each function of the Combined County Authority. The powers table sets out the functions conferred to the Authority and the Mayor by the GLCCA Regulations. This part introduces and sets out the Terms of Reference for the Boards, Committees and Panel.
 - Part 4: Procedure rules - includes the CCA Procedure Rules which govern how the Combined County Authority, and its decision-makers operate, including: formal meetings of the Combined County Authority and its Boards and committees, how to access information, and procedures relating to finance and contracts.
 - Part 5: Protocols and ethical standards – setting out the protocol for the exercise of concurrent functions and associated statutory consents. It includes the information on the Nolan Principles which will apply to members of the GLCCA.
 - Part 6: Member allowances – setting out the members allowance scheme
 - Part 7: Management structure – providing details of the management structure
- 3.2 The final version of the constitution will be considered and adopted at the inaugural meeting of the GLCCA.
- 3.3 An interim management structure will be established to support the early operation of the authority. It will provide the organisation with the necessary capacity and enable close on-going working arrangements with the three constituent authorities and wider membership. The structure will be further supported by a series of service level agreements between the GLCCA and the constituent authorities for the provision of support services.
- 3.4 The GLCCA will comprise of the overarching authority, three boards (transport; employment and skills; business and infrastructure), an overview and scrutiny committee and an audit committee. Nominations to the GLCCA and its boards will be confirmed at the inaugural meeting and will include the district council joint committee and the police and crime commissioners’ office.

- 3.5 An associate membership will be offered to the chair of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. This will be reviewed once the mayor has established an Economic Advisory Panel.
- 3.6 The devolution proposal for Greater Lincolnshire saw a commitment to develop an assurance framework for the GLCCA. This document is under development and being tested with government departments. The assurance framework will set out how public money is managed effectively and how accountability is provided to residents and businesses within our region. It will ensure that the necessary systems and processes are in place to manage funding effectively, and to ensure the successful delivery of the ambitions of the Greater Lincolnshire Plan, once in place. Its focus is to ensure that necessary practices and standards are implemented to provide the Government and the Combined County Authority with assurance that decisions over funding (and the means by which these decisions are implemented) are proper, transparent and deliver value for money.
- 3.7 The Assurance Framework will cover expenditure on programmes and schemes funded by Government and is utilised when considering, decision making, approvals, funding bids, projects and how investments will be measured for progress and impact.
- 3.8 It will be part of a suite of governance and policy documents which shape the way the activities and functions of the GLCCA are delivered, including the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal and Devolution Proposal; The Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Regulations 2025; the GLCCA Constitution including the GLCCA Financial Regulations and the budget and policy framework; and the Greater Lincolnshire Plan.
- 3.9 As part of establishing the financial arrangements for the combined authority, the independent remuneration panel at North Lincolnshire Council has met to consider the allowances that will be proposed for the GLCCA. The panel conducted research into allowances at other combined authorities to produce its recommendations. The panel noted that the scheme will apply to the mayor, the deputy mayor (provided that they are not a leader or elected mayor of a constituent council and is not in receipt of an allowance from a constituent council for any other role), members of the overview and scrutiny committee and any sub-committee of that committee, and members of the audit committee.
- 3.10 The proposed allowances will be considered by the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority at its inaugural meeting. The proposed allowances are shown in table 1.

Table 1 – Proposed GLCCA Allowances

Mayoral and GLCCA Members Remuneration	Allowance (per annum)
Mayor	£85,000 - £90,000
Deputy Mayor	Subject to application of requirements of schedule 1/paragraph 9 of the statutory instrument – No more than 20% of the Mayor's allowance.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Chair	£8,500
Member (voting)	£1,000
Member (non-voting)	£1,000
Co-opted Member (non-voting)	£1,000
Audit Committee (Governance)	
Chair	£8,500
Member	£1,000
Independent Member/Person	£1,000
Independent Person(s) – Standards in public office/appointment and employment matters.	£500 retainer £100 per case referred £100 for each formal meeting attended relevant to the case/matter referred.

- 3.11 No other remuneration is to be payable by the GLCCA to its members other than allowances for travel and subsistence paid in accordance with a scheme approved by the GLCCA.
- 3.12 Greater Lincolnshire will receive a Mayoral Investment Fund of £24m per annum, for the next 30 years. The investment fund provides the platform to work with businesses to create jobs and prosperity, infrastructure to unlock investment, transport systems to move people and goods, and an employment and skills system that raises productivity.
- 3.13 The investment fund will build on the content of the proposal and devolution prospectus, seeing a focus on key sectors.
- 3.14 The investment fund will work on a set of principles which see:
- The Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund deliver on the ambitions of the GLCCA – Transformational and additive
 - Funds be directed according to priorities and business case – it isn't about an equal share but there is a recognition that it should benefit all parts of GL.
 - GLCCA invest, borrow and leverage other funding streams and investment to maximise the impact of the fund
 - GLCCA seeking to recirculate funding to grow the pot over time
 - A portion of the fund may be used to fund the activities of the GLCCA

- Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund be underpinned and guided by an investment plan collectively agreed and owned by the GLCCA – not an open call.
 - Greater Lincolnshire Investment Fund generate additional co-aligned investment leverage – working group to explore expectation around levels of leverage from the fund overall
 - Appropriate governance and decision making be developed – through the assurance framework
- 3.15 The £24 million per annum can be used to fund capital or revenue activity, for funding borrowing, for investing, or for costs of the Combined Authority.
- 3.16 Further work is now underway to develop an outline investment plan that sets out the strategic context, the ambition, the priorities and the high-level operating principles. The plan will be further developed once a Mayor for Greater Lincolnshire has been elected
- 3.17 It is suggested that the plan when completed, will cover the first five years of the 30-year fund, and set a 10 year ambition. This enables longer term investment to be made against the future fund, whilst retaining the ability to be flexible as local or national policies change, or new opportunities are presented.
- 3.18 In agreeing the devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire, the constituent authorities secured £20m of investment in 2024/25 for capital projects in Lincolnshire, with a further £8.4m for brownfield projects in North and North East Lincolnshire. Work across each of these projects is progressing on plan.
- 3.19 This includes work on Old Roman Bank, which is expected to be completed in March / April 2025. Alongside this, work on the flood prevention scheme at Kirkby on Bain is moving ahead at pace and is expected to complete late February 2025.
- 3.20 Funding was also allocated to support the development of the Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park with North Kesteven District Council. It is expected that the impact of the investment in this scheme will be realised by the end of March 2025.
- 3.21 Grant funding through the UK Food Valley programme is now live and providing grants and support to colleges to improve their food sector technology facilities.
- 3.22 Funding to deliver a series of highways improvements, which tackle bottlenecks in North Hykeham, Central Lincoln and Nettleham, which in turn will improve connectivity for businesses trading across the whole Midlands are being delivered. In addition, funding for highways improvements to tackle bottlenecks in the centre of Grantham have been

delivered. The funding for the Lincoln and Grantham schemes will unlock further improvements in the future.

- 3.23 Work across the brownfield capital programmes is progressing as expected. Mobilisation at Freshney Place work is expected to start on site on 1 February. Mobilisation activities for the transport hub will commence mid-February, once the contract award has been confirmed. Contract award for work on the brownfield sites in Brigg, Barton and Scunthorpe is expected in February 2025, with associated expenditure being completed by the end of the financial year.

4. RESOURCE AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Existing resources within the three constituent authorities are being used to establish the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority and deliver the outcomes set out within the devolution proposal. This will transition into an interim structure once the authority is established.
- 4.2 The arrangements set out within the report ensure that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority has the necessary legal and governance arrangements in place to operate safely and effectively from its establishment.

5. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT IF RELEVANT)

- 5.1 The devolution programme continues to maintain a risk and issues log which is reviewed regularly with the relevant responsible officers. The individual capital projects each have appropriate risk management arrangements in place.

6. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 Engagement on the governance arrangements continues to take place with relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Department of Education, Department of Transport, and with Lincolnshire district councils.

7. GOVERNANCE – DECISION(S) FOR MEMBER COUNCIL'S REQUIRED (in accordance with the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference).

- 7.1 See section 8 below.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that members note the progress to date on establishing the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority and on-going resource requirements to enable delivery against the devolution ambitions.

Author: *Lee Sirdifield*

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