



Report To:	Council
Date:	Wednesday, 11 December 2024
Subject:	District Joint Committee
Purpose:	To consider a proposal to establish a District Joint Committee for the purposes of devolution and participation of non-constituent local authorities at the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of East Lindsey District Council
Report Of:	John Medler - Assistant Director for Governance and Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	John Medler - Assistant Director for Governance and Monitoring Officer
Ward(s) Affected:	N/A
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

This Report is seeking approval for the establishment of a District Joint Committee for the purposes of devolution and participation of non-constituent local authorities at the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Recommendations

That Council

1. Approves the establishment of a District Joint Committee of the Lincolnshire District/Borough Authorities for the purposes of devolution and participation at the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority;
2. Approves that the Leader of the Council represents East Lindsey District Council at the District Joint Committee;
3. Approves the attached proposed Terms of Reference (Appendix A) and Standing Orders (Appendix 1) for the District Joint Committee

4. Delegates authority to approve amendments to the Terms of Reference to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Monitoring Officer, noting that such amendments shall require the approval of all members of the District Joint Committee.

Reasons for Recommendations

Participation in the District Joint Committee will ensure that the identities and interests of local communities in the East Lindsey District are fully represented.

Other Options Considered

Council may decide not to participate in the District Joint Committee but this will not provide a voice for East Lindsey District Council and is not a recommended approach.

1. Background

- 1.1. 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 three authorities are the constituent members for the purposes of devolution and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority (GLMCCA).
- 1.2. The devolution agreement will bring additional funds into Greater Lincolnshire over the next 30 years, such funds totalling £720 million as part of an overarching Greater Lincolnshire Vision 2025. The additional funding will be used in relation to economic development, transport, net zero, skills and education, digital infrastructure across Greater Lincolnshire.
- 1.3. In September 2024, Jim McMahon, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution confirmed that the establishment of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority had been agreed in principle and that the necessary secondary legislation would be brought forward.
- 1.4. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will come into existence late 2024/early 2025. This will allow for the establishment of the GLMCCA with an election of a Greater Lincolnshire Mayor taking place in May 2025.

2. Report

- 2.1 The three constituent authorities will lead on the new arrangements and the formation of the GLMCCA. For the purposes of devolution and the GLMCCA, the seven district/borough councils in Lincolnshire are non-constituent members. However, it is recognised that these authorities in Lincolnshire must still have a voice

and be able to represent the interests of the district/borough authorities at the GLMCCA. The arrangements therefore allow for the establishment of a Joint Committee of the 7 districts to provide a mechanism for participation at the GLMCCA.

2.2 The devolution deal document for Greater Lincolnshire published on 22nd November 2023 refers to *“the important role that district and borough councils have 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 same joint committee could be used to nominate other elected members from the district and borough councils to other places of the MCCA including Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees.”*

2.3 The purpose of the ‘Joint Committee’ is to establish a collaborative platform for coordination among the non-constituent authorities and be a mechanism through which their interests are represented on the GLMCCA. The District Joint Committee will seek to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the delivery of services and policies within the GLMCCA and promote the shared interests of the district authorities for the benefit of Greater Lincolnshire.

2.4 It is proposed that the District Joint Committee shall have the following scope, noting that a key role is to nominate four non-constituent members to participate in the GLMCCA and its committees:

- 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 seven non-constituent authorities
- To nominate four non-constituent members to participate in the MCCA, such members to reflect the view and position of the seven district authorities in their entirety
- To nominate members to the MCCA’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Audit Committee in line with the 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.

2.5 It is proposed that the membership of the District Joint Committee be the Leader of each district/borough authority, and in their absence, the Leader may appoint a substitute member to attend on their behalf.

2.6 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/Borough Councils and are attached at Appendix A and 1 respectively. The District/Borough Council Leaders and Chief Executives have been consulted on these documents and amendments made following comments received.

2.7 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 amendments to the Terms of Reference be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and the Monitoring Officer, noting that amendments shall require the approval of all members of the Joint Committee through their respective decision-making processes.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None directly as a result of this report.

Corporate Priorities

None directly as a result of this report.

Staffing

West Lindsey District Council shall provide secretariat arrangements for the District Joint Committee, unless otherwise advised.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None directly as a result of this report.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

Provision for establishing Combined County Authorities is set out in in the 'Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023'.

For the purposes of the establishment of a Joint Committee of the district authorities, the relevant legislative provisions are set out in 'S11 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023' and 'S101 Local Government Act 1972' and provide the legal mechanism to allow the formation of a Joint Committee and participation in the GLMCCA.

Data Protection

None directly as a result of this report.

Financial

Reimbursement of costs associated with attendance at the District Joint Committee will be subject to the Council's Member's Allowances Scheme in the usual way.

Risk Management

It is envisaged that the District Joint Committee will consist of all 7 District/Borough Councils, however it is outside the control of this Council as to what other authorities will decide. Should any of the 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.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

The Leaders, Chief Executives and Monitoring Officers of the District/Borough Councils have been engaged and consulted in developing the District Joint Committee proposals.

Reputation

None directly as a result of this report.

Contracts

None directly as a result of this report.

Crime and Disorder

None directly as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None directly as a result of this report.

Health and Wellbeing

None directly as a result of this report.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None directly as a result of this report.

Acronyms

GLMCCA – Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority
MCCA - Mayoral Combined County Authority

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix A	District Joint Committee Terms of Reference
Appendix 1	District Joint Committee Standing Orders

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal Policy Paper – 22 November 2023 –
[Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1181117/glmcca-devolution-deal-policy-paper-22-november-2023.pdf)

Chronological History of this Report

None

Report Approval

Report author:	John Medler, Assistant Director for Governance and Monitoring Officer
Signed off by:	John Medler, Assistant Director for Governance and Monitoring Officer
Approved for publication:	Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of East Lindsey District Council