

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

3 June 2005

SUBJECT: LINCOLNSHIRE ASSEMBLY

REPORT BY: CORPORATE LSP OFFICER

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2001 the Lincolnshire LGA agreed a number of recommendations in respect of Community Strategies in the county. It was agreed by all partners at that time that priority should be given to the establishment of district area LSPs, and that a countywide 'LSP' should not be established unless it became necessary to do so.
- 1.2 Since that time circumstances have changed significantly, particularly with the development of new CPA requirements for demonstrable commitment to community leadership and engagement on the part of local authorities. In addition, there has been a renewed enthusiasm among partner agencies for the creation of a strategic body to co-ordinate and promote effective partnership working across Lincolnshire, within the framework of a shared vision for the future of the county.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on progress in establishing the Lincolnshire Assembly in response to these circumstances.

2 Background

- 2.1 Partner agencies in Lincolnshire have reached an overarching consensus that there is a pressing need for a strategic partnership body to promote and co-ordinate joint working across the county.
- 2.2 Some of the more significant contributory factors that have led to this consensus include
 - Common themes emerging across all seven district level Community Strategies
 - The need for a mechanism to enable agencies organised on a wider geographical basis to engage more effectively with LSPs, and for individual LSPs to influence the corporate priorities of these agencies
 - Declining relative economic prosperity compared to the rest of the UK
 - The lack of a powerful lobbying voice for Lincolnshire at regional and national level
 - Increased emphasis on effective community leadership and engagement in forthcoming CPA, and in other government proposals relating to statutory bodies
 - Commitment by the County Council to undertake improvements in response to the CGI report

- The need to avoid duplication, and to promote achievement of added value through improved co-ordination of existing resources
- The need for a focal point to negotiate a Local Area Agreement for Lincolnshire

3 Current Position

- 3.1 Following consultation with partners, including Local Strategic partnerships, a series of independently facilitated workshops and other meetings were held during February and April involving senior officers and Members of a wide range of agencies working in Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 These meetings facilitated discussions on the potential for a single partnership body to co-ordinate and promote joint working across the County to support and enhance delivery of the district Community Strategies, and to respond to the key challenges facing the county as a whole.
- 3.3 As a result, partners agreed to proceed with developing the Lincolnshire Assembly, and delegated a small working group to produce draft terms of reference and membership for the Assembly. It was also agreed that the Bishop of Lincoln should be invited to chair the Assembly.
- 3.4 At present the agreed terms of reference are being circulated to all partners for individual agreement (see Annexes A and B). It is intended that the agenda for the first meeting of the Assembly will be drafted on 26th May, with the meeting itself to be held on 1st July.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Lincolnshire LGA

Support the establishment of the Lincolnshire Assembly by endorsing the terms of reference as agreed by participating agencies, and attached to this report as Annex A.