



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

## **Full Council**

Thursday, 21 November 2024

Report of Councillor Philip Knowles,  
Cabinet Member for Corporate  
Governance and Licensing

# **Establishment of the District Joint Committee for the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority**

### **Report Author**

Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

 [graham.watts@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:graham.watts@southkesteven.gov.uk)

### **Purpose of Report**

This report seeks approval for the establishment of a District Joint Committee comprising the seven district authorities in Lincolnshire further to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.

### **Recommendations**

#### **That Full Council:**

- 1. Approves the establishment of a District Joint Committee of the district authorities in Lincolnshire further to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority.**
- 2. Approves the proposed Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for the District Joint Committee.**
- 3. Approves the Leader of the Council as South Kesteven District Council's representative on the District Joint Committee.**
- 4. Approves the Deputy Leader of the Council as the Leader's substitute on the District Joint Committee.**
- 5. Delegates any further review or amendment of the Terms of Reference or Standing Orders to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing.**

## Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Effective Council
Which wards are impacted?	All

### 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

#### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 There are no financial implications associated with this decision to establish a Joint Committee with other district local authorities in the county.

Completed by: Paul Sutton, Deputy Section 151 Officer

#### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.2 The establishment of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority is subject to consideration by Parliament, Royal Assent and the making of an Establishment Order, which is expected to take place in December/January. The proposal to establish a District Joint Committee is proposed in readiness for the establishment of the Mayoral Combined County Authority, the first meeting of which is scheduled to be held early next year in readiness for Mayoral elections in May 2025.
- 1.3 The relevant legislative provisions for the establishment of a Joint Committee of the district authorities in Lincolnshire are Section 11 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and Section 101 Local Government Act 1972. These provide the legal mechanism to allow South Kesteven District Council to form a Joint Committee and participate in the Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

## 2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 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 the devolution deal and the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). The seven district authorities in Lincolnshire are considered as non-constituent members. For clarity, these are Boston Borough Council, the City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council.
- 2.2 It is envisaged that the devolution agreement will bring additional funds into Greater Lincolnshire over the next 30 years, totalling £720 million. This additional funding will be used to support planning projects, transport projects, economic development and the improvement of skills and education across the Greater Lincolnshire area.
- 2.3 The three constituent members will lead on the new arrangements and the formation of the MCCA, however, it is appreciated that the seven 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 seven district authorities to provide a mechanism for participation at the MCCA.

## 3. Key Considerations

### Purpose of the District Joint Committee

- 3.1 The devolution deal document for Greater Lincolnshire published on 22 November 2023 provides the following paragraph, which has been taken into account when drafting the documentation which supports the establishment of 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.”*

- 3.2 The purpose of the District Joint Committee will be to establish a collaborative platform for co-ordination among the non-constitutional 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.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the District Joint Committee will have the following scope, noting that a key role is to nominate four non-constituent members to participate in the MCCA and to nominate members to the MCCA's Overview & 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 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 & 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
- 3.4 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.

## **Governance**

- 3.5 The District Joint Committee will require a Terms of Reference and its own Standing Orders. Versions of both of these documents have been drafted by the Monitoring Officers of the district authorities.
- 3.6 The Leaders and Chief Executives of the district authorities have been consulted on these documents, which have been amended to reflect comments and feedback received.

- 3.7 The proposed Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee are attached to the report at **Appendix A**, with the Standing Orders for the Joint Committee attached at **Appendix B**.
- 3.8 These documents may require period review and subsequent amendments to meet the needs of the Joint Committee to ensure that 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 be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing. Any significant amendments to these documents would be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee for its consideration.
- 3.9 All district authorities in Lincolnshire are in the process of taking this report and the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders documents through their respective decision-making processes. At the time of writing this report, West Lindsey District Council have approved the establishment of the Joint District Council, together with the documents as appended.

#### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 Not to approve the establishment of the Joint District Committee. This would mean disengagement from the process by South Kesteven District Council. It would also prevent South Kesteven District Council's nominee participating in the Joint Committee or potentially being appointed as one of the four non-constituent members on the MCCA.
- 4.2 To suggest amendments to the Terms of Reference or Standing Orders documents. Each district authority is required to approve the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders documents as part of the establishment of the Joint District Committee. It is recommended that Full Council approves the versions as appended to this report, with any suggest amendments being considered via delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing. This will provide the most effective means of addressing any potential amendments given the time criticality associated with establishing the Joint District Committee.

#### **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 5.1 To ensure that South Kesteven District Council is fully engaged with the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority and the Joint District Committee.

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 All Chief Executives and Leaders of district authorities in Lincolnshire have been engaged in the development of Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for the proposed Joint District Committee.

## **7. Appendices**

7.1 Appendix A – Draft Terms of Reference

7.2 Appendix B – Draft Standing Orders