

Council 20/11/2025 – Supplement to Draft LGR Proposal

Supplementary document to update the draft submission pack in light of two developments post Full Council papers publication on 12/11/2025.

Reforms to Police Governance – 13 November 2025 the Home Office announced the abolition of Police & Crime Commissioners. The draft section ‘**Reforms to Police Governance**’ will be inserted into the current pages 177-78 of the draft submission to align with the updated government policy.

Partnership Working with Lincolnshire Police - 11 November 2025 Lincolnshire Police circulated seven universal principles to all authorities in Greater Lincolnshire, to ensure that the policing impact of LGR is understood, and to support partnership working going forward. Consideration of these principles informed by the expert advice of Kath O’Dwyer will be included as a new appendix to the draft submission.

Reforms to Police Governance

On 13 November 2025, the Home Office announced that Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be abolished at the end of the current term in 2028. Where possible, police governance will be transferred to the Mayoral Strategic Authorities. If that is not possible police governance will be transferred to a Policing and Crime Board led by the leaders of upper tier authorities in the force area. For former Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner areas, fire functions would be transferred to the Policing and Crime Boards, where a transfer to a Mayor is not possible.

For the Greater Lincolnshire (GLCCA) and Hull & East Yorkshire (HEYCA) mayoral areas, the establishment of two Policing and Crime Boards (Lincolnshire and Humberside) is the likely outcome, unless the government can resolve the complicated police and fire boundaries of Northern Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire Police and Humberside Police are not coterminous to the boundaries of GLCCA and HEYCA. GLCCA has expressed its willingness to take on PCC functions. A particular challenge would be democratic legitimacy, electors of Northern Lincolnshire would vote for a mayor, who would be responsible for police governance in Lincolnshire, but not in Northern Lincolnshire. The same problem would exist over the Humber, where the HEYCA Mayor would be responsible for police governance in Northern Lincolnshire, but would be elected by the voters of Hull & East Yorkshire. Hence the need for the government to resolve the issue prior to the transfer of police governance to Mayoral Strategic Authorities in our area.

The Home Office recognises the continued significant value in joining up police and fire governance. **Our proposal would be for the transfer of fire and rescue to the PCC ahead of the abolition of that office in 2028, and the subsequent forming of a Policing and Crime (and Fire) Board for Lincolnshire. This would be led by the leaders of our proposed southern and central Lincolnshire unitaries.** Blue Light governance would be enhanced and cross-Lincolnshire collaboration strengthened. The appropriate ratio of principal authorities to the strategic authority would ensure the consolidation and future success of GLCCA as the subregional strategic system leader. It is expected that subsequent to the government resolving the issue of police force area coterminosity to the Mayoral Strategic Authorities in Greater Lincolnshire and Hull & East Yorkshire, then police and fire governance in Lincolnshire would be transferred to the Mayor.

Partnership Working with Lincolnshire Police

On 11 November 2025, Lincolnshire Police circulated seven universal principles to all authorities in Greater Lincolnshire, to ensure that the policing impact of LGR is understood, and to support partnership working going forward. We asked Kath O'Dwyer to give consideration the Lincolnshire Police's principles, building on her prior consideration of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and partnership working in relation to Children's Services in Appendix 5.

Lincolnshire Police Principle		Kesteven Proposal Consideration
1	Lincolnshire Police have good working relationships with Humberside, and other neighbouring forces. However, local governments may experience differing levels of police service depending on each force's unique funding position.	Our two proposed new unitaries are both within the Lincolnshire Police Force Area. Therefore differing levels of police service for the two new Lincolnshire unitaries are not expected.
2	Any proposed restructure would benefit from considering the police and partnership demand which could be created if there were different processes for different areas of the county. A consistent set of processes for referrals, and access to support (whether via a single organization, or harmonized processes across different local governments) would be preferable for policing.	<p>We recognise that effective safeguarding requires strong operational and strategic links with Lincolnshire Police and as such there will be a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and update multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH). - Align thresholds and escalation protocols. - Share data securely across agencies. <p>This would create the opportunity to ensure a consistent set of processes for referrals, and access to support or harmonized processes across the 2 x different councils.</p> <p>Kath O'Dwyer's report suggests the opportunity for a shared LCSP, as a shared service across both new Unitary Councils hosted by one of the authorities. Nationally, it is not uncommon for arrangements that can</p>
3	An area of particular focus for this would be the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for adults and children. The introduction of Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT) would benefit from consistency of governance, assurance and systems, to best support children in need of protection, and to reduce duplication.	

		<i>cover two or more local authority boundaries by agreement and where this is in place local authorities can agree to delegate their safeguarding duties to a single authority.</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>It will be important during any potential transition period, to ensure there is clarity in responsibilities for key areas such as community safety, safeguarding and emergency planning</i>	<i>We recognise that it will be essential for there to be clarity in responsibilities, where services are separated, who in each new council will be the point of contact, or if services are to be shared who the single point of contact will be.</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>It is likely that priorities would be redefined with the creation of any new unitary authorities. The Force would be keen to work closely to ensure policing needs are reflected in this.</i>	<i>We agree that Police colleagues should be integral to the planning discussions following the government's LGR decision for Greater Lincolnshire.</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Another area of where strong consistency across local governments would be important, is the area of Local Resilience Forums. Working across different LRFs would need high levels of consistency to ensure that a high-quality consistent emergency response could be provided to residents, as well as not increasing workloads of blue light responders and other partners.</i>	<i>Our two proposed new unitaries are both within the Lincolnshire LRF area.</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Any changes to local government boundaries are likely to result in some modest delays in data availability, as new performance dashboards and datasets are created and collated. We would ask for patience during this time, and ask that data requests be standardized across local government(s).</i>	<i>We recognise and accept that LGR will disrupt the data reporting landscape in any configuration. Current data requests would need to be considered as to whether they meet the needs of the new Unitary authorities.</i>