

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION PROPOSAL

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update council on the progress made in the Devolution proposal by the ten local authorities in the Greater Lincolnshire area and to detail the indicative process for the next stages in the devolution programme.
- 1.2 To present to council the latest elements of the devolution proposal.
- 1.3 This report is urgent because of the need for council to consider the next stages of the devolution process and set the direction before the end of the year.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet received the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Expression of Interest document at its meeting on 28 September. It endorsed the proposal and noted the future work entailed.
- 2.2 Since that meeting there has been extensive work undertaken to develop the expression of interest into a Deal document. The latest version of the document has been sent to group offices. Attached to this report is a summary of the progress to date and proposals on how to take forward the work required if the devolution bid is successful.
- 2.3 This is a position statement of where the process has reached. There are continuing discussions at Leader and Chief Executive level for all ten Greater Lincolnshire councils. Each council is to receive the attachment for consideration by its Full Council at their next scheduled meeting.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 That council supports the recommendation in the report and approves continued working toward a Devolution Deal.
- 3.2 That council does not agree to the development proposed and work ceases.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The council is involved in developing the devolution deal. The deal is in a position of change as detailed discussions are ongoing with civil servants about all the asks in the document. The council will need to assess whether the opportunities and freedoms that devolution can bring will be delivered by the final negotiated deal.
- 4.2 If the council withdraws at this stage it will lose the opportunity to explore the benefits of the devolution process and may lose access to future government resources and the local determination of policy and spending priorities.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The resource implications are dependent on the next stages of the development of the devolution process. Most will involve the use of existing officer time and resources. Any financial or other resource requirements will be met from within existing budgets.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Council considers the recommendations detailed in the attached document on page 5 namely:

The Chief Executives invite each Council to agree:

1. that the Greater Lincolnshire devolution expression of interest, submitted to Government on the 4th September 2015, is developed into a fit for purpose devolution deal document via continued formal engagement with Government.
2. that authority is delegated to the Leader and Chief Executive respectively to continue devolution discussions and negotiations with Government .
3. to the commencement of a formal governance review, as described in this report, no sooner than January 2016 and subject to prior confirmation from Government that the Greater Lincolnshire submission is to be negotiated to detailed Deal stage.

4. that subject to the outcome of any statutory governance review, to submit to the principle of establishing a combined authority for the Greater Lincolnshire geography as the most effective and efficient means of securing strategic economic (and related) growth.
5. that the principles set out in Appendix C shall underpin and inform the establishment of any formal governance arrangements between the ten Councils
6. to the formation, in any event, of a joint committee under the relevant provisions of the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, to exercise the functions and responsibilities referred to in this report and operating as the Greater Lincolnshire Leadership Board.
7. that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to develop and finalise the governance and constitutional arrangements to support the discharge of the Leadership Board's responsibilities, in consultation with the Leader.
8. to make available such reasonable resources as may be necessary to support the establishment of the joint committee, the conduct of the governance review and the implementation of the outcomes.

8.2 That further reports are presented to council and cabinet as appropriate as the Devolution process develops.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Date: 6 November 2015

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Greater Lincolnshire 'A place to grow...faster than anywhere'
Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal version 1.3



Greater Lincolnshire

A Place to Grow

Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal

Interim Governance Proposal

Progress on achieving a Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Deal

A report by the Chief Executives of the ten Local Authorities of
Greater Lincolnshire

1.0 Introduction

In the spring of this year a ground-breaking deal was struck between the Government and the ten Local Authorities that make up the Greater Manchester Metropolitan Area. It was agreed that a significant range of powers, with associated funding, would transfer from Westminster to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority; this to be headed by a newly created and directly-elected Mayor. The declared purpose of the deal was to drive economic growth, with the Government expressing confidence that this should be better enabled throughout the country via the localisation of key decision making.

Shortly afterwards, the Government announced a major deal for Cornwall, with extensive transfer of powers and funds to that area.

The two areas are very different, as is the way in which they are currently governed, and will be governed in the future. The deals are different as a consequence – there is to be no Mayor for Cornwall, for example. What is similar is the scale of transfer of powers from Central Government to Local Government brought about through striking a negotiated 'deal' between the two.

From these forerunners, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 21 July 2015 that he wished to negotiate further devolution deals with other parts of England that had an appetite for them. He set a deadline of 4 September for areas interested in moving quickly to submit their proposals.

A total of 38 responses, covering 80% of the country, were submitted. Some have since been concluded, one of these being for the North East of England. This is striking in particular for the geographic scale of the area involved, encompassing as it does five Metropolitan Authorities and two County Councils, with a total population of 2m people. Other areas include the Tees Valley and the Sheffield City Region.

Greater Lincolnshire submitted an expression of interest on 4 September. It was signed by the Leaders of the ten Local Authorities in the area and the Chair of the GLLEP, and was supported by a range of other local public sector bodies. The submission expressed strong ambitions for the area, and invited the Government to enter into negotiations over a package of devolved powers and funds that could be used to deliver that ambition.

2.0 Summary of our submission

A summary of our submission, drawing out what we are seeking from the Government and giving an indication what we would offer in return is attached in Appendix A.

The salient points around governance and leadership are as follows:-

We believe that bringing the risks of commissioning and delivery to the local place enables them to be best managed.

We rule nothing out in terms of new governance in seeking to deliver our new agenda for growth.

We anticipate that the range of powers and funding sought in this expression of interest may require governance arrangements that would be no less than a Combined Authority. We wish to enter into discussions with the Government over the precise governance arrangements to fully secure the scale of devolution that we seek.

Our approach to governance will be to enable people do things for themselves, encourage private, public and third sector organisations to align their activities with our ambitions.

We recognise that for many activities political boundaries are crossed and we will continue to interact with our neighbours and work collaboratively with those organisations that share many similar characteristics and operate beyond our area.

3.0 Subsequent events

Discussions have begun between Civil Servants from relevant Government Departments and the ten Council Chief Executives, each reporting to a Council Leader nominated to lead on a distinct theme within the submission (Appendix B). It is clear from these early contacts that there is potential for common ground to be found in respect of many of the things that we are seeking. Some of these are similar to proposals made in other areas, some are unique. Detailed work is underway to cost the proposals and to clarify the opportunities.

On 28 October, the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State (Minister for Local Government), Marcus Jones MP invited a representative group of five of our Leaders, together with the Chair of the LEP to a meeting in London in order to explore the case for Greater Lincolnshire.

The Minister welcomed the scale of the area's ambitions, indicated the Government's intent to pursue such a deal and invited further purposeful negotiations to bring it about. He also made it clear that a fundamental component of the deal would be the creation of a governance arrangement that could receive the powers and funding from the Government and which could arrange for these to be exercised.

In this respect a Combined Authority would be the minimum requirement set by the Government. This had been expected by the signatories to the submission document, and the anticipation of such a governance requirement was accepted in that document.

There is a defined process for potentially bringing about the creation of a Combined Authority. The process of reviewing governance options – a 'Governance Review' - takes some time, not least as it requires parliamentary approval before it can be implemented. It will be necessary to get the process under way as soon as possible.

This paper seeks the formal authority of each constituent Council to doing so. The process itself is explained in detail in the following section.

In order to give the Government confidence that the intent to create new governance arrangements is sufficiently strong as to warrant undertaking all of the work necessary to prepare for the devolution of powers and responsibilities, it is proposed that a formal arrangement is entered into by all of the Authorities for the purposes of conducting the negotiations and that this be put in place as soon as possible.

It is suggested that this can be most readily effected through the setting up of a Joint Committee, which could operate until such time as the Governance Review is completed and the Combined Authority or any other arrangement that may emerge can be formed.

Any recommendations for putting in place future governance arrangements, as well as the contents of any proposed deal will of course have to be debated and accepted by all of the constituent Authorities before they can be implemented.

4.0 Governance review and joint committee / shadow arrangements

It is clear from the engagement to date with Government that in order to receive and discharge a meaningful degree of devolved responsibilities there is a minimum expectation that local authorities will seek to form a combined authority.

It should be noted positively that owing to the depth, quality and breadth of the "Asks" developed thus far, Government's expectations and lines of enquiry regarding governance are at the forefront of discussions.

It is essential, in any event, to put in place arrangements that will ensure a strategically coherent approach to the leadership of the sub-regional economic growth and related agenda, bearing in mind the particular need to effectively manage the interdependencies between two Unitary authorities, seven District councils and a County Council. The current loose and informal arrangements are not fit for purpose in that regard.

Section 108 of the Local Government, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides that, as a prelude to forming a combined authority (which does not replace the local authorities) a statutory governance review must be undertaken.

The purpose of a governance review is:

- to determine whether the area covered by the local authorities concerned, in this instance the Greater Lincolnshire geography, constitutes a functional economic area ; and
- to determine if any existing arrangements for economic development, regeneration and transport are effective or would benefit from changes, specifically, whether the establishment of a Combined Authority is likely to improve the following (the "four statutory tests")
 1. the effectiveness and efficiency of transport in the area,
 2. the exercise of statutory functions relating to economic development and regeneration in the area, and economic conditions in the area
 3. Examine the various options available, and
 4. Consider the feedback from public consultation that must be carried out

Subject to the approval of each of the 10 local authorities, it is proposed to launch the formal consultation process over a two month period from January 2016. In the meantime and in order to ensure effective strategic oversight of the process, it is proposed to establish a joint committee of the local authorities to operate as a de facto shadow combined authority. It is proposed that the joint committee is established using existing powers set out in the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000. The remit of the joint committee will be four-fold:

- to enhance and further develop, within a formal setting, the working relationship between the local authorities
- to have oversight of the continuing devolution engagement with Government
- to lead and maintain oversight of the governance review process, its outcome and to formulate recommendations in due course
- to operate as the "Greater Lincolnshire Leadership Board", focused on leading the accelerated growth agenda , in partnership with the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and such other bodies deemed appropriate from time to time.

5.0 Key recommendations

The Chief Executives invite each Council to agree:

1. that the Greater Lincolnshire devolution expression of interest, submitted to Government on the 4th September 2015, is developed into a fit for purpose devolution deal document via continued formal engagement with Government
2. that authority is delegated to the Leader and Chief Executive respectively to continue devolution discussions and negotiations with Government
3. to the commencement of a formal governance review, as described in this report, no sooner than January 2016 and subject to prior confirmation from Government that the Greater Lincolnshire submission is to be negotiated to detailed Deal stage
4. that subject to the outcome of any statutory governance review, to submit to the principle of establishing a combined authority for the Greater Lincolnshire geography as the most effective and efficient means of securing strategic economic (and related) growth
5. that the principles set out in Appendix C shall underpin and inform the establishment of any formal governance arrangements between the ten Councils
6. to the formation, in any event, of a joint committee under the relevant provisions of the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, to exercise the functions and responsibilities referred to in this report and operating as the Greater Lincolnshire Leadership Board
7. that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to develop and finalise the governance and constitutional arrangements to support the discharge of the Leadership Board's responsibilities , in consultation with the Leader
8. to make available such reasonable resources as may be necessary to support the establishment of the joint committee, the conduct of the governance review and the implementation of the outcomes

Appendix A.

Summary of our submission

A summary of our submission, drawing out what we are seeking from the Government and giving an indication what we would offer in return is as follows:-

Ambition -We can achieve growth more quickly than anywhere else in the UK, enhance our collective financial resilience and establish a sustainable platform for our area to thrive, adapt and innovate. We will grow the value of the Greater Lincolnshire economy by £8bn; create 29,000 new jobs; deliver 100,000 new homes and redesign local services for the administration of justice, health and social care, flood and water management and public safety.

Accelerated Growth – *We have the largest and busiest port in the UK (by tonnage), the largest Ro-Ro facility on the East Coast and the biggest undeveloped deep-water estuary in Europe. Southern Lincolnshire is growing fast; with the most affordable housing area within an hour's commute of London acting as a strategic gateway into Greater Lincolnshire. We plan to double the value of the visitor economy to £2bn over the next 5 years by capitalising on our heritage and environment assets.*

We offer to...

- grow the area's three defining and most competitive sectors; **agri-food, manufacturing and engineering** and the **visitor economy**;
- become the renewable **energy and offshore wind** capital of Europe;
- implement the GLLEP Care Sector plan for **health and care**
- **drive growth** by putting expansion into new markets, modern telecommunications, infrastructure improvements and the skills of individuals and business owners;
- be an active contributor to the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine and to join in the Midlands Connect programme in order to encourage cohesion across the Midlands region;
- grow the economy more quickly
- deliver the Government's Rural Productivity Plan.

In order to do this we seek...

- **a pilot scheme for statutory agencies**
- **alignment with the local Growth Plan of business support budgets**
- **appropriate share of Single Local Growth Fund monies,**
- **devolution of the management of our EU**
- approval for **enterprise zones**
- **development of a strategic land use plan**

Transport – *Business leaders have consistently identified connectivity, including high speed telecommunications, as a significant enabler for prosperity. Accessibility through transport is usually cited as the highest priority. Many of our growth sectors rely on good transport.*

We offer to...

- utilise the planning process and local investment funding (matched with LGF) to facilitate enhanced growth around the A1 and East Coast Main Line corridor, and other strategic routes.
- invest in transport and housing through a local infrastructure delivery plan,

In order to do this we seek...

- **amendment to the Highways England programme;**
- commitment from the Department for Transport to allocate funding within its second Roads Investment Strategy for 2020;
- **recognition that the road corridors within Greater Lincolnshire fulfil a national role**
- rationalisation of the appraisal process for transport projects;
- powers to adopt bus service franchise powers to be applied in appropriate areas;
- powers to apply a discounted fuel duty scheme to support transport in rural areas;
- phased implementation of the GLLEP's rail strategy, which supports the Midlands Engine
- support for the development of a new investment model with ABP to facilitate pump – priming investment in underutilised port land or other assets of economic potential
- a long term commitment to Government subsidies for the offshore wind sector beyond 2020 to create developer certainty and accelerate private investment

Skills - *Greater Lincolnshire has a comparatively low skills base and is often described as a low wage, low productivity economy, with consequent lower GVA than the UK average. This proposal promotes a pioneering approach to integrated skills development across the shared economic geography. We want to develop a workforce who will drive the local economy and share in its prosperity.*

We offer...

- faster business growth, and lower unemployment with lower youth unemployment and fewer NEET (not in employment, education or training)
- greater value for money – reducing wasteful duplication;
- strong support for an 'area review' of the post-16 education and skills system;
- to re-shape the Further Education (FE) provision with governance to ensure that it delivers people with the right skills and create a seamless transfer from learning to work;
- to create a local workforce that can fill the job vacancies predicted over the next ten years:
- working closely with employers, the National Careers Service, and the Careers and Enterprise Company to shape their provision in line with our jobs and skills forecasts. We will also work closely with our SMEs in order to create more apprenticeship;

- eradicating the very low HE participation rate locally;
- new models of delivery for technical and professional skills to meet the specific needs of the related industries with support to schools, UTC and college leaders so that they can develop curricula which meet the priorities aligned to the council's strategy framework for education;
- changing the landscape of education and skills development across the health and care sector and support to establish a Career College and a Post-Graduate Medical School followed by a Graduate Medical School and enable flexible routes to medical, nursing and care professions;
- educating and retaining high quality skilled graduates, and utilising the skills of the RAF personnel leaving the forces and settling in the area to contribute to local economic growth.

In order to do this we seek...

The powers to give strategic direction to education and skills funding streams which maximise the potential of the GLLEP Skills Strategy and achieve skills development through devolving:

- **power to reshape and re-structure Further Education (FE) provision ;**
- **funding streams of Post 16 Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency (SFA) budgets;**
- responsibility for all of the **funding relating to career information, advice and guidance (CIAG)** for adults and young people, including a new Career & Enterprise Company and the transfer of the duty on schools around career information, advice and guidance (CIAG), to the GLLEP;
- responsibility for commissioning part of the Adult Skills & the Skills Infrastructure budgets and to be an integral part of the area reviews of post-16 provision;
- **responsibility for identifying and managing the expansion of apprenticeships** in food farming and tourism, in line with the commitment in the RPP, and in engineering and renewables;
- **devolved commissioning to the local level of the Youth Contract** supporting 16/17 year olds into education or employment;
- **decision making for local school funding;**
- control over the incentives on providers in order to provide more flexibility over who is entitled to receive support;
- for FE providers in Greater Lincolnshire to be given a duty to co-operate with the GLLEP's new joint skills board, and an SFA procurement regime that mirrors the LEP's strategies;
- devolution of the responsibilities and resources of Health Education England, Skills for Health and Skills for Care and the power to reshape commissioning health and care education opportunities;
- **to commission locally adult universal benefits integrated with Council Tax benefits,** commission the next phase of the Work Programme; and to discuss joint accountability with DWP for the work of Jobcentre Plus.

Housing - *With house prices eight times the average salary, pricing many people out of the housing market, there is a need to fix the housing market in Greater Lincolnshire if aspirations for economic growth are to be realised. The volume of housing required allows for the pressure created as a consequence of the ageing population not releasing the housing stock in the face of requirements to house the growing workforce. We wish to minimise the time taken from allocation to build.*

We offer to...

- deliver 100,000 new homes (consistent with the Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Economic Plan and emerging Local Plans), with an appropriate proportion of affordable housing and starter homes supported by appropriate infrastructure and our local public assets;
- develop and co-ordinate 'Right to build' schemes by the community;
- develop a Greater Lincolnshire Housing Partnership of registered providers, developers, and land owners together with HCA, LEP and Councils in the area.

In order to do this we seek...

- **enhanced powers to allow councils to use short hold assured tenancies**, to remove borrowing caps and allow councils and Registered Providers (RPs) to use prudential borrowing, and to allow financing through a council's general fund.
- to increase and improve the quality and affordability of housing supply through
 - the One Public Estate approach for land including control over nationally held public assets such as surplus MOD land and Network Rail land.
 - freedom to develop local housing rules on right to buy and housing stock financing and management;
 - **the pooling and devolution of central government and HCA resources** into a Housing Investment Fund;
 - devolved power for both Registered Providers and Local Authorities to set rents and retain right to buy receipts;
 - to explore a unique deal that specifically tackles the underlying causes of in- work poverty

Water - *We have a long and highly vulnerable coastline. No other part of Britain faces the scale of significant inundation from the sea as does Greater Lincolnshire. A serious coastal flood in Greater Lincolnshire would seriously compromise the UK's capacity to produce high grade crops for up to seven years. Our action on this is acknowledged as one of the leading areas for collaboration to address flood risk but more is needed. We wish to incentivise investment in water management and realise the potential for substantial private contributions to flood defence.*

We offer to utilise...

- delegated powers and funding to deliver a 30% efficiency in developing projects currently subject to Defra's funding controls and approval processes;
- the GLLEP's Water Resources study recently to devise means of applying spatial planning priorities and infrastructure funding and provide water resources for an expanding

manufacturing sector and a growing population and to manage flood risk as well as a range of coastal flood defence investments and other minor local schemes.

In order to do this we seek...

- delegation of decision-making powers over flood risk management priorities (including large-scale coastal management schemes) and resources in the Medium Term Programme (MTP) to the local level;
- **tax incentives for agri-food businesses and the steel industry** to develop water resources or water efficiency measures on their sites;
- **freedom to extend the arrangements for tax relief for businesses** contributing to flood relief schemes benefitting from national funding to include privately proposed and funded schemes meeting the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the LEP Growth Strategy;
- **devolution of the EA powers around flood risk operations** and use of the capital funding within the Medium Term Programme (MTP).

Health - *Our acute health sector faces significant issues in respect of both performance and financial viability. We have above average growth in our elderly population. We have plans across our area which reflect the NHS 5-year view in seeking an integrated strategic approach to health and social care reform which incorporates the priorities of the full range of NHS and social care stakeholders, including acute trusts.*

We offer to deliver...

- a substantially more integrated approach to health and care service planning and delivery in Greater Lincolnshire; including further development of neighbourhood based services including a significant increase in care delivered closer to home and improved outcomes;
- greater support to people with physical and mental health issues to be active in the workplace;
- a model for emergency care, urgent care and planned care services that delivers safe, high quality services which are affordable and sustainable;
- a substantial increase in physical activity levels and engagement in arts and cultural activity to improve health outcomes and reduce demand on acute NHS services.

In order to do this we seek...

- **devolution of the range of commissioning resources that support the health and wellbeing** including the resources of Public Health England, NHS England and Health Education England;
- greater coordination of Local NHS and Social Care Commissioners with a devolved place-based health & social care budget with a minimum four year settlement;
- **integrated commissioning of all community services**. This includes health and social care delivered services;
- joint commissioning of DCMS sports, physical activity, culture and arts programmes to align with local health and wellbeing strategies.

Public protection - *Crime is local. Altogether 92% of prisoners from Lincolnshire reside in Lincolnshire prisons but the drivers of crime and anti-social behaviour lie in our communities, and solutions are also to be found there. There are proposals, which we can assist with, to provide better access to Magistrates Courts services through reducing the estate and re-investing savings.*

We offer to deliver...

- improved access to justice and savings with the integration of courts with the local public estate;
- reduced re-offending rates through integration of Offender Management with Community Safety, Health and Safeguarding programmes.

In order to do this we seek...

- **transfer of the commissioning of Prison Services to local political control;**
- **transfer of the administration of HMCTS and the MoJ estate** to the area's local authorities.

Our leadership - We believe that bringing the risks of commissioning and delivery to the local place enables them to be best managed. We rule nothing out in terms of new governance in seeking to deliver our new agenda for growth.

We anticipate that the range of powers and funding sought in this expression of interest may require governance arrangements that would be no less than a Combined Authority. We wish to enter into discussions with the Government over the precise governance arrangements to fully secure the scale of devolution that we seek.

Our approach to governance will be to enable people do things for themselves, empower community partners at a local level, encourage private, public and third sector organisations to align their activities with our ambitions and for the devolution partners to identify gaps, prioritise and utilise the devolved powers and resources in the delivery of our ambitions.

Whilst this prospectus requests devolved powers we in turn will distribute powers differently.

We recognise that for many activities political boundaries are crossed and we will continue to interact with our neighbours and work collaboratively with those organisations that share many similar characteristics and operate beyond our area.

It is also hoped the Government will accept the arguments for a more flexible approach to the current council tax referendum limits and processes nationally.

We offer...

- a governance arrangement providing transparent democratic accountability and an effective interface for ministers whilst ensuring that specialists such as clinical commissioners maintain a strong voice;
- integrated democratic leadership of local authorities working with elected bodies including the PCCs bringing these elected leaders together with the NHS leadership and the Chair of the LEP.

In order to do this we seek...

- potential flexibilities around the local element of business rates. We wish to explore flexibilities around use of capital receipts and borrowing powers for critical infrastructure investment. We recognise that any package of freedoms and developments over the medium term will need overall fiscal neutrality for the Greater Lincolnshire partners and HM Treasury;
- **Government to review the funding allocation formula for Greater Lincolnshire** to ensure it matches the actual needs profile of our population;
- power to acquire nationally held local public sector land, including non-operational MOD land – thereby giving improved and effective strategic planning for enterprise, housing, growth and infrastructure. We would want to keep any capital receipt for the sale of any land in our control.

Definitions

Midlands Engine - The midlands is increasing being recognised and positioned as the engine for growth for the Country. The Midlands Engine is a government led initiative to stimulate growth across the East and West Midlands. It is likely that announcements of government finance for growth and productivity will be focused around initiatives such as innovation, skills, transport (Midlands Connect), and promotion. It is important that Greater Lincolnshire plays a full role in the initiative. Partners across the Midlands are working on a prospectus which will be launched in early December with the BIS Secretary of State.

Northern Powerhouse - The Northern Powerhouse is an initiative to boost economic growth in the North of England led by HMG. The proposal is based on urban agglomeration and aims to rebalance the UK economy away from London and the South East. The ambition is to redress the North-South economic imbalance, and to attract investment into northern cities and towns. While the capital is perceived to be driven by financial services, northern economies boast strong manufacturing, science, technology and service sectors.

Midlands Connect - Midlands Connect is a collaboration of Midlands-wide local enterprise partnerships, Network Rail, the Highways Agency, local authorities and the business community which has been formed to champion strategic transport investment across the East and West Midlands.

Appendix B

Lead Councillors and Chief Executive Sponsors for the devolution themes

The lead and sponsor roles does not preclude chief executives of council leaders from offering contributions.

Theme	Sub theme	Lead Officer (CX) <i>Technical spokesperson</i>	Lead Councillor <i>Political spokesperson</i>
Accelerated Growth	agri-food	A Graves	Cllr Ray Oxby <i>Cllr Dave Watson</i>
	Manufacturing	R Walsh	
	Visitor Economy	S Davy	Cllr Bob Adams
Transport		S Driver	Cllr Martin Hill
Skills		B Agass	Cllr Marion Brighton
Housing		M Gill	Cllr Ric Metcalfe <i>Cllr Rob Waltham</i>
Water		P Drury	Cllr Jeff Summers
Health		I Fytche	Cllr Craig Leyland
Public Protection		T McArdle	Cllr Peter Bedford
Finance		A Andrews	Cllr Lady Redfern
Governance		R Walsh	Cllr Lady Redfern

Governance Principles

- (i) all agreements will be created within the framework of the emerging legislation (Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill)
- (ii) all partners recognise that major devolution asks will come with Government expectations regarding models of governance
- (iii) the partner Councils commit to the principle of establishing a combined authority as an appropriate form of governance.
- (iv) equality and inclusion must pervade any model, "One Authority one vote".
- (v) conditional voting systems will be fair and balanced.
- (vi) subject to any conditional voting system, any decisions will be resolved with the majority vote of ten partners.
- (vii) no powers will be delegated upwards unless agreed by the relevant constituent authority(ies); there will be no loss of sovereign local area "representative mandate"
- (viii) the overlap of each housing authority, transport authority and planning authority will be understood and factored into the strategic decision making framework.
- (ix) full board consideration will be given to any potential widening of membership.
- (x) associate membership, including the role of LEPs will be included across the agreed geographic footprint.
- (xi) the final model will reflect the scale of ambition for accelerated economic growth across the agreed geographic footprint demonstrating key linkages to (and support for) the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands Engine.
- (xii) the principles of transparency, equality and local democratic legitimacy will underpin all and any formal arrangements established
- (xiii) A shadow arrangement (i.e. a joint committee) of the preferred model will be established In any event to formalise and develop the working arrangements and partnership between the partner Councils
- (xiv) All partner Councils and any associate members will follow the Seven Principles of Public Life.