

Have your say: Greater Lincolnshire Devolution

The consultation will run from 4 December 2023 until 5.00pm on 29 January 2024

Across the country, devolution is moving important choices about local investment, infrastructure and training from government to local decision makers.

Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have secured a devolution deal with government worth over £750 million which, if progressed, means money and power can move from government to decision-makers in Greater Lincolnshire.

To seek this level of powers, money, and a say in how we spend it, local councils must produce a draft proposal and consult with you on it. The proposal sets out to government how devolution could work in Greater Lincolnshire including the creation of an independent body called a mayoral combined county authority.

The Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposal (the proposal), can be seen, in full at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution

We are now seeking views before deciding whether to submit the proposal to government either in its current form or in an amended form. Whilst this consultation document summarises the proposal, **you should read the proposal in full before answering the questions.**

The proposal explains how we believe, if adopted, using powers and deciding how to spend money locally would improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people who live or work in our area through:

- improved local transport and roads
- improving training to ensure local people can take advantage of the new jobs
- help improve the environment and achieve net zero
- the provision of good quality housing
- boosting the economy by supporting local businesses to create new, high paid, high skilled jobs; and,
- enhanced digital services, like broadband

This initial proposal means:

- £24 million per annum for 30 years – worth £720m to level-up the whole of Greater Lincolnshire
- a stronger role in setting and delivering Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- control over a range of powers and budgets currently administered by central government

- additional powers to tackle challenges and make the most of our economic potential so everyone who lives and works here benefits
- one-off £28.4m capital investment in Greater Lincolnshire's priorities
- a new mayor to give Greater Lincolnshire a louder voice, more influence, and a higher profile, locally, nationally and globally
- a combined county authority providing greater transparency and capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development and regeneration

The proposal would not mean removing or merging local councils. Each council would continue to exist and would still be responsible for most public services in the area. There will be no transfer of district and borough powers as part of the draft proposal.

What do you think?

This consultation is an opportunity for everyone in the area to have their say about the devolution proposal. It is open to people who live or work in Greater Lincolnshire, businesses, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations in the area.

You can have your say by:

- Completing our online survey at www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution
- Completing this hard copy consultation document and returning to us in an envelope, to our freepost address by 29 January 2024

If you need support to take part, please contact 01522 555222.

At the end of the consultation all three councils will consider your views before deciding whether to agree our final proposal for submission to government. Following submission of the final proposal it will be considered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. If the secretary of state is happy, laws are put in place so that the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority can be set up and start work with the election for a mayor in May 2025.

Your responses to this survey are intended to be anonymous. When completing open text responses, remember not to include personal or sensitive information.

Section 1 – New jobs and business growth

The proposal, if adopted, would see decisions for infrastructure and economic growth projects in Greater Lincolnshire being taken locally. This would see some funding transferred to the area with investment locally prioritised to boost growth in key sectors of the local economy, including the UK Food Valley, Energy, Ports and logistics.

We believe that this will stimulate trade and economic growth, creating high skill jobs and improve living standards. The proposal includes:

- an investment fund of £24 million per annum over 30 years, worth £720m, which could speed up economic growth and innovation, and create opportunities for people, businesses, and communities
- a UK Food Valley Board to support the sector and attract new skills to deliver food chain automation and innovation

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to new jobs and business growth?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Strongly agree | ☐ Disagree |
| ☐ Agree | ☐ Strongly disagree |
| ☐ Neither agree, nor disagree | ☐ Don't know |

Section 2 – Education and training

The proposal, if adopted, will mean all the funding central government spends on adult skills and training in Greater Lincolnshire will be controlled and allocated locally.

If we have local control, we can work more closely with schools, colleges, universities, training providers and businesses.

The proposal details how doing this means in Greater Lincolnshire we could:

- develop work-focussed curriculums which give people access to the training local businesses need
- support residents to identify career opportunities and train or re-train so they have the skills they need to get good local jobs
- better meet local business needs by making sure Lincolnshire residents are equipped to take up exciting, new, skilled jobs
- encourage and provide mentoring, funding and other resources for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- work with public bodies in Greater Lincolnshire to support young people leaving care to achieve a positive start to their careers and adult life

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to education and training?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Strongly agree | ☐ Disagree |
| ☐ Agree | ☐ Strongly disagree |
| ☐ Neither agree, nor disagree | ☐ Don't know |

Section 3 – Roads, buses and transport

The proposal, if adopted, means the mayor and Greater Lincolnshire leaders could use their knowledge of the area to design a local transport plan which we believe would create better integrated road, rail and air travel for people, businesses and goods.

This could include improved walking and cycling options for residents, visitors and businesses and with the money and decision-making local, we believe the plan is more likely to become a reality.

The proposal includes plans for the combined county authority to become the local transport authority and address the matters residents tell us are important to them, for example:

- more affordable travel
- smart tickets on public transport to make moving around Greater Lincolnshire easier
- more reliable journeys, supported by investment in key routes across the area
- connecting people of all ages to family, friends, work, education, health, and leisure facilities
- improvement to transport in rural areas and improved services for rail passengers and freight

The proposal includes a multi-year transport budget that provides greater funding certainty to deliver local priorities, boost growth in the Greater Lincolnshire economy and keep people moving.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to roads, buses and transport?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Strongly agree | ☐ Disagree |
| ☐ Agree | ☐ Strongly disagree |
| ☐ Neither agree, nor disagree | ☐ Don't know |

Section 4 – Homes and communities

The proposal, if adopted, means more local housing decisions could be made in Greater Lincolnshire. We will work with local authorities, Homes England, landowners, developers and the full range of housing providers to promote regeneration and create good quality housing options to meet current and future demand.

Local leaders would be able to bring forward investment in the infrastructure needed to unlock sites, support housing growth and develop housing projects that meet residents' needs and consider the area's environment and landscape.

It also explains plans to prioritise:

- working closely with planning authorities to identify, buy and dispose of land to build houses, commercial space and infrastructure, for growth and regeneration
- the regeneration of areas and strategic sites through 'mayoral development areas' and 'mayoral development corporations'
- appropriate housing development to make sure residents can find suitable local homes
- new and existing homes that make sure sustainable building practices and green design standards are used to minimise environmental impact and promote energy efficiency
- a balance between development need, improved public transport and preserving green spaces and existing communities

The proposal includes £8.4m of funding, controlled locally to support and encourage new homes being built on brownfield land.

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Question 4 is on the next page >

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to homes and communities?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Strongly agree | ☐ Disagree |
| ☐ Agree | ☐ Strongly disagree |
| ☐ Neither agree, nor disagree | ☐ Don't know |

Section 5 – Environment

The proposal, if adopted, would support local leaders to balance economic development and the protection of the natural environment.

The proposal includes:

- plans for investment in conservation
- bringing together partners to agree and plan for the infrastructure required in Greater Lincolnshire that would support growth in green jobs
- a new partnership for water that focuses on flood prevention and water management programmes to support agriculture, tourism, green growth, communities and new housing
- a coastal partnership that promotes the natural and cultural heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast and tourism
- work with government to identify environmental priorities that could be incorporated into new environmental land management schemes - such as protection for top grade farmland across the UK Food Valley in Greater Lincolnshire
- implementing a local nature recovery strategy

Section 3 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to the environment?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Strongly agree | ☐ Disagree |
| ☐ Agree | ☐ Strongly disagree |
| ☐ Neither agree, nor disagree | ☐ Don't know |

Section 6 – Governance

If the proposal is adopted, in order to get funding and powers to make the above ambitions a reality, something called a combined county authority (CCA) would be set up and a mayor would be directly elected by Greater Lincolnshire residents.

We believe this organisation would:

- receive the powers and money from central government and provide transparent local leadership
- simplify decision-making on strategic matters affecting Greater Lincolnshire
- promote Greater Lincolnshire and give us one, strong voice locally, nationally and internationally
- make it easier to work together locally and with central government
- secure even more long-term investment, including borrowing
- be able to generate revenue locally through a precept or levy, subject to certain conditions being met

- make sure things are done for the benefit of the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire area, representing residents, their communities and their interests

If the proposal is adopted, the CCA would be made up of:

- the mayor
- two representatives from each of North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, and Lincolnshire County Council who would have a vote on all matters
- four representatives from districts councils who would have a vote on some matters
- a police and crime commissioner
- a business leader

Some of the decisions would be made by the mayor with the majority being made by the CCA as a whole – the proposal sets out a number of safeguards that seek to manage the use of the new powers and funding and ensure the efficient and effective operation of the mayoral authority.

Section 4 of the proposal sets out the detail of how it is expected this will work and can be read at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution/proposal

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals relating to governance?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Strongly agree | ☐ Disagree |
| ☐ Agree | ☐ Strongly disagree |
| ☐ Neither agree, nor disagree | ☐ Don't know |

Q7. Please use this space to briefly share your comments or views about the Greater Lincolnshire devolution proposal or any of the questions above.

Please write in the box below (please use additional paper if you need more space)

About you

So that we can ensure we capture a diverse range of views through this consultation, it would be helpful if you could provide some information about yourself. This information is not compulsory, so please complete the questions where you feel comfortable.

Q8. How are you responding to this consultation?

- ☐ I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation (go to question 9)
- ☐ I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual (go to question 10)

Only answer question 9 if you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation

Q9. Please select the sector that best describes your group or organisation:

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Voluntary and community sector
- ☐ Elected representative
- ☐ Civil service or government
- ☐ Charity
- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Action group
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Business (please answer Q9b-Q9d)
- ☐ Something else
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

Q9b. If you selected 'business' – please select the sector that best describes your business

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Food and drink manufacturing
- ☐ Creative and digital
- ☐ Health and life sciences
- ☐ Low carbon and environmental

Options continue on next page >

- ☐ Financial and professional services
- ☐ Something else
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If 'something else' please state:

Q9c. What size organisation?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Large – a business with 250 or more employees
- ☐ Medium-sized – a business with 50 to 249 employees
- ☐ Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) - a business with 0 to 49 employees

Q9d. Within which local authority area is your business located?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Boston Borough Council
- ☐ City of Lincoln Council
- ☐ East Lindsey District Council
- ☐ North East Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ North Kesteven District Council
- ☐ North Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ South Holland District Council
- ☐ South Kesteven District Council
- ☐ West Lindsey District Council
- ☐ Other/out of area, please state:

If you have completed as a business or group this is the end of the survey.

Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION by 29 January 2024.

Please complete the following questions only if you are responding as an individual.

Q10. Please tell us in which local authority area you live (this is the council that collects your bins).

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Boston Borough Council
- ☐ City of Lincoln Council
- ☐ East Lindsey District Council
- ☐ North East Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ North Kesteven District Council
- ☐ North Lincolnshire Council
- ☐ South Holland District Council
- ☐ South Kesteven District Council
- ☐ West Lindsey District Council
- ☐ Other/out of area, please state:

Q11. How do you describe your gender identity?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to describe as, please state:

Q12. How old are you?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q13. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Please tick all that apply

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, a learning disability
- ☐ Yes, a mental health disability
- ☐ Yes, a sensory impairment (for example hearing or vision)
- ☐ Yes, a physical disability
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q14. What is your ethnic group identity?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ White – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ White – Irish
- ☐ White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ White – Roma
- ☐ White - Any other white background, please state:

- ☐ Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Mixed – White and Black African
- ☐ Mixed – White and Asian
- ☐ Mixed – Any other Mixed background, please state:

- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Indian

Options continue on next page >

- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Chinese
- ☐ Asian or Asian British – Any other Asian background, please state:

- ☐ Black or Black British – Caribbean
- ☐ Black or Black British – African
- ☐ Black or Black British – Any other Black background, please state:

- ☐ Other ethnic group, please state:

- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q15. What is your religion?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ None
- ☐ Christian (all denominations)
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Any other religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q16. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Please tick one box only

- ☐ Heterosexual or straight
- ☐ Gay or lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to describe:

Q17. Do you think the proposal could have a positive or negative impact on you or someone you care for, or support, with regard to any of the following?

Please select all that apply.

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know
Age	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sex (gender)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disability	☐	☐	☐	☐
Marriage and civil partnership	☐	☐	☐	☐
Race (ethnicity)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Religion or belief	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sexual orientation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gender reassignment	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pregnancy and maternity	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you have identified any potential impacts, please tell us more about it and include any suggestions about how any negative impacts could be reduced:

Thank you. What you have told us will help decision makers choose what happens next. Please return your completed questionnaire to us in an envelope via our freepost address: Freepost GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION by 29 January 2024.



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